

# Worthing Archaeological Society



Newsletter

April & May 2024

## Save The date

**Blue plaque** to commemorate John Pull. Organised by the Worthing Society.

This is to be placed on the South wall of the Museum at 11am on Thursday May 16th.

All are welcome.



## WAS Field Unit

### Sullington Warren

Setting up on Monday 29th April. Dig starts Tuesday April 30 to wind up on Sunday May 5th (with Bank Holiday Monday 6th in reserve). Full details will be sent round later.

For a detailed Report written by Joy Ede, on behalf of the National Trust, look under Fieldwork Planning on our website. A draft Project Design for our dig is on there too. [worthingarchaeological.org](http://worthingarchaeological.org)

### Malthouse/Whitehouse

July 15th to August 3rd to continue our 2023 dig in the SW corner of the field, and to investigate possible houses on the east side of Church Lane. Meanwhile the Research Group is finding lots of information about the area.

### Climping

Will be visited when the tide is right... Parking is very difficult.

### Burpham Big Dig

Last 2 weeks in August, full details will be sent out nearer the time

### Finds Processing

Our next Finds meetings will be held at the Slindon Shed on Thursdays 4th & 18th April and Thursday 16th May from 9.30a.m. to about 12.30 p.m. Please remember to bring your own refreshments and come prepared to work outside by bringing extra clothing. Numbers are still limited to 14, so contact Gill if you would like to be there:

[ggmturner@aol.com](mailto:ggmturner@aol.com)

### WAS Walks

- Saturday 27th April. 10am – 1. Henry Wakeford will lead a walk around Petworth Park. Meet by the toilet block in the Petworth Town Car Park, at 10am. Parking fee £3.00 and access to public toilets.
- 21st September: Guided walk around Medieval Lewes. Led by Simon Stevens. Meeting location details and time to follow.
  - Contact [Donna.wiltshire@sky.com](mailto:Donna.wiltshire@sky.com)

### Lecture Programme

- April 9th — Mark Phillips: The Men, the Mission, the Recovery: the search for the B24 and the men missing in action. (see poster at end of Newsletter)
- Tuesday October 8th. — James Sainsbury on 'The Story of Hghdown Hill.'
- Tuesday November 12th — Dr Geoffrey Mead on 'Coast at Work: continuity & change.'
- Tuesday December 10th - Dr Lawrence Shaw – Lead Historic Environment Advisor, Forestry England.
  - Theresa has produced our Lecture Programme in full – look for it at Lectures and on our website.

### Field Unit Forum

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday April 16th, 7.30 – 9pm in St Botolph's Church rooms, in Heene. BN11 4LY. On the North side of the Church, entrance from Manor Road.



### Day Schools

- Saturday 13th April — At Worthing Museum on . Artefact Drawing with Bob Turner. Full details at end of Newsletter
- Saturday 26th October: 10.00-4.00 - Medieval Pottery presented by Luke Barber. Worthing Museum.
- Saturday 23rd November: 10.00-4.00 - Post Medieval Sussex presented by Simon Stevens. Worthing Museum.
  - Contact [Donna.wiltshire@sky.com](mailto:Donna.wiltshire@sky.com)

### Study Days

18th November – in Worthing Museum, Desktop research by John Mills.

**Bursary** – WAS has a Bursary which is set up to help Members attend events which they might find difficult to pay for. Please ask a Committee Member about this if it would help you.

### Worthing Heritage Festival

To be held in June.

WAS will have a display in the Museum on Saturday June 15th between 10.30 and 3. If you are free, come and join us.

### WAS AGM March 2024

This covers the period March 2023 to March 2024

#### **Chairman's Report**

Keith started by saying that 2023 was a busy year for the Society with several activities taking place inside and out. He mentioned that the Worthing Society is installing a plaque to commemorate John Pull's achievements. This will be installed on the South Wall of the Museum at 11am on Thursday 16th May.

**Lectures** – the 2023 Lecture season, back in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre, has had a great set of Speakers, arranged by Theresa. The Con Ainsworth Memorial Lecture was given by Mike Allen on the latest thinking of the construction date of the Cerne Abbas Giant, and the John Pull Lecture by Dr Richard Nevell on investigations at Knepp Castle. Other Speakers have been David Millum on the Bridge Farm Roman Settlement, our very own President, John Mills, on Old Atherington and the lost villages of West Sussex, and Dr Judie English on early European jewellery. If there is anyone you hear of, directly or indirectly, who could lecture to WAS please let a Committee Member know.

