

Worthing Archaeological Society

News sheet

Fieldwork: Goblestubs Copse

The excavation earlier this year answered a number of questions, but also cast doubt on our initial thoughts on the site. Therefore we are returning in August to hopefully and finally understand the enclosure excavated by WAS in 2006 and Easter 2016.

Two (possibly three, if time and resources permit) trenches will be excavated. The first will be to re-look at Trench 2, positioned over the southern ditch and bank of the so-called 'Annexe', excavated in 2006 but not completed. This trench produced pottery much earlier than the dating of the northern enclosure. The second (and possibly third) trench will look at what appears on the LiDAR to be the entrance and trackway.

The excavation will run from Saturday 13th to Friday 26th August inclusive. The site directors will again be Amie and Gordon. We have to finish on the Friday and make good the site as tree felling commences on site the following week.

Amie and Gordon ask if we could follow the same procedure as we did at Easter, which is to meet at the Slindon Shed at 9am every morning and car share to the site from there. This is because there is limited space for cars on site and there is also a locked gate to contend with! Please bear in mind that we are now required to park in the yard at Slindon, rather than use the grass. Consequently if people could car share to Slindon in the first place this would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Liz Lane on 01903 501422 or liz.13lane@gmail.com to sign up for this excavation, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Help needed before dig

Amie and Gordon visited the site recently to assess the work that will be needed prior to the excavation starting.

August – September 2016

Following the Easter excavation a number of trees have been felled over the site. Whilst this has no immediate impact on our excavation, it had caused a couple of issues.

1) There are a number of trip hazards because of small branches lying in the undergrowth, and
2) Where the trees have been cleared the sunlight has encouraged the growth of a fern canopy over parts of the site, similar to the undergrowth in Jurassic Park!

We are asking for help for a couple of days prior to the excavation to clear the site of these potential hazards. We would like to clear pathways through and make the edges of the trench areas visible and safe. The ferns come out quite easily with a firm pull.

Also we need to clear the long grass in the area where we park our cars and the space for the portable toilet(s). If anyone had a petrol trimmer they could bring along this work could be done fairly quickly.

The dates proposed for this work are Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th August. We will meet at the Slindon Shed at 9.30am and then car-share to the site.

If there is anyone free who can help us with this preparatory work we would be extremely grateful.

We are hoping to have a VIP visitors' day towards the end of the dig and would prefer not to lose the first couple of excavating days carrying out this work. Amie and Gordon have checked there are no Velociraptors on site!

Please contact Liz Lane on 01903 501422 or liz.13lane@gmail.com if you are able to assist us.

Finds Processing

Throughout the year Finds are processed at 9.30am, twice-monthly, at our Slindon base, led by Gill Turner.

We will be meeting on Thursday, 4th August but there will be no meeting on Thursday, 18th because of the Goblestubbs dig. The next meetings will be on Thursdays 1st and 15th September.

If you are interested and not already involved, please contact Gill.

Ggmturner@aol.com

Surveying

The focus of Friday activities is on keeping our skills going and enjoying being out in the open air.

Recent activities have included doing resistivity among the thistles on Slindon Field 20 and res and magnetometry on a field in Sompting.

There will be surveying done before the Goblestubbs dig, of course.



If you would like to be involved in Surveying, email Connie on connieshirley1@aol.com so that you can be added to the distribution list for the activities. Or if you have a project where you would like some help, send the project plan for approval to Keith Bolton: keithbolton14@gmail.com and he can instruct the team on what is required.

[Helen and Roger Green](#) have left us – and moved to Chesterfield. We wish them well and hope they find Archaeology up there. Thanks for all you've done in and for WAS – Chief Angmering Liaison Person, Reporter in Chief,

Lecture Programme 2016 -2017

Lectures are held In the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre at 7.30pm.

October 11th

Amie and Gordon will report on both the Goblestubbs excavations.

November 8th

David Rudling will talk about Roman Villas in Sussex

This will be preceded, at 7pm., by an introduction, given by Carlie Bradshaw, to the new WAS website.

December 13th

Judie English on 'Prehistoric Land Organisation on the South Downs'

The Lecture List for 2016 –2017 is at the end of the Newsletter.

Friday November 25th

Social Evening at the Gardeners' Arms.

Quizzes and a buffet.

Put the date in your diary.

WAS Study Days

Saturday August 6th 10am – 4pm

A Day of Surveying Training, delivered by members of W.A.S.

Full details at end of Newsletter.

Sunday 18th September 2016

Learning about the Building Stones of Sompting (St Mary) and Lancing (St James the Less)

Churches

Led by David Bone

Meet at Sompting Church at 2pm.

Free to members (the churches appreciate a small individual donation)

We need to restrict this to 20 participants so if you would like to attend please contact

Jacqueline Lake by email:

jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com or phone

(02903) 215671.

Saturday September 24th 10am – 4pm.

