Worthing Archaeological Society Journal

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Two Zero Airships coming in to land over Slindon Village, it would take 100 men to hold it down with ropes. Period 1918.

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NEW YEAR'S WALK Gumber Farm WW2 Decoy Airfield Site

This coming year as a part of a programme of new and I hope interesting walks, our first walk will be on

Saturday 9th of January 2011

We will be visiting Gumber farm WW2 Decoy Airfield on the Slindon Estate. This site was very important as a Decoy site for R.A.F. Tangmere and has an interesting history.

In April of next year as a part of our lecture season I will be giving a talk about the airfield and the important roll all Decoy airfield sites made, during WW2. The visit will last around two/three hours, allowing for walking. Its important to book for this walk, and to arrange as far as possible car sharing. Allow for cancellation due to any adverse weather, that is why you must book and include your phone number for contact.

To book email: arch.research@googlemail.com

Meeting point to be arranged, all so allow for the weather.

There will be a small charge for this visit of £3.00 per person, half to the Society rest to be donated to Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice in Worthing.

Further walks and visits are being planned for 2011, so now is the time for any member who would like to lead a walk or visit to contact me.

Places of interest we will be visiting:

- · Broadwater Municipal Cemetery (tour with friends of the cemetery)
- Sompting Church
- · Dyke Railway and Devils Dyke
- · Churches of the Adur Valley, plus Lepers hospital site
- · Museum of London, day visit

So now let me know what you want to do and see, any suggestions most welcome.

Dear reader as you will see from the list of contents, this edition of the journal has a very varied selection of articles, covering many periods of time.

I have on the whole tried to keep to the Sussex area where possible.

As you will see the society has been very busy of the summer / autumn months, and the work does not stop just because its now winter, there is a vast amount of work waiting to be done, from finds processing, to out there in the cold surveying in various forms, and recording of buildings and other structures.

I feel it is very important to point out that we may all enjoy working out there on a summer's day, excavating a site, field walking, such as at Brinsbury, enjoying the sunshine, well that is most of the time !!, but after the dig that is not the end, in fact it's the beginning of the real work, the processing of the finds, the writing of reports, trying to interpret the results.

Diggers, don't just dig! Come along to the finds processing days. All finds have to be sorted, washed where required, sorted into various categories and then marked; a time consuming job.

Many members over the past few years have asked why it takes so long to get a report out, the above explains this, without your input in the post excavation work, this will delay any form of final publication, so when you get an email about this valuable part of our work, as and when you can, please lend a hand!

There has been some slight moaning of the past year or so that the society does not run outings to places of interest, the main reason for this is down to costs, coach trips are very expensive, and we need to fill a coach to break even, so this is not now possible. Walks to local places of interest I know are popular, and I am hoping to undertake some over the coming year, but due to some on-going health problems with my legs, I cannot guarantee that I can fulfil my commitment to walks, but I do hope I will be able too.

There is a list of possible walks and visits within this publication, but do come forward if you would like to arrange anything, walks visits, etc.

Finally, I am now looking for content for the next issue of this journal, which will be in the early spring; it will be an electronic version, delivered to your email address as a .pdf file, I know that there is some opposition to this, but it's the way many other societies have gone, its all down to costs, to print and post out to all members costs nearly £800 plus per year.

This money is best spent on practical archaeology and towards the cost of research and publication of reports.

Members who do not have email will still receive a printed version in the post, in a slightly different version to what you get now, but the content will be the same.

Finally to clear up some misunderstanding to the regard of student rates of membership, to obtain a student rate the person has to be in Full Time education. I hope this clears up the matter of students working on our digs, full time students regardless of age £10.00

Non Student rate £20.00. From January 2011.

Rodney Gunner - Editor

Deadline for articles for next issue is 31st March 2011, please supply in .pdf format if possible and photos as separate .jpegs.

Articles from members own research are most welcome.

Resistivity Survey at Roman Villa

Giles Standing

Southwick Roman Villa, West Sussex

Project Background

This article reports on a resistivity survey undertaken at Eastbrook Primary School (formerly Manor Hall Middle School) in Southwick, West Sussex by the author and volunteers in July 2008. This work was particularly assisted by Ian Allison, of the Worthing Archaeological Society, who kindly provided both equipment and expertise.

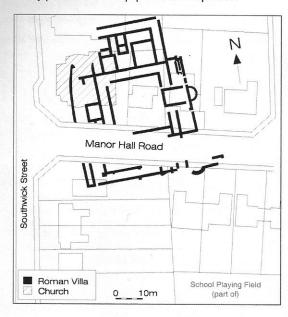


Fig 1 Survey location plan (Jane Russell)

The investigation was focused on the school playing field (NGR TQ 2445 0555), which lies close to and south of the site of Southwick Roman villa [Fig. 1]. The villa site, today occupied by a Methodist Church and related buildings, and several houses, is a Scheduled Monument (No. 27099), but the school and playing field lie outside the Scheduled area. The survey was run in collaboration with Eastbrook Primary School, in the first stage as a local education and community event as part of National Archaeology Week in 2008. The Southwick school project during this week ran from 12th-15th July, with the resistivity survey across part of the playing field, and subsequent excavation of a testpit in the north-west corner of the field.

With the support of the school, the project was thereafter run as a research excavation (site code SWK08) directed by the present author, when the school was on holiday and afterwards, with volunteers from local archaeological societies. Excavation was undertaken, at intervals, over the course of the summer and autumn 2008. A section of an unmortared flint-and-chalk wall was discovered running through the trench, with a rammed chalk floor surface on one side [Fig. 2], and finds including Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery, both coarsewares and finewares. The excavation is to be published in Sussex Archaeological Collections 148 (2010).



Fig 2 Completed 2m x 1.6m test-pit (topsoil darkened by rainfall)

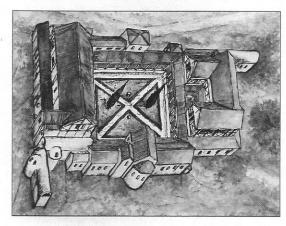


Fig 3 Interpretative reconstruction of Southwick Roman villa c. AD 150 (Anthony Beeson)

Historical Background

The Roman villa at Southwick, dating from c. AD 75/80, is one of a group of élite Roman residences built in rural and coastal Sussex during the late 1st century AD. The villa is sited on the fertile coastal plain south of the Downs, close to the River Adur and the Channel seaboard, and its situation reflects its likely role as a private rural retreat, an economic and communications centre, and a working farm with surrounding estate. Like other early villas in Sussex, most closely the Roman Palace at Fishbourne, west along the coastal plain, Southwick villa was built as a grand architectural structure, and reflected contemporary Mediterranean rather than local or indigenous styles of building and decoration [Fig. 3]. Southwick villa was a lavish residence, with black-and-white mosaics, glass tesserae, painted wall plaster, suites of baths, and large, imposing rooms forming clustered units of space. The villa was built with four wings, connected by corridors, which were set around a central, inwardfacing courtyard which almost certainly contained an ornamental garden, as at Fishbourne.