**Training and Study Days** - Many thanks to Donna for organising these days. A very special thanks to Connie for organising and running the geophysics training, looking to pass on the baton to the next generation of field workers. Also to Connie for training on the art and science of using the total station. And to Bob Turner for another batch of excavators to undertake planning and section drawing on our forthcoming excavations.

**Study Days** throughout 2023: Barbara McNee on Prehistoric pottery, myself and Gill Turner on the Excavation process, and, more recently a well-attended and excellent Study Day on Medieval towns in Sussex, given by Simon Stevens. Looking forward to others being scheduled later in 2024, especially John's on Desktop Research. Whilst not strictly a Study Day, I would like to thank Donna for arranging the WAS Members Open Day at the Museum in the Autumn, which was well attended, and whilst I still have a few actions to complete, it was a very productive day. Other events: During 2023 there were other events, namely: Walks at Slindon (Bignor Hill) and Bramber Green (EPIC) led by Connie. As well as the New Year's walk from Lambley's Lane to Cissbury via Park Brow, again led by Connie. Visits to other excavations, at Chichester Priory Park in May and The Culver Archaeology Project at Bridge Farm. Autumn Social hosted by the Black Horse at Findon, for an evening of quizzing and skittles. Again, thanks to Donna for organising this.

**Journal:** another excellent Journal was produced under the Editorship of Cheryl Hutchins, containing interesting and informative articles, especially the report on Slindon Stable Yard. Website: Over the past year our website has had several changes: there is a new section detailing the organisation and function of the society and field unit. A section showing details of future field work projects and an area for showing research.

Acceptance of the Chairman's Report was proposed by Liz Lane and seconded by Gill Turner.

The AGM was followed by a Lecture on EPIC given by Connie and Bob.  
(Lecture summary at end of Newsletter)



### [John Pull Memorial Lecture by Dr Richard Nevell – Investigating Knepp Castle, geophysical surveys at a ‘slighted’ site..](#)

Before the Lecture, Jennie welcomed John Pull’s Granddaughter, Amanda O’Carroll, to our meeting.

She then introduced Susan Belton from the Worthing Society who announced that there is to be a blue plaque, in memory of John Pull, installed on the South-facing wall of the Museum – on May 16th. Very good news for WAS.

Then Jennie introduced our Speaker, Dr Richard Nevell, Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Exeter, Dept. of Archaeology.

Dr Nevell explained what ‘slighting’ means – it was the deliberate damage of high status buildings and their landscape, to degrade their value. Examples are Kenilworth and Corfe Castles. The motivation was usually to prevent a fortress being used against you, e.g. in the Civil War.

Castles were military structures, status symbols, homes, centres of distribution. Damaging these was damaging the status of the owner.

Methods of slighting were burning, a quick way, but leaves a fair amount intact; breaking apart earthworks/filling in ditches, a lengthy and expensive process. Often stones were prised apart from a castle tower – and recycled.

Slighting was used in the 12th and 13th centuries, especially in the South of England, and in Wales and the Midlands, mainly during the 13th century.

Knepp’s destruction was done early in the 13th century – it’s not certain that it was slighted. The owners, the Braose family, fell out with King John, who confiscated their lands, so that Knepp became a Royal site, much favoured by the King – mainly for the good hunting.

In 1216 there was rebellion and warfare. John ordered the destruction of Knepp. It would have been a sign that John was losing the war and a reflection of his weakness, as it had become a Royal castle. We don’t know whether the order to destruct was followed, or ignored or reconstructed. Knepp fell out of use in the mid 14th Century, was a ruin by the 17th Century and in the 18th Century, its stones were used for road building.

The name ‘Bad King John’ was justified.

Burning, as a method of slighting, was very rare in England, so it must have been ordered for speed.

The aims of the work Dr Nevell did, in 2021 and 2022, with Scott Chausee, were to look for evidence of the outer buildings and to look for evidence of burning. Surveys using magnetometry and GPR were done – at a relatively low cost. Magnetometry was suited for finding evidence of burning because it changes the signature of the soil. It can also look for structures.