Making Sense of Monuments: Landscape Archaeology In Sussex (rescheduled from March)

Education Room, Worthing Museum

David McOmish

(Historic England: Research Group)

Details at end of Newsletter

Saturday 26th November 2016 10a.m.to 4p.m. Medieval Pottery Day

Duncan Brown

Curator, Museum of Southampton (Research Fellow Southampton University)

Education Room, Worthing Museum

The day will comprise an extended introduction to the development of pottery through the

medieval and post-medieval periods, a practical sorting session and a concluding talk on what we can learn from studying pottery.

For more details, see end of Newsletter.

Amberley Museum tour

On a rainy Sunday morning (June 12th) a cheery group of Worthing Archaeological Society members met in the car park at Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre for an organised tour of the Amberley Lime Kilns and a Chalk to Lime talk.

This visit was a follow-up from the 2 -year project and excavation of the Lime Kiln site in Lambleys Lane and the subsequent report and illustrated lecture delivered by Connie, Liz and Theresa in April.



19 members of the society were met in the car park by Chris Kirk our guide

The Chalk to Lime tour and talk was given by dedicated and knowledgeable volunteer Chris Kirk. He set the scene by telling us about the history of lime in Amberley and how the site used to be a successful chalk quarry and lime works which could have been used in Roman times for the production of mortar. He told us that there was evidence of lime production from the 12th century and early limekiln structures from the 16th century.



Alex photographing one of the hidden limekilns in the car park area

Chris explained that the limekilns that survive as brick-built structures at Amberley date from the 18th and the early 19th century and that the earliest were situated in the Grey Pit, with later kilns using chalk from the White Pit.

The first sets of restored kilns inside the museum are the No 1 and No 2 bottle kilns which were built in the late 1800s to burn lime from the white pit. They were brick-built with round arches, a draw hole, and were loaded with alternating layers of chalk and fuel from the top.

WAS members staring into the abyss.



The buildings next to the kilns have also been restored to show the grinding mill, which would have been driven by a steam train engine parked inside the shed.



Theresa Griffiths (photos thanks to Richard)
[Thank you to Theresa for organising our day.](#)

WAS Walk Shoreham, Sunday July 3rd.

A very select group of people enjoyed a walk in lovely weather from the Adur Recreation Ground to Shoreham Redoubt/Fort, via the Houseboats and the riverside. Nigel gave us an excellent talk on the history of the Fort, and others like it. Many thanks, Nigel. The views from there were amazing as the air was so clear.

Our walk coincided with the commemorations of the Somme battles.

A bonus was that it was the first time Alex had been to the Fort – and we thought he knew every inch of the area!

[Saturday July 16th Soils and Sediments Study Day with Mike Allen](#)

It was a warm and sunny day and the Downs Barn location was idyllic.

Mike began by explaining the basic concepts of geo-archaeology; soils and sediments, their constituents and development through time. Through interaction by means of numerous questions fielded by Mike we learned about the significance of peds (soil aggregates of specific shapes), horizons, the particular archaeological significance of buried soil and more.

Before long we were involved in group practical sessions, first learning how to identify soil types from samples and involving a lot of messy balls of sandy clay and loam and spit. Then came the main challenge, each small team was given a monolith to interpret, that is a vertical soil and sediment section that had been extracted from an exposed soil profile at an archaeological site. We looked for horizons and layers, examined the soil and sediment types and discussed their archaeological significance. We were all very impressed at how much it was possible to determine about each site from this newfound knowledge.

Finally we were given a selection of different charred seeds and chaff to examine through microscopes. Again of great interest.

So thank you Mike for such an excellent day. I am sure we will make use of what we have learned at future digs.

Jacqui Lake

[Binsted Strawberry Fair 24th July](#)

There was a lot of interest in the WAS display at this very popular annual event. We can highly recommend it!

Thanks, Mike, for the ice creams, too.

[Annual Journal](#)

Articles for the next one will be very well received. Cheryl's email: hutchincheryl@hotmail.com

[Walking into History with Alex Vincent](#)

Meet at the Resource Centre (Davidson House) Car Park, North St., Worthing (BN11 1ER) on Monday evening at 6.45 for a 7pm start. Car sharing from there.

Monday Aug 1st Offington. Site of hall and settlement

Monday Aug 8th Bury Drive, Goring. Medieval site and ancient trackway

Monday August 15th Worthing. Portland Road area and site of Grafton House.

As this is the last walk, if it is raining, we will go to a pub.

Monday Sept 5th Social at the Swan Pub, Worthing, from 7pm.

Enquiries to Alex on 07753282714 after 2,30pm on weekdays.

[Easy Fundraising](#)

If you shop online, do consider using Easyfundraising to make donations to WAS.

<https://new.easyfundraising.org.uk>

Retailers give part of every amount spent to WAS if you nominate us as your charity.

[Photo Archive](#)

WAS is hoping to develop an archive of photos, accessible via the website. Some of our past digs are already well covered, but if you have photos you are willing to share, please would you send them to John Green on midwayjohn@btinternet.com.

If they are not recent ones, we would be grateful if you could give us names of people and sites included.

Many thanks,
WAS Committee

[Wealden Buildings Study Group](#)

Winter talks programme, all held at Wivelsfield Church Hall, Church Lane. RH17 7RD (car park on the left before the Church)

October 16th 10 am – 5pm Study Day.