Investigation History

Southwick villa has a long history of investigation, spanning nearly two centuries to date. Parts of the site were first excavated in 1815, and subsequent interventions were carried out during the 19th century. The excavations of the 1930s, notably those beyond the main villa site, are of particular relevance to the current project. Subsequent excavations were undertaken on the villa in 1965 and 1981, and smaller watching briefs and evaluations have taken place on or next to it in recent decades.

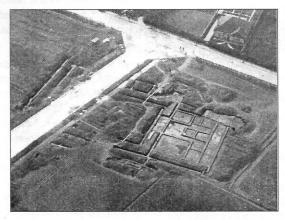


Fig 4 Aerial photograph of villa under excavation in 1931

The whole villa was extensively excavated in 1931, in a part-rescue excavation, when Manor Hall Road was built over the southern part of the site [Fig. 4]. Smallscale excavation was also undertaken beyond the main villa area in 1933, to the south of the southern villa wing. The area investigated appears to have been immediately east of Southwick Street, but excavation was halted by house building on the site. This work revealed flint wall foundations, which the excavator interpreted as 'the walls of a separate building', in an area of the site perhaps occupied by 'workshops and yards'. Further excavation to the south of the southwest corner of Manor Hall Road at that time also revealed 'an angle of a flint and mortar wall', with pottery mostly from the late 1st to early 2nd century AD and two silver-plated coins of c. AD 80. Subsequently, near the same location, loose flints were found around 1938 during excavation (road works) in the middle of Southwick Street, and interpreted as evidence of 'the outbuildings of the villa extending in this direction'.

Basis for Survey

The main villa site today is mostly destroyed due to 20th-century building development, with some (excavated) walls remaining underground, but nothing visible surviving above ground. The Eastbrook Primary School playing field is the largest area of undeveloped land in close proximity to the villa, and represented an excellent opportunity to investigate the immediate Roman environs surrounding the villa, part of the former villa estate. Recent fieldwork at Fishbourne Roman Palace has shown that detached buildings were present beyond the main villa range, and it was hoped that similar outbuildings might be detected at Southwick. The 2008 resistivity survey at Southwick was

the first geophysical survey to have been undertaken on or near the villa site, and the first investigation of the villa environs, a distance from the main structure, since the small interventions in 1933 and 1938.

Land Use

A long-standing tradition of local knowledge regarding the presence of a Roman structure in the area of the villa is suggested by the names of several roads and landmarks close to the site, such as 'The Roman Field', assigned before the 1931 excavation revealed the villa. It is likely that the villa had been known for many centuries by farmers on the site, who may have razed the walls to a uniform depth below the ploughsoil. The playing field overlies a former apple orchard (several apple trees line the present boundary of the field, reflecting its past use) and part of an earlier large market garden; this market garden was in 'The Roman Field', and also contained the main villa to the north. The school playing field has remained an isolated open space since.

Survey Area and Methodology

The resistivity survey was undertaken on 12th-13th July 2008, across a large area of the playing field, focusing on the region nearest the villa site. The survey was conducted in two parts, using a TR/CIA Resistivity Meter, and a Geoscan RM15 Resistance Meter. The baseline for the survey grid was positioned 1m from the fence along the northern garden wall adjacent to the field. Readings were taken at 1m intervals, along 1mwide transects, on a 100m x 60m grid (5 x 3 20m² blocks). The 10 grids nearest the baseline were undertaken on the first day of the survey, using the TR/CIA Resistivity Meter, and the 5 grids adjacent to these on the second day, with the Geoscan RM15 Resistance Meter. A series of small marker pegs were temporarily left in place in the field to mark the grid for excavation.

Survey Results

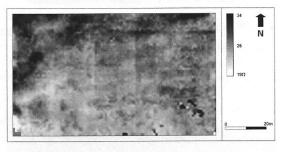


Fig 5 Processed resistivity data: edge-matched, despiked and interpolated (Bronwen Russell)

The data collected from both resistance meters were combined, and processed and filtered in Geoplot software [Figs 5-6].

This post-survey work was kindly undertaken by Bronwen Russell, School of Applied Sciences, Bournemouth University, who contributes this section:

Following the reconstruction of the plot mesh, the data were edge-matched, to knit the two surveys closer together, and then despiked to remove the very high

readings affecting the southern part of the survey. The data were then interpolated to create a smoother appearance. Following data processing, a number of interesting anomalies were identified within the survey area. An interpretive plot indicates the notable 'features' [Fig. 6].



Fig 6 Annotated resistivity data (Bronwen Russell)

The red crosshatched anomalies on the interpretive plot would seem to indicate archaeological remains. The higher resistance readings appear distinct from the background; although there is some variation in the background geology, those anomalies highlighted seem the most likely to represent subsurface remains. Whilst it has been indicated that they seem quite linear (walllike) in appearance, there is quite an area of high resistance around them, and this could possibly be interpreted as associated with the linear anomalies (i.e. a rubble spread), or it could be a geological response, but these seem to be the best indication of a buried archaeological structure. There are also a couple of more amorphous high-resistance anomalies which probably would only be better understood by archaeological excavation.

The anomalies highlighted by the blue dashed lines most likely indicate the remains of a relict agricultural landscape, such as field drains, but it is possible that they relate to more modern services.

Interpretation

There are 4 main anomalies identified in the survey [numbered in Fig. 6]:

- 1. The first anomaly is in the north-west corner of the field, represented by a perpendicular area of linear high resistance, notably with two lines running parallel south-east into the survey image. This anomaly does not respect the orientation of the present playing field, suggesting it may predate the field, and it does not appear on historic maps. This area appears to be contained between the main villa and the diagonal anomaly just to the east.
- 2. The second anomaly constitutes a diagonal line of high-resistance, with a central break. The gap in this diagonal feature appears to correspond with an opening in the rectilinear feature, the first anomaly just to the north-west, and it might be suggested that they are part of a single related feature, such as a large architectural unit. These linear anomalies are not on the exact alignment of the villa, though the villa is orientated at a similar diagonal angle [cf. Fig. 1]. Taken together, these anomalies may represent part of the villa environs, not yet investigated, perhaps a trackway leading into a related out-structure, or the whole unit perhaps representing an architectural feature such as a large gatehouse or series of walls.