GPR wasn’t so useful because of the sloping terrain.

There was lots of evidence of buried Archaeology. Dr Nevell expected to find evidence of features on top of the mound, but there weren’t any. GPR found a feature at a 45° angle to the mound, it may be one corner of a building on a different alignment and may predate the mound. They expected to find footings, but there were none to the East – maybe as a result of the 18th Century quarrying. There was no evidence of burning.

The site needs to be excavated (which was a very popular idea at the Lecture, especially with our Northern Members...). There needs to be a survey of the tower (which is the west wall of the keep) and a study of the landscape. Maybe take core samples – was there an earlier use of the mound?

This was a most interesting Lecture, which provoked quite a few questions and comments afterwards.





### **WALKING INTO HISTORY.**

Archaeology walks for 2024 with Alex Vincent.

- June 3rd Binsted. Church and shrunken medieval village. M.
- June 10th Upper Beeding. Church, priory and shifted medieval village. L.
- June 17th Mill Hill, Erringham. Possible Neolithic long barrow and windmill. S.
- June 24th Hoe Court, Lancing. Neolithic road and settlement. L.
- July 1st Chantry Hill, Storrington. Chantry, Roman terraceway and settlements. L.

S = short walk, M = medium walk and L = long walk.

We meet temporarily this year at the Waitrose Car Park in the High Street, Worthing, on Monday evenings at 6.45 for 7 PM. Route maps on how to get there will be given on the day. A fee of £2 or £3 for petrol money to the drivers from the passengers is recommended. Please wear comfortable clothing and footwear. All are welcome. After the walks, we go to a pub for refreshment.

### **University of Sussex Archaeological Society**

- Wednesday 10th April 7.30pm
  - USAS – Re-making Rapa Nui( Easter Island): archaeology’s Polynesian narrative. This Holleyman Lecture will be presented online by Professor Sue Hamilton
  - Fee: £3 Details from: <https://www.sussexarchaeology.org/usas> (booking essential)
- Wednesday 1st May : USAS online lecture, 7.30pm
  - Disarticulated human remains at Silchester. Speaker: Professor Mike Fulford (University of Reading)  
The antiquarian excavators of Silchester noted the occasional find of human bone as well as a few complete or partial skeletons. Apart from recording their general location within the town there is little or no further information about context. Excavations since the 1980s have added further examples of disarticulated human bone as well as one or two complete or partial skeletons.
  - Fee: £3 — Details from: <https://www.sussexarchaeology.org/usas> (booking essential)

### **Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society**

- Friday 12th April 2024 7:30pm In the Unitarian Church New Road, Brighton.
  - Recent discoveries in the Roman city of Colchester A talk by Adam Wightman
  - Fee: non-members £4 - Details from: [http://www.brightonarch.org.uk/6\\_1.htm](http://www.brightonarch.org.uk/6_1.htm)



## Other Societies / Groups



Based in Pulborough, the Society has a variety of walks and talks which might well be interesting.  
Email: [enquiries@southdownssociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@southdownssociety.org.uk)



**Chichester District Archaeology Society (CDAS)** have made their talks available free on their YouTube channel see: [www.CDAS.info](http://www.CDAS.info)



[www.lissarchaeology.uk](http://www.lissarchaeology.uk)  
Or email [lissarchaeology@gmail.com](mailto:lissarchaeology@gmail.com)



**Worthing Heritage Alliance** of which WAS is part of this group which has a very useful Calendar of all events in the area of an Historic nature.  
[www.worthingheritagealliance.org.uk](http://www.worthingheritagealliance.org.uk)



**Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society** has a variety of events  
see [landscape-events@hantsfieldclub.org.uk](mailto:landscape-events@hantsfieldclub.org.uk)



**Butser Ancient Farm** has launched ButserPlus: a way to enter the world of ButserAncient Farm online with professional video content. Details here:  
[www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/butser-plus](http://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/butser-plus)



**Sussex Archaeological Society**  
<https://sussexpast.co.uk>



**Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society** <http://www.brightonarch.org.uk>

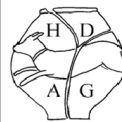
Back in the Unitarian Church New Road, Brighton- Start time 7-30 pm. The BHAS lectures will be **live** and not on Zoom.