A full day of talks on Recording Terminology, Reading the Timbers, Dwellings within the South Downs National Park, etc.

November 20th 11am – 3pm

Talks on Hever Castle and the Alfriston Clergy House.

See www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk for full details.

Sussex Archaeological Society

<https://sussexpast.co.uk>

Horsham and District Archaeological Society

horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

Summer outing:

To Roman Colchester Sunday August 7th

The coach pick-up points will be Hove Station at 8am,

Price: BHAS members £31 Non-members £34

For details and booking form, please email

Jane Russell Russco40@hotmail.com

Winter Lecture Programme 2016 -2017

Lectures take place at the Unitarian Church in New Road, Brighton,

Talks begin at 7.30pm. Free for BHAS members; non-members £3.

October 14th

Kristina Krawiec Archaeology South East
Medmerry Excavations, Selsey Bill

When 7km of coastal realignment took place at Medmerry, excavations revealed a wealth of archaeology from the Bronze Age to WWII structures, The Palaeoenvironmental sampling will establish how the environmental conditions have changed over the last 6000 years.

November 11th

Greg Chuter Assistant County Archaeologist
Malling Hill Skeletons

Recent investigations on Malling Hill resulted from a piece of human bone found eroding out of a rabbit burrow on the east side of the hill. The most exciting discovery was a mass grave containing a group of men executed in the Saxon period, who may have been captured Viking raiders. BHAS helped fund the lab analysis so at this talk Greg will give the latest scientific news on where these men came from.

Liss Archaeology

<http://www.archaeology.co.uk/digging/fieldwork/the-colemore-project.htm>

Eastbourne Natural History & Archaeological Society

Meetings are held at 7.30pm at St Saviours Church Hall, South Street, Eastbourne
Members free. Visitors £2.50

www.eastbournearchaeology.org.uk

Chichester District Archaeology Society

For their activities:

www.cdass.info

Beeding and Bramber Local History Society

Meetings are held at 7.45pm in Beeding & Bramber Village Hall, High Street, Upper Beeding, BN44 3WN and visitors are always welcome, entry for them £2.

Sept. 7 *Sally White* The Development of Worthing as a Seaside Resort

West Sussex Geological Society

South-East England Regional Conference 2016

Geology, Landscape and Man in Southeast England.

Saturday 26th November from 9am to 6pm at Worthing College.

A wide range of Speakers, including Annabelle Hughes and Tom Dommett, sure to be a great day.

For full details and a Registration form, please contact Anthony Brook at 15 Cambourne Court, Shelley rd., Worthing. BN11 4BQ

And finally a reminder

Subs for 2016 were due on January 1st - £25 for ordinary members, £10 for full-time students.

Thank you very much to those who have already paid.

We would ask Members who pay by standing order or direct debit to please increase their amounts in line with the subs for 2016. Many thanks for this.

If the increased rate causes problems for anyone, do please let us know – via Connie connieshirley1@aol.com

See Liz at Lectures or:

Please send to:

Liz Lane,
Membership Secretary.
5 Smugglers' Walk
Goring-by-Sea,
West Sussex.
BN12 4DP

Membership forms can also be downloaded from the WAS website.

Items for next News sheet please to

Liz, as above,

or liz.13lane@gmail.com

SURVEYING TECHNOLOGIES DAY

6th August 2016

10:00-16:00

The Downs Barn, Lambleys Lane, Sompting, Worthing

The Surveying Technologies day will provide a basic introduction to various surveying techniques and an opportunity to refresh skills.

We will have a mix of

- Plane table work
- Total Station use
- Magnetometry
- Resistivity
- Geographical information Systems

Magnetometry and Resistivity will also involve the basic skill of laying out grids with tapes.

The day is no cost to WAS members. Non-members are welcome to join us but we ask that they are insured for field work either through another organisation or through day-membership of WAS at a cost of £5.

The Downs Barn is a beautiful location and our courses there always involve tea, coffee and cake although you do have to bring your own lunch.

To book a place contact Jacqui Lake at Jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com

or Tel: (01903) 215671

Making Sense of Monuments: Landscape Archaeology In Sussex

David McOmish

(Historic England: Research Group)

Saturday 24th September 2016 from 10a.m. To 4 p.m.

Education Room, Worthing Museum

We will never know how many childhoods were blighted by the forced march to visit 'just another henge' or even worse the dreaded 'tumuli' but for some of us it has led to a lifelong fascination with the grand earthwork schemes left to us by prehistoric communities. We have all seen prehistoric hill forts or Bronze age barrow cemeteries - they are unavoidable when walking along the South Downs ridge for example. If you look on any Ordnance Survey map, you will see frequent references to 'earthworks' and it is clear that through time these places have become important landmarks, guiding us through the landscape and providing fixed points in a world undergoing rapid change.

The study day will look at the surviving prehistoric monuments in Sussex and further afield too and we will discuss their origins, why they were built and used and how they relate to the wider landscape.

The cost of the Day Course is £25 for members and £30 for non members.

Coffee and tea will be provided.

If you would like to attend, please contact Jacqueline Lake by email:

jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com or Tel: (01903)215671.

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(Research Fellow Southampton University)

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