- 3. The third main anomaly was detected in the northeast corner of the survey area, as a further linear area of high-resistance. This anomaly is further from the main villa area and on a different alignment than the diagonal feature, and appears to respect the orientation of the field boundary. This feature borders the fence between the field and gardens on Manor Hall Road, suggesting it could relate to modern building debris, but as the houses are set back from the fence, and as this is an isolated area of resistance rather than right along the modern fence line, this may not be the case. Indeed, as this feature lies on the edge of the survey area, its extent and form are not clear, and this anomaly may equally relate to the Roman villa environs.
- 4. The fourth main area detected in the survey was further south, within the field itself, where two narrow lines of resistance were detected running east-west. The northern line is the strongest, and this has been interpreted (above) as relating to agricultural practice. This line, which follows the orientation of the field, appears to correspond with the boundary of the apple orchard present across most of the playing field area from the late 19th century until the school development of the 1950s. It may be suggested, then, that this high-resistance feature in the north of the field marks the northern boundary of the orchard, such as a trackway or field drain, rather than a Roman feature, and that the similar feature to the south may also relate to the orchard.

In order to verify and enhance these survey results and their interpretation, a magnetometry survey was undertaken in the school playing field in April 2010, with the assistance of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society. A copy of the magnetometry survey report will be lodged with the West Sussex HER and the Southwick Society (Manor Cottage Heritage Centre, Southwick).

Conclusion

The resistivity survey across a large area of the school playing field has indicated several anomalies, perhaps relating to archaeological features of Roman date, as close as c. 40m from the south-west corner of the villa. Discovery of part of a detached structure in the test-pit in the north-west corner of the playing field extends the findings of the 1933 and 1938 excavations, and suggests that a villa out-building was present southeast of the southern villa wing, as well as those southwest, as found in the 1930s. It appears that this area contained several lower-status outbuildings, perhaps used for farming or storage, or accommodation for servants or slaves on the villa estate.

The other anomalies recorded in the resistivity survey require further investigation. Those in the north-west of the field together may represent a large architectural unit, such as a villa gatehouse or walls, or a flat trackway or road of Roman or later date, though the possibility of a seam of natural geology cannot be discounted. Further excavation over that corner of the field, either as larger test-pits or an open-area excavation encompassing both anomalies, is necessary to clarify the possible relationship of these features and to shed further light on the Southwick Roman villa environs.

Acknowledgments

With thanks to the Worthing Archaeological Society and the Sussex Archaeological Society for the loan and use of geophysical equipment. Particular thanks to lan Allison of the Worthing Archaeological Society for assistance in conducting the survey, and to Bronwen Russell, School of Applied Sciences, Bournemouth University for undertaking the post-survey processing and filtering of the resistivity data.

For their assistance or advice in the project, thanks to:

John Cooper; Jane Russell; Anthony Beeson; Julie Scott and the staff of Eastbrook Primary School; the Southwick Society committee, particularly Mary Candy, Nigel Divers, and Ray Richards; the volunteers of the Worthing Archaeological Society, the Southwick Society, and the Sussex Archaeological Society.

Any errors or omissions are the responsibility of the author.

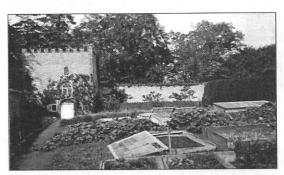
A full report on the resistivity survey, with addition information, has been deposited with the West Sussex HER and the Southwick Society (Manor Cottage Heritage Centre, Southwick).

Slindon House Estate Victorian Walled Garden

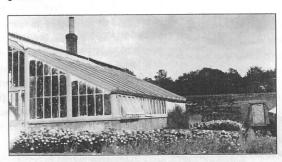
Rodney Gunner

The Victorian walled garden within the grounds of Slindon house, is to be recorded, the site contains an early Victorian lean to type greenhouse, which was used when first installed as a vinery.

There are the remains of an apple store, plus various outbuildings.



This photo is not of the Victorian garden but of the garden within the area of the tower, this was the garden of the head gardener who worked in the walled garden.

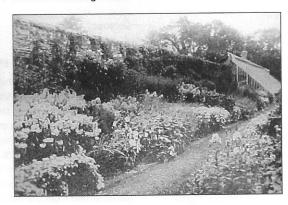


An identical greenhouse to that at Slindon. Made by Forster & Pearston, Beeston, Notts



Mr William Gunston, Head Gardener 1920s/1950s

This photo was taken within the Walled garden, as you can see the garden is behind the Parish church in Slindon, part of the old Victorian greenhouse can be seen in the background.



Typical walled garden, 1890s



This un-restored photo taken circa 1890s within the vineries glasshouse, which stands to this day.

The simple kitchen garden evolved from the simple need people had to feed themselves. At one time virtually every cottage and country house in Britain contained a modest vegetable garden. In time, these gardens evolved in direct proportion to their owner's personal wealth, for the more wealthy this extended to include feeding an extended household and to regularly entertaining house guests.

The period of greatest growth and changes in gardening ran parallel with the growth of the British Empire which fuelled it, especially between 1800 and 1914. After 1914 there simply wasn't the manpower or the economic resources and, in many places, even the desire to garden to quite the same extent as in the past.

The growth of the Victorian walled garden coincided with a number of simultaneous social and Britain experienced explosive economic growth and social change. This growth was fuelled by global exploration and the development of steam-driven commercial transport. No longer were the adventurous limited to the distance a horse could travel in one day, or the direction and speed of the prevailing oceanic winds. In short, the wealthy Victorian could personally finance men to gather any unusual and exotic plant they wished and they had the means to cultivate the plant upon its return despite the vagaries of the English weather.

Why even have a walled garden?

There is a common misconception that walled gardens were originally built to protect the plants from the weather. I do not believe this was the case and I shall explain why. Any wall can only offer protection to a maximum distance equal to about 1.5 - 2x the height of the wall. So, even for a 4m high wall the protection afforded would be just 8m in to the garden. On this basis, Victorian walled gardens designed to protect the plants within from the weather should be about 16m across!

This was never the case. The reality was that the

smallest walled garden extended to about 60m across and many were 200m or more across. Indeed in 1853, Queen Victoria's own walled garden at Windsor was 32 acres/8 hectares! Yet, the royal walled garden was enclosed by a wall of just 3m high. Obviously, wealthy Victorians went to the considerable expense of enclosing their gardens for another reason other than protecting their gardens from the elements, and they did so to protect the valuable produce within the walls from theft. Remember, these extensive gardens were packed with expensively produced food and they were almost always located in the open countryside. The surrounding population was often poor and hungry, especially in winter, and without a wall, every estate garden was an open pantry.