**Brighton Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC)** is open to everyone aged 8-16 years. We get involved in all sorts of activities, including visiting and investigating archaeological sites and historic places, trying out traditional crafts, taking part in excavations, experimental archaeology and lots more. Brighton YAC is based at Brighton Museum , where we have access to the wonderful Elaine Evans Archaeology Gallery. Occasionally our sessions may be held at other venues depending on planned activities. The club usually meets once, a month on the last Saturday, from 10.30 am-12.30 pm.

If you'd like to get involved please get in touch with the team: contact: Odile Rouard

email: [brightonyac@gmail.com](mailto:brightonyac@gmail.com)



**Horsham and District Archaeology Group**  
[horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk) or 01903 872309



**Wealden Buildings Study Group**  
[www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk](http://www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk)



# Worthing Archaeological Society

## UK GDPR: UK General Data Protection Regulation

Please can you refresh your memories by reviewing this document, which can be found on the Society's website under Documents / Policy / Privacy Notice.

If any of your contact details have changed since you completed your WAS Membership Application Form, please advise the Membership Secretary, Liz Lane.

Many thanks Donna



If you are already on Facebook and would like to join our closed WAS Facebook group, just ask to join on the Worthing Archaeological Society page

### Easy Fundraising

If you shop online, do consider using Easyfundraising to make donations to WAS. Retailers give part of every amount spent to WAS, if you nominate us as your charity  
<https://new.easyfundraising.org.uk>

### Photo Archive

WAS is developing an archive of photos, accessible via the website. Past digs are already well covered, but if you have photos you can share, please send them to Theresa and Richard on [theresa\\_in\\_brighton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:theresa_in_brighton@yahoo.co.uk)  
If they are not recent ones, could give us names of people and sites included. There are some on our website which we haven't been able to identify – if you know when and where they were taken, please let us know.

### WAS Archive

Connie is currently Curator of our Archive. We have a good collection of Sussex Archaeological Collections, starting from

### And finally a reminder

Subs for 2024 were due on January 1st - £25 for ordinary members, £10 for full-time students. . Feel free to pay by standing order or BACs (details on request)

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:

[www.worthingarchaeological.org](http://www.worthingarchaeological.org)

**Please note** that at the AGM it was agreed to increase subs to £30 from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025. Please update your standing orders / direct debits if you pay that way.

The Worthing Archaeological Society is a registered Charity (291431)

Please note: our email address is: [worthingarchaeological@gmail.com](mailto:worthingarchaeological@gmail.com)

Items for next News sheet please to  
Liz, as above, or  
[liz.13lane@gmail.com](mailto:liz.13lane@gmail.com)



# Worthing Archaeological Society

## Day School

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024. 10am – 4pm  
Worthing Museum Education Room

**Bob Turner**

## Artefact Illustration

This Day School will cover the recording and illustration of Metal, Flint, Wood, Pottery, Glass, Bone and Textile artefacts.

Attendees will be asked to bring along five items to draw, examples of which are:

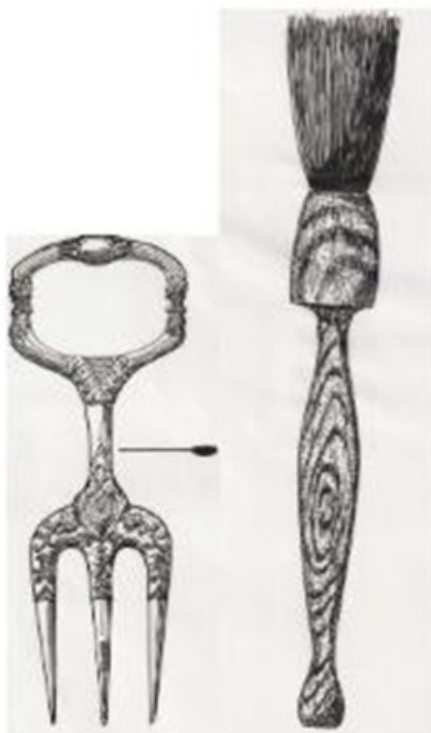
Metal – pliers, knife, spoon

Pottery – jug, vase

Glass – wine glass, jug

Wood – brush, spoon

Textile – any small article



Equipment to bring on the day will include the following but there will be a small supply of these items in the room for use on the day:

4H pencil, Ruler, Rubber, Protractor, Set Square, Compasses, Fine Black Stabilo-type drawing pen and a magnifying glass

Enjoy learning to draw 'what you see'; you don't need to be an artistic person!

