

Our archaeologists

Enthusiasts uncover monastic wall that could date as far back as 13th century

AMATEUR archaeologists are celebrating after discovering an exciting ancient find at Parham House, Storrington.

Worthing Archaeological Society has found what is believed to be the wall of a cellar dating back to the 13th or 14th century and thought to belong to a monastic building.

The two-metre deep wall is on the site of what was a parsonage, a building pulled down in the

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1750s and which originally spurred regular archaeological digs at the site.

The most recent dig took place at Parham House over the bank holiday weekend and saw 25 enthusiasts take part.

Project manager, Peter Brannlund, was the man who found the new discovery.

He said: "It was on the Sunday morning when the wall began to appear and the whole atmosphere changed and everybody became very excited."

He added: "We have been working at Parham now for four years and we try to get there two to three times a year.

"It is part of an ongoing

investigation but this year it has got quite exciting.

"We have got through the parsonage levels and down deeper."

Originally it was thought a village existed on Parham estate but previous digs found this to be untrue, with only a collection of peasant hovels found.

With this new find, it means archaeologists can start working out how big the monastic building was and what it included.

Parham House and Gardens is now owned by a charitable trust, but Lady Emma Barnard lives there with her family.

Peter said: "Lady Emma and her husband have been enormously supportive and enthusiastic about it all.

"At the moment, it is a long ongoing relationship."

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