Most vegetables don't grow much higher than your knees in summer and in winter most Victorian walled gardens looked little better than a ploughed field until the arrival of spring - which largely obviated the need to protect vegetables from the elements - and certainly didn't make economic sense for a wealthy, pragmatic Victorian. Furthermore, any walled enclosure is susceptible to swirling, tornado-like air currents within.

Having constructed the expensive walls the pragmatic Victorian owner made full use of them. On walls facing towards the north it was quite common to grow espaliers of cool-loving plants such as blackberries, gooseberries, redcurrants, blackcurrants and cherries. While on east-facing walls apples, cherries and the hardier pear cultivars were often grown. Figs, plums and the warmer-loving pear and apple varieties could be happily grown upon the warmer west-facing wall. The hot south-facing wall was reserved for growing tomatoes, peaches, plums, apricots, nectarines and cherries.

The importance of the abolition of glass and window taxation

In 1845 the glass tax was abolished, three years later plate glass was invented, and three years after that the window tax was also abolished. As a result of these three events the cost of glass plummeted. Even today, there is obvious evidence in older houses where windows had previously been bricked up to reduce the owner's exposure to the glass and window taxes. Window tax was payable on all properties with six or more six windows. It was no coincidence that London's enormous Crystal Palace which Joseph Paxton designed for the Great Exhibition was built just six years after the abolition of glass tax (in 1851). After 1845 the wealthy could afford to build large greenhouses against their south-facing garden walls.

Improvements in boiler design

Northern England is built upon coal and this was the fuel of choice for every Victorian greenhouse. The later half of the nineteenth century also witnessed considerable boiler design improvements that lead to increased heating efficiency. A large, midnineteenth century boiler measuring 150 x 68 x 53cms cost £46 and was capable of heating 503m of 100mm diameter heating pipe. By comparison, a large, late nineteenth century boiler could measure as much as 243 x 92 x

90cms, cost £95, yet was capable of heating 1540m of 100mm diameter heating pipe.

Between the 1880's and 1912 the English walled garden reached its peak. Not only did the great estates employ hundreds of gardeners and contain huge growing areas under glass, but it was not uncommon for people of comparatively modest means (retired army officers, medical professionals and the clergy) to employ half a dozen gardeners to cultivate fresh vegetables, fruit and cut flowers under glass. Quite often such people had travelled extensively, seen exotic plants in the course of their work and now had the time and the means to enjoy exotic plants in their retirement.

Specialist Greenhouses

Specially designed greenhouses were available for chrysanthemums, carnations, and orchids. An orchid enthusiast would have at least two houses enabling the owner to cultivate both cool and hot house orchid varieties. Later, as the Victorians discovered the inherent beauty in the foliage of exotic plants from distant lands, they designed and built fabulous Foliage Houses. The Winter Garden was essentially a conservatory designed to provide a haven for evergreens and winter flowering plants.

In the vegetable garden, the development of threequarter span greenhouses enabled wealthy owners to cultivate early, mid and late season grapes of various kinds, both for the bottle and as fresh bunches to eat and to impress their peers at the dinner table. Today, we are so used to global transportation stocking our supermarkets, it is difficult for us to even imagine the effect on wealthy Victorians when they saw bunches of fresh fruit on the dining table in the middle of winter.

The Head Gardener was king

Just as a modern restaurant is judged by its Head Chef so, the Victorian walled garden was judged by its Head Gardener. As gardens evolved during the nineteenth century so did the knowledge and skills of the Head Gardener. His first task was to provide the kitchen with fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the year. The Head Gardener who could not only grow the ordinary with the exotic, but who could successfully store the garden's produce, so that the owner and his guests might enjoy outofseason fruit and vegetables just as they might be enjoyed in the summer, was highly valued. Head hunting is not a modern corporate phenomenon, wealthy Victorians were certainly not averse to tempting a valued Head Gardener away from one estate to their own.

Tools for the job

Throughout the nineteenth century the fledgling horticultural industry developed at a tremendous rate to keep up with the England's interest in gardening. Garden magazines, plant nurseries and tool manufacturers all provided for the insatiable appetite of the gardening public just as it does today.

Garden tools were developed to make gardening easier. Some garden tools, such as spades, forks, wheelbarrows and secateurs have barely changed in a 100 years. While others such as the lawnmower have developed a great deal. The original lawnmower looked as though it could lay a tarmac road when compared to the sleek, compact modern machines of today.

Many Victorian garden tool designs did prove totally unwieldy and impractical and were thus condemned to bye gone dustbins. What examples do remain in museums today, provide a curious and often humorous insight to a previous age.

Gardening could kill

There is a myth that it would have been a very nice place to work in a Victorian Walled Garden this is based largely upon their idea of working in a heated greenhouse through the cold English winter. But in the Victorian era there was no such thing as 'Health & Safety at Work' as there is today. There was little, if indeed any, research into the dangers of using lead paint, working with leadlined tools and the use of the common pesticides and insecticides of the period. Just imagine regularly spraying your greenhouse plants with arsenic, without even a protective face mask. No wonder the greenhouse staff of the Victorian era rarely reached thirtyfive years of age.

Postscript

As a footnote to this short history of the Victorian walled Garden, I started my working life at the age of 15 in an estate walled garden complete with some 5 greenhouses all linked together by walk ways.

My first job was to clean out the two great Robin Hood coke boilers, this was a dangerous job as one had to rake out the clinker, in doing so, this in turn would release large amounts of yellow sulphur fumes, and this was in the 1960s, One of my other jobs was to light piles of nicotine soaked shreds of cloth along greenhouse paths , this would smolder slowly releasing toxic fumes to kill pests, no safety equipment was used, leading to the breathing in of the fumes while you lit the rags.

I all so used Mercury mixing it in with soil to remove various pest! And DDT, Aldrin, and many other very toxic chemicals', health and safety, did not really start to be enforced until the 1970s./1980s.

Ref: Winsford Walled Gardens. National Trust Archives. Robin Upton Slindon.

Slindon Military History

Rodney Gunner

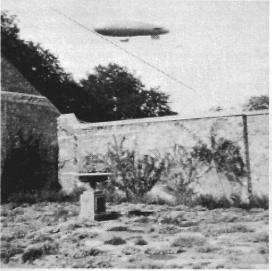
The military history of the Slindon Estate is wide and varied; a start has been made on some aspects of this, for instance the Decoy Airfield at the Gumber, which is nearing completion.

There are many military sites on the estate: First World War Airship Station
First World War Prisoner of War camp
First World War Military Hospital
World War 2 Italian prison camp
Canadian base, World War 2
Canadian, covert operations, World War 2
Secret flying of Lysander aircraft
plus possible Roman Military camps!