Please contact [donna.wiltshire@sky.com](mailto:donna.wiltshire@sky.com) if you would like to join us for this interesting day.



[worthingarchaeological.org](http://worthingarchaeological.org)

Lecture Tuesday April 9th 2024  
Worthing Library Lecture Theatre 7.30pm – 9pm

**Mark Phillips**

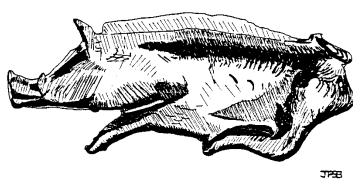
Local Historian and Councillor Arundel

**The Men, The Mission, The Recovery: The search for the  
B24 and its MIA's**



On Thursday 22 June 1944, an American B24 Consolidated Liberator of the USSAF 489 Bomber Group - nicknamed 'Johnny Reb' - crashed upon its return to the UK, following severe battle damage to the plane during its mission to bomb the airfield at St-Cyr, SW of Paris. I plan to tell the story of the plane, the men, the mission, the crash, the research and the project to find its two missing in action (MIA's) and repatriate them to the USA.

**All visitors are welcome, entry £4. Members free**





## Connie and Bob's Lecture 12<sup>th</sup> March

This was a fascinating account of Worthing Archaeological Society's 'Investigative Works within the EPIC Project area , Sompting, West Sussex' during Summer 2019 and July/October 2020.

We were invited by EPIC (Enhancing Places, Inspiring Communities) with their partners Sompting Estates and the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust to do a field walk and excavation alongside the contractors creating a new watercourse, wildlife habitats, bridges and walk ways. The site at Sompting's Church Farm was not without its risks and restrictions as we needed to avoid any areas that could be contaminated and respect sensitive areas such as the new river bed, vegetation and protected natural environments. We were also digging during the Covid-19 epidemic with all of the health and safety rules at the time. There was a strict requirement for social distancing, wearing masks and other protection, which meant that only a small number of diggers, surveyors and a site supervisor could be on the site keeping the necessary metres apart and the finds team a long way off across the field.