As one can see there is a lot of research to be undertaken, in due course the military history will unfold, in addition to the above there may well have been other activity's associated with the estate, the Civil War, and all the many other military happenings over the ensuing periods.

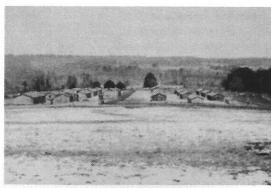
This area of research is very specific, and requires many hours to be spent on desktop research; any member who would like to be involved in the work, please contact John Green in the first instance, the project has no time scale attached to it at present.

The Airship Station research has been undertaken, only the ground work now to be completed.



27 September 1918. (F.W.). 680) "Blimp" from Paved Garden.

Operating from the base in Slindon Woods, closed in 1919.



1 May 1919. (F.W.I. 699) German Prisoner's Camp on The Plain

Site nr Nore Hill, still evidence on the ground can be found, hut bases, tiles, etc.



1918. At the very back are Miss. - Stuart and C.H. Chapple, Lt. RE. Others standing, left to right, Mrs. Harley, Miss.B. Dering, Sister Amos, V.B., Miss Grieve and L.L. Reeves Capt. R.F.A. Seat at the front are F.F. Leach Lt. D.C.L.L. and C.C. Burdon Lt. 42, 60th Rifes.

Photo taken outside the main entrance to Slindon House

Photos are of low quality due to age and early storage problems, many in the collection which I have, some 500, are from glass plates, and have had some restoration done to them.

Ref: Robin Upton re photos.

Rodney Gunner, collection and research notes.

All photos are subject to strict copyright. And may under no circumstances,' be reproduced without the consent of copyright holder. 2010.

Activities

The season started with a well-attended meeting at Parham on Saturday 6th March. The Project Managers reviewed 2009 and then briefly outlined our plans for 2010. This was followed by a walk in the estate looking at the surface WW2 archaeology. At least one of the Canadian camps is extant and it was possible to make out the outlines of two others.

The digging season got underway in March with a small excavation on behalf of the National Trust in the woods south of Slindon Park. We'd been asked to investigate a circular brick lined structure with a thick concrete capping prior to it being made safe. A small team worked on this project and our current interpretation is that the feature was a soak away, though why there was such a thick concrete capping we do not know.



Next up was another NT project in April, this time at the base of the scarp slope of Bignor Hill. Another well built; circular brick structure was the target. It was initially thought to be a limekiln, but that was soon disproved. Rather it appeared to be a water tank, now 3.1m deep, 2.8m wide, brick built and concrete lined with convex upper and lower surfaces. One pipe led out of the feature, emerging on a slope 5 m away. A careful examination of the surrounding area showed a layout of tracks and ramps and a possible robbed out kiln. Further work is needed on this area as it looks like there is a small industrial landscape surviving associated with lime production. Anybody fancy a little project?



Easter produced a first. When planning the fieldwalk at

Brinsbury we soon realised that the area involved was far too big for us to do in one weekend, even a long one! So we invited members of CDAS, BHAC and HDAG to join the Brinsbury students, and us the first time the 4 local societies have worked together. The upshot was that over 75 people participated in the fieldwalk. A lot of new material was recovered; including more barbed and tanged arrowheads. Who could ever forget Brenda's reaction when she found one? The finds are now being processed, again a joint venture between WAS & Brinsbury and we are planning to carry out an



On April 30th it was back to Parham, the hunt for the parsonage continued. As usual there was a wealth of finds, though features continued to elude us. This site is rapidly becoming the project officer's bane. You can guarantee that when he sites a trench, it'll miss an edge by 1cm. Obviously he was a pushover at battleships when he was a kid. However, we did find some interesting archaeology. A small sondage was sunk beneath the chalk yard to prove its depth. Normally you'd expect orange, natural sand below the chalk. But not this time. A dark organic rich layer emerged containing plenty of pottery.



The whit bank holiday dawned and we were back at Parham, as the main attraction this time. There were two areas of focus. We enlarged the sondage, the archaeology extended deeper than anticipated, we appeared to be on one side of a ditch/pit which was lined with chalk blocks. Despite our best efforts, we couldn't bottom it, running out of time and working space at just over a metres depth. The trench in the area of the sondage was extended and revealed three, brick built post pads, possibly the remains of a

barn/stable. We also looked at a new area to the east of previous excavations. This showed a thick layer of well-packed flint, partly mortared. Visitor numbers were excellent, and the donations pot was healthily full by Monday evening. However, even more heartening was the number of new diggers that attended the weekend. We'd 'advertised' on the CBA website, this was picked up by Current archaeology and we'd had a mention in their 2010 Excavations booklet. This resulted in a lot of new members; so welcome Amiee, Jude, Janet, John, Millie, Gemma, Pippa, Elise, Tushar, Luke, Matthew, Neha, Ria, Andrew, Leah and Helen.

In early July we were back at Parham, though why we choose their Garden Weekend we're not sure. Every time the site directors turned round it was to see diggers sloping off to the Garden Event, the site tent looked like a Garden Centre most evenings! Archaeologically, we put most of our effort into the pit/ditch feature on this visit. The sondage was enlarged laterally and grew ever deeper. However, we weren't able to define any further limits to it, though a mad frenzy during the last ten minutes of the actual excavation managed to hit natural at a depth of 1.8m. The feature is too big to handle in a weekend and we are currently holding talks with the estate with a view to holding a longer excavation in 2011.



The first weekend of August saw a well-attended visit to Bignor Roman Villa. The cake was great, so good in fact that we were back there two weeks later helping out with their Roman Activities weekend. A small trench was opened in the field north of the villa, and kids of all ages were able to trowel in it. Next year marks the Villa's bicentenary, so we are hoping to be able to help them celebrate that.



Late August, it must be Walberton, but you can read about that elsewhere in this newsletter.

As you can see, it's been a packed year and we haven't even mentioned the activities of the finds processing team, the research group or the numerous site visits/meetings. It fair to say that the Society is in robust health at the moment, but please don't let that hold you back. If you're keen to get involved/more involved in any of these activities then please speak out. The more people who help to carry the load, the healthier the society will be.

Documents Research Group

This year the Field Unit established a **Documents**Research Group. Whenever there is an invitation to dig it is important to engage in some desktop studies, looking at maps, documents, census records and parish registers. The idea behind this group is to coordinate the efforts of all those who would like to share in such research.