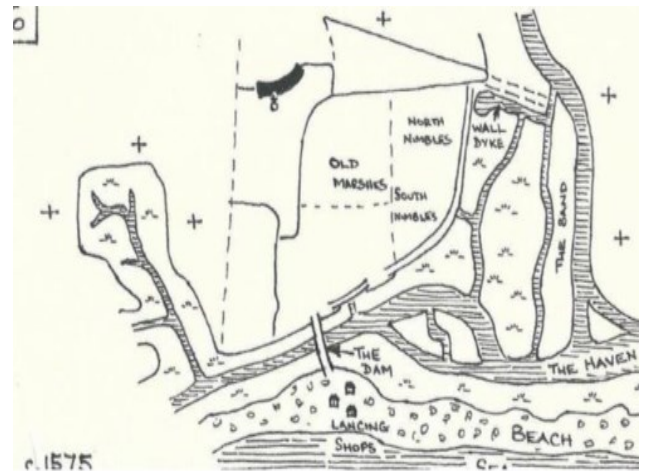
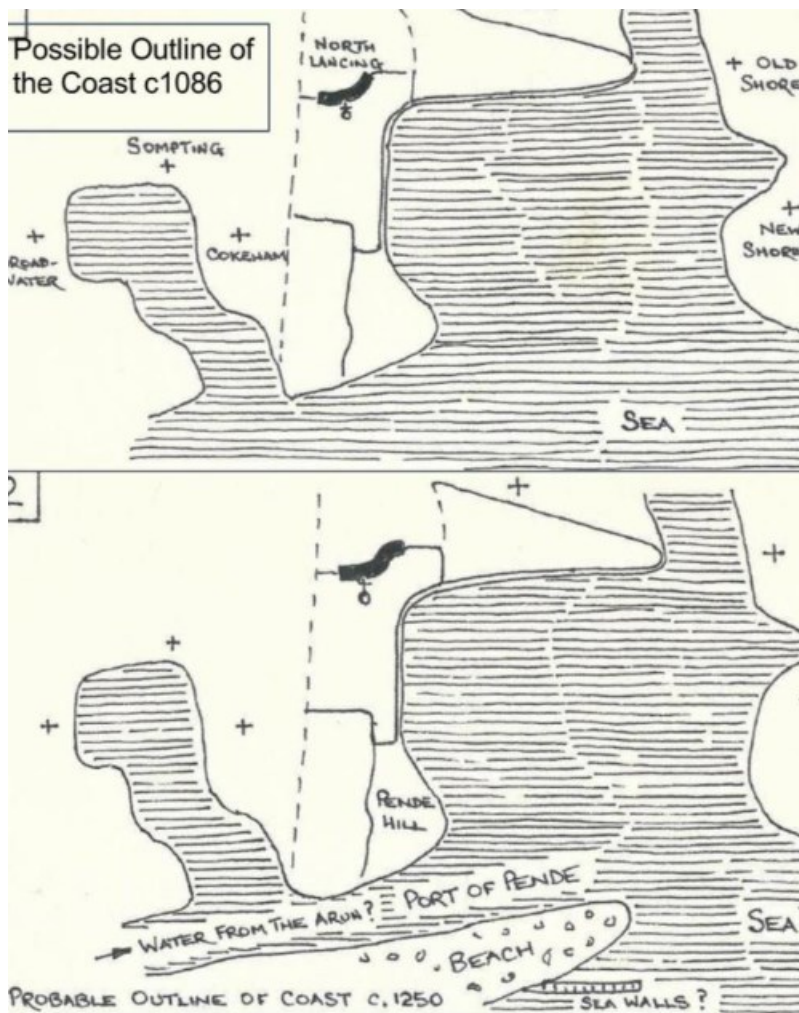
Connie and Bob's account brought back the happy memory that, despite the constraints, we all felt so fortunate and really pleased to be able to leave the confines of our homes and take part in the Epic dig.



The site's location, geology and the formation of the present landscape was explained through reference to historical maps. Kerridge made a series of sketches to explain how the coast changed from 1086 through to 1575. The area of Sompting, West to Broadwater, adjacent to Lancing and East to Shoreham would have been a large tidal innings from the sea at the time of the Domesday Survey which started to silt up by the 13<sup>th</sup> century with longshore drift forming a shingle bank. The Broadwater innings was changed completely by the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Lidar brought the history of the site up to date with topographical images of the landscape indicating water channels.

In 2019, field walks on the banks and borders of the new water courses found material that indicated further investigation would be productive. In 2022 further field walks and scrapes of the banks and new pond areas as well as several 1mx1m trenches went down to the natural flint pebble level. Griffiths





**Kerridge (1983) Sketches of Coastal Outlines**

The land would possibly have been low lying and very marshy with pools and many streams during the Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic. The nomadic hunter-gatherer Mesolithic inhabitants of the region would have had opportunities to hunt animals that seasonally came to the streams, to fish and gather edible food stuff growing in the marsh and surrounding area. The late Mesolithic began to transition from this way of life to a more settled farming existence and could have established seasonal camps further up the hills on dryer land.

The range of flints found, the dates and the tool types from both 2019, and the following years, gave a strong indication of the people who visited and maybe stayed nearby to seasonally work the land. One of the most striking finds, perhaps looked initially the least impressive; a couple of very small flint cores. So small they could only have been produced by children's hands. Clearly family groups lived and worked in the area.

The mathematics of population generations that Bob opened his part of the talk with reminded us that these family groups were actually part of our family, from not so inconceivable generations ago. People living lives different to ours in everything but family relationships.

This account of the lecture offers a brief understanding of the outcome and results from the two years investigative work at the Epic Project. There is much more to be discovered about the broader area through the continuing explorations by the Society of the fields north of the Epic Project.

Full detail of the investigation of the site can be found in the report on the Worthing Archaeological website <https://www.worthingarchaeological.org> Field Work > DIGs History > SOMPTING > EPIC Project Area

A video of the Epic excavations presented by James Sainsbury can also be viewed on the same page.