One of the first tasks for the group was to try and make a comprehensive list of all the recorded archaeological finds in the Walberton area. This is in preparation for a widening of the investigation into the Roman villa at Blacksmith's Corner. We are hoping to involve the local community in a deeper study of the surrounding area and need a full picture of the settlements and discoveries that have already been made.

Accordingly, some of the members of the Documents group met at Worthing Library and over several occasions worked through the index pages of both the Sussex Archaeological Collection and the related Sussex Notes and Queries. These stretch back about 150 years, so it was quite a task to note every reference to Walberton and the adjacent parishes. The group were armed with template forms to record dates, locations and details in a standard fashion and the resulting list was quite impressive. These notes were then transferred onto a spreadsheet which can now be quickly sorted by parish, by period or by date of discovery. It now forms an active database that can be updated with further information from the Sussex Monuments Record, the Portable Finds Archive, the National Archive, or just local information.

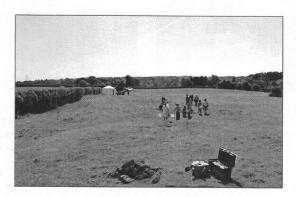
Another area of study has been to support the excavations at Parham with research into the Estate records and correspondence. This is very timely as the West Sussex Record Office has just published an online catalogue of the Parham papers, making this huge collection much more accessible. The Documents Research Group is currently exploring this collection to try and discover more about the history and development of the landscape at Parham.

If this kind of study appeals to you, and you have some free time, you would be welcome to join the group. No special qualifications are required. It doesn't matter either if you have never visited the Records Office before, because there is always someone to show you the ropes. There are no group meetings; our aim is to help each one into a useful area of research and capture the results for the benefits of the Society.

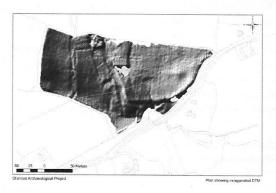
For more information, contact the coordinator, John Green, by email at worthingresearch@gmail.com

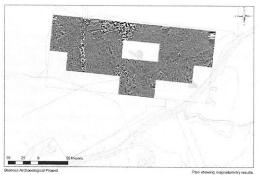
The Stiances Archaeological Project

Simon Stevens



Pupils from the village primary school in Newick, East Sussex have recently enjoyed the rare opportunity to do some 'underage' archaeological fieldwork. After an entertaining round of fund-raising, enough money was put together to offer the children the chance for an 'Archaeology Week' at a site on the border between the parishes of Newick and Barcombe in a field called Little Stiances. The archaeological potential of the site, which survives as a series of earthworks was first identified by Fred Tebbutt in the 1970s, but no recorded fieldwork had ever taken place there after his initial visit. And although they say never work with children or animals, a quick visit to the school confirmed that the kids were raring to go.





But first came the animals. The field is the usual residence of a herd of deeply inquisitive heifers, who took a keen interest in the various comings and goings associated with setting up an archaeological 'dig'. Following a walkover survey of the site and the production of a detailed Desk-Based Assessment by

local historian Tony Turk, a geophysical survey was undertaken at the site. The cows seemed particularly fascinated by the Fluxgate Gradiometer and were clearly keen to be involved where possible. Their enthusiastic efforts at chewing through tapes and generally licking anything or anyone in the vicinity showed true dedication. They also showed a particular fascination for the site cabins and toilets and the vehicles that delivered them. However, unfortunately they were unable to take part in any further work at the site as the farmer kindly moved them to save the paintwork on the cabins from further 'attention'.





And so to the children. The plan was simple - take 230 kids ranging in age between 4 and 11, put them in a field in the middle of nowhere and turn them into archaeologists. Two classes a day for three days. A bit of a lull on the Thursday for a select gathering for a 'Breakout Day' where the pupils get to choose an activity outside of the classroom for the day (no, I didn't have these either...). And then a single class on Friday. All rounded off with a public Open Day on Saturday for mums and dads to come and admire the work.

A dedicated and someone terrified team were able to show the kids the joys of site reconnaissance and surveying (lumps and bumps), map work (Tony Turk's impressive research into the site), finds recognition ('what's this?'), and of course, last-but-not-least, good old fashioned excavation. A procession of vehicles appeared at the site at around 9.00am every day and soon little groups of kids were busy unravelling the history of the field in various ways. The school operates an inspired 'buddy' system by which the youngest



children have an older friend to look after them, so even the tiniest ones always had a guiding hand. And of course someone to take them to one of the block of plastic site toilets, a mere formally for the grownups, but an exciting adventure when you're little.....

A combination of staff from Archaeology South-East, teachers and classroom assistants from the school, mums, dads, governors and anyone else kind/mad enough to volunteer were soon shaping the alarmingly numerous children into grizzled archaeological veterans. Lumps and bumps were noted and recorded, maps and aerial photographs were studied, and testpits were excavated with an enthusiasm only a child can muster. While some of the adults complained that it was too hot, or a bit damp (it poured hard for a bit actually), the children barely looked up from their labours, and had to be dragged off site (almost literally in a couple of cases) to have some lunch and at the end of the day.

So many kids asked if they could come back on the Open Day and do some more digging that we decided to have a couple of 'Have-Go-Holes' for visitors and returning diggers alike on the Saturday. Despite some dreadful weather in the afternoon, there were nearly 200 visitors to the site over the course of the day, mostly family groups consisting of an old site hand and younger or older siblings and mum and dad dragged along to be shown which hole 'I dug' and what 'I found". Other welcome visitors included a number of Parish Councillors,

Finds from the test-pits included a range of pottery dating from the 15th to the 19th centuries, large quantities of brick and tile from the cottage itself and an assortment of other artefacts, including a group of datable clay pipes and a scatter of prehistoric flintwork. Finds of particular interest to the children included a half penny of George III (dated 1770-5), a Victorian clay marble and a heavily corroded padlock, although all finds were greeted with an infectious enthusiasm (especially pottery 'with patterns AND writing on it' to quote one pupil!).

In terms of academic significance, the recovery of Mesolithic flintwork was of particular importance, and fits a pattern of hunter/gatherer activity in the region based on the system of river valleys. The presence of



15th century pottery confirms the longevity of more permanent habitation at the site, arguably providing a date range for the earthworks. However, further fieldwork will be needed at the site to confirm this hypothesis.

There are a huge number of people to thank for their help. Firstly an enormous debt of gratitude is owed to John and Catherine Sclater for allowing access to the land and for their continued support throughout. Thanks are also due to Tony Turk for giving his time and sharing his extensive knowledge. The day-to-day smooth running of the project would have been impossible without the input of Newick mum Mandy Stockwell, (who insisted on putting flowers in the site toilets....). The project could not have gone ahead without generous financial support from the following:

Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London

Council for British Archaeology (South-East)

Lady Vernon (Newick) Educational Trust

Newick Parish Council

Newick School Association

Newick Village Society

Sussex Archaeological Society

Sutton Hall Estate

Uckfield Chiropractic Clinic

University of Sussex Archaeology Society

Wealden Iron Research Group

and several private individuals

Thanks are also due to Mrs Thomas, the Head Teacher and all the staff, parents, relatives, and of course pupils from the school for all their hard work, and for the numerous cards and letters of thanks sent to the archaeological team after the dig.

Simon Stevens
Senior Archaeologist
Archaeology South-East

Early Flying Machines

Rodney Gunner

Local forgotten aero history

Early flying machines built in Middleton on Sea near Bognor.

In 1909, Norman Arthur Thompson, an Electrical Engineer born in 1874 at Streatham, London, became interested in the science and practice of Aeronautics after reading two books on it by the pioneer aerodynamacist Frederick W. Lanchester. Thompson, after securing finance from Dr Douglas White, a wealthy friend, approached Lanchester and persuaded him to collaborate on designing an aircraft.

Lanchester designed a two-seat pusher configuration biplane powered by two 50 hp (37 kW) rotary engines, the Thompson-Lanchester No. 1 Biplane or Gray Angel. This was completed during 1910, but proved incapable of any more than brief hops, and was eventually scrapped.

Despite these setbacks, which used up most of White's initial capital, Thompson and White set up a limited company, "White and Thompson" on 8 June 1912 to continue their aviation business. In early 1913 Thompson, working on his own without the involvement of Lanchester and designed a second aircraft, the Norman Thompson No. 1 Biplane, another pusher, this time powered by a single 100 hp (75 kW) water-cooled ABC engine, which successfully flew. This was not progressed further, however, as White and Thompson was hired to maintain a Curtiss Model F flying boat, and was appointed the exclusive European agents for Curtiss in February 1914.

In the summer of 1914, White and Thompson designed and built two flying boats to compete in the Daily Mail £5,000 Circuit of Britain race for seaplanes, a single-engined flying boat, and a larger twin-engined aircraft. Although the race was cancelled owing to the outbreak

of the First World War, the single engined aircraft was successful, and a further eight were built for the RNAS as the White and Thompson No. 3, being delivered in 1915, as were 10 examples of the White & Thompson Bognor Bloater" "Bognor Bloater", a single engined landplane.

White left White and Thompson in 1915 to join the Royal Army Medical Corps, the company being reorganised as the Norman Thompson Flight Company, and expanded its factories to cope with increased N.T.4, a twin-engined patrol flying boat of similar size to the Curtiss H.4 Small America, and the N.T.2B, a single-engined flying boat trainer. A change in RNAS requirements lead to the sudden cancellation of orders for the N.T.4, however, while engine problems caused delays to the delivery of N.T.2Bs.

These problems caused Norman Thompson to go into receivership on 19 April 1918, an attempt to sue Curtiss over breaking the 1914 agreement for White and Thompson to have exclusive sales rights in Europe getting nowhere. The Norman Thompson Flight Company went into Voluntary liquidation on 12 July 1919, the company's factory and stock being purchased by Handley Page.

Information sourced from archives of Flight Magazine, not subject to copyright.

Supplied for information purposes and research.(non profit) Rodney Gunner

Stonehenge Boy

Stonehenge 'boy with the necklace' was from the Mediterranean.

In 2005, excavation for road construction 5 kilometers from Stonehenge unearthed the complete skeleton of a teenage boy. He was lying on his side and wore a unique necklace of 90 amber beads. Now, isotope studies of his teeth have indicated that he grew up in the region around the Mediterranean Sea.

The excavation was conducted by archaeologists from the British Geological Survey. Professor Jane Evans, the head of this organization describes the find. "He's around 14 or 15 years old and he's buried with this beautiful necklace. The position of his burial, the fact he's near Stonehenge, and the necklace all suggest he's of significant status." She notes that during the Bronze Age, burial at Stonehenge would be akin to modern burial at Westminster Abbey.

Her conclusion about the high status of the boy is supported by Dr. Andrew Fitzpatrick of Wessex Archaeology, who said: "Amber necklaces are not common finds. Most archaeologists would say that when you find burials like this... People who can get these rare and exotic materials are people of some importance."

Dental enamel in teeth retains a trace of the isotope ratio of oxygen present in the drinking water consumed during childhood. Strontium isotopes from rocks get into the food supply and can also be measured in teeth. When data from both isotopes are combined, it is possible to trace the origins back to a given region.

Another skeleton found earlier in the Stonehenge area was also tested in this way. That individual was found to have come from a colder climate, perhaps in the mountains of what is now Germany. Known as the

"Amesbury Archer", he carried some of the oldest gold and copper objects found to date in Britain. His remains were dated to 4,300 years BPE, so he lived 800 years earlier than the boy.

The presence of two people who traveled a great distance to get to Stonehenge could indicate that it was a very well-know landmark for hundreds of years in the Bronze Age. According to Dr. Fitpatrick, "We see the beginning of the Bronze Age as a period of great mobility across Europe. People, ideas, objects are all

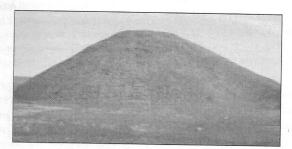
moving very fast for a century or two. At the time when the boy with the amber necklace was buried, there are really no new technologies coming in [to Britain]. We need to turn to look at why groups of people - because this is a youngster - are making long journeys. They may be travelling within family groups. They may be coming to visit Stonehenge because it was an incredibly famous and important place, as it is today. But we don't know the answer."

The boy was buried with around 90 amber beads.

Silbury Hill Construction

English Heritage and Jim Leary

Silbury Hill's construction process was more important than design



Silbury Hill, the neolithic chalk mound in Wiltshire (England) is Europe's largest prehistoric man-made feature. This ancient monument was believed to have taken many centuries to build, but research by English Heritage archaeologists suggests the prehistoric site was made in 15 distinct layers over 100 years. A new book has challenged some of the long held assumptions about Silbury Hill.

New and more precise dating of materials found inside the hill now suggests the monument was created not in three stages as previously suggested, but in 15 distinct phases involving some three generations between 2400 and 2300 BCE - right after nearby Stonehenge's thirty enormous sarsen stones were put in place. But new evidence is increasing telling us that Neolithic people display an almost obsessive desire to constantly change the monument.

A survey by English Heritage suggests the prehistoric mound is not in fact truly circular: on the summit it appears to be more angular than circular, while at the base it is almost octagonal in form. It is possible a spiralling ledge led up to the mound. The research has also shown that Silbury Hill was at the centre of a Roman-British settlement and it could have been considered as sacred in the Roman period as when originally constructed. Later, in the medieval period, the top of the hill was flattened and a building possibly defensive - was constructed on the summit.

In the new book 'The Story of Silbury Hill', published by English Heritage, all this emerging evidence has given rise to a radical new theory: Silbury Hill was not a single construction project and that the builders did not have any blueprint in mind. Instead, the creators were building the mound as part of a continuous storytelling ritual and the importance of the shape that we see now is of secondary importance.

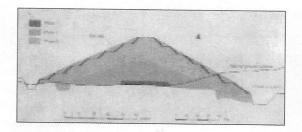
Jim Leary, English Heritage archaeologist and co-author of the book, explains: "Most interpretations of Silbury Hill have, up to now, concentrated on its monumental size and its final shape. But new evidence is increasing telling us that our Neolithic ancestors display an almost obsessive desire to constantly change the monument - to rearrange, tweak and adjust it. It's as if the final form of the Hill did not matter - it was the construction process that was important. It seems as if the hill developed organically and the strangest thing is that this hasn't always been a hill. The first phases of it were a bank and ditch enclosure, much like a henge monument."

Further, analyses of the material composition of the mound have revealed that chalk, stones, gravel and antler picks were consistently used in an ordered fashion and combined in different ways to yield discrete patterns, textures and colours. "The most intriguing discovery is the repeated occurrence of antler picks, gravel, chalk and stones in different kinds of layering, in ways that suggest that these materials and their different combinations had symbolic meanings," Jim Leary says.

Silbury Hill has now been restored to as near its original condition as possible. All the known voids inside the prehistoric mound, and the crater on the summit, have now been re-filled. The hill is deemed a Site of Special Scientific Interest for chalk land vegetation and the public are no longer allowed to walk on to it.



An artist's impression of how the site may have appeared in pre-historic times



This early Victorian drawing seems to bear out the findings made by English Heritage, looks more angular. Shows site infill, in other words built angular and then rounded off.

The Sussex Passenger Ferry 1916

Rodney Gunner

An almost forgotten piece of local Sussex WW1 History



The Sussex pledge was a promise made in 1916 during World War I by Germany to the United States prior to the latter's entry into the war. Early in 1916, Germany had instituted a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare, allowing armed merchant ships - but not passenger ships - to be torpedoed without warning. Despite this avowed restriction, Germany sparked an international diplomatic crisis when, on 24 March 1916, one of its submarines - UB-29, mistakenly sank a French cross-channel ferry - the Sussex of 1,350 tons - believing it instead to be a minelayer.

The ensuing crisis stemmed from the 25 American civilian casualties (out of a total of 80 casualties, including 50 fatalities) who were on board the Sussex. The torpedoed ferry nevertheless managed to limp onwards, towed to the French port of Boulogne. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson consequently addressed Congress on 19 April 1916, vehemently condemning the

German action. During the course of his speech he demanded "that unless the Imperial German Government should now immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present method of warfare against passenger and freight carrying vessels this Government can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the Government of the German Empire altogether". Germany. Fearing the entry of the United States into World War I, Germany attempted to appease the United States by issuing, on May 4, 1916, the Sussex pledge, which promised a change in Germany's naval warfare policy. The primary elements of this undertaking were:

- · Passenger ships would not be targeted;
- Merchant ships would not be sunk until the presence of weapons had been established, if necessary by a search of the ship;
- Merchant ships would not be sunk without provision for the safety of passengers and crew.

In 1917 Germany became convinced they could defeat the Allied Forces by instituting unrestricted submarine warfare before the United States could enter the war. The Sussex pledge was therefore rescinded in January 1917, thereby initiating the decisive stage of the so-called First Battle of the Atlantic. The resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare and the Zimmerman Telegram caused the United States to declare war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

Slindon Airship Station

Rodney Gunner

A few notes on the history of Slindon World War One, Airship Station.

Research is well underway into the history of the WW1 airship station in Slindon woods; it will be while before a final report will be ready, so I thought some tantalizing notes from my research would interest you.



SS Z 28 moored at Slindon

Slindon airship station was an outlying station of polegate in East Sussex, under the control of the Portsmouth command, it really did not come into its own until late 1918, two airships were based there of the SS type, submarine hunters' used on patrols in the English channel.

May, 1918 saw the zenith of Aerial Patrol in the command, over 10000 hours being spent in this one month alone.

Slindon station was in full swing, under the command of Captain E L.D. Batley.

Submarine activity in the Channel had been acute up to this time, and every effort was being made to develop the policy of continuous patrols day and night. Pilots and crew work very long hours, often sleeping only a few hours a day, offers and other ranks worked together, relying greatly on each other.

It has been recognised that it is a fact that as a result of the hard work of theses airships crews, the threat from submarines' in the channel was greatly reduced, thus allowing safer passage of merchant ships.

All honour to them, to officers N.C.O, and other ranks who gave their best, because their best could never have been better.

Lieutenant C.J.W. Hatcher, who subsequently relived Captain E.L.D.Batley in command at Slindon, was awarded the Air Force Cross, for his diligence to the war effort, and the respect he was awarded by those serving under him.

Lieutenant E.J.Protheroe, Air Mechanic J.R.Innell, and Wireless Mechcanic H.Bailey. contributed a record for aerial patrol by carrying out a continuous patrol from Slindon in SS.Z.28, of 26 hours and 30 minutes.

E.J.Protheroe was mentioned in dispatches.



Slindon Officers. 1918/19



Crew of SS 28Z

November 11th, 1918 saw the signing of the Armistice, and the consequent cessation of the anti-submarine patrols.

The mooring station at Slindon was 315 ft in length, its width being 69 ft, height 50ft. Gas was stored on site, Silicol Gas Plant (type B."), capacity of 5.000 cubic feet per hour. The complement of Officers and other ranks at Slindon was 14 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, and 200 ratings.

Rodney Gunner. November 2010

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Annual Social

Friday the 19th November saw our annual end of year social, held at the Farmers Public house in Lancing.

Some 34 members attended, and a great time was had by all, the quiz went down well, with many laughs' at some points as to my pronunciation of certain words, I put it down to the beer. !!.

What fun was made of with the challenge to see what a team could make with sheets of paper, paper clips , bits of string etc, there was a winner, but as far as I am concerned all were winners , much thought was put in.

Thanks to Alex for the photo.

Rodney



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Journal

All contributions to the newsletter are very welcome!

Please supply in pdf format if possible, and photos as separate .jpegs. to

Secretary, Rodney Gunner.

Any views and/or opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society nor it's membership

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