

Worthing Archaeological Society

News sheet

April - May 2019

WAS Field Unit

The Malthouse, Sompting, dig will take place between June 1st and June 15th. Do let Connie or Liz know if and when you can join in, whether for digging, planning, Finds processing, barrowing.....

We will be setting up on May 28th, 29th and 30th, if you can help with this too.

Please note that you do have to be a fully paid-up Member of WAS to join in.

connieshirley1@aol.com

liz.13lane@gmail.com

Finds Processing

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

Next meetings will be the 4th and 18th April, 2nd and 16th May.

ggmtturner@aol.com

Surveying

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

If you would like to take part, email Connie on connieshirley1@aol.com

Lecture Programme

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

April 9th

Roger Cordiner and Anthony Brook
Medieval Building Stones in Parish Churches of the Worthing Area.

Next Season – the Con Ainsworth Lecture in October will be given by Connie, reporting on our Malthouse Dig.

We hope to hear from our new Finds Liaison Officer, Carolina Rangel de Lima in November, and from our President, John Mills, in December.

WAS Study Days 10am – 4pm

4th May 'Roman Pottery', Gordon Hayden, in the Museum Education Room.

8th June Judie English 'Food and Feasting' Day School in the Barn, Lambley's Lane.

See end of Newsletter for full details of these Study Days.

23rd November Simon Stevens 'The Archaeology of Death and Commemoration' – Museum Education Room.

Please contact Patricia Leming

p.leming@btinternet.com

if you wish to attend any of these days.

£25 for WAS Members. £30 for non-Members.

GDPR

If any of your details – address, post code, telephone number(s), email address, or Gift Aid option - have changed since you filled in the form last April/May, please would you let us know. Many thanks.

February – The John Pull Memorial Lecture

Hog Croft – Ovingdean, 2014 – 2017

John Skelton gave an illustrated talk on a dig he directed as a member of Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society (BHAS) at Hog Croft, a field to the north of St Wulfran's Church, Ovingdean.

Referred to in the Domesday Book, Hovingedene is shown as 2/3 of the parish being to the West and 1/3 of the parish being to the East. The eastern 1/3 is where modern Ovingdean is located, with not much development being carried out on the western side. There is very little known about medieval Ovingdean, but it is thought the site was a manorial complex and dates from C1200 -1400. In an earlier BHAS excavation what was believed to be the site of a medieval house and undercroft was found.

Hog Croft is pasture land with no written record of ploughing and a lot of archaeology was found just under the surface. Following geophysical exploratio, the field was seen to be full of earthworks, some of which formed a sub-rectangular enclosure measuring 50m by 80m. There were pits, post holes, well-constructed flint walls and a deep cellar with animal bones inside. Some pottery dated C1225-1350 was found. Some of the post holes were quite large. A trench was dug into the earth bank, inside which the core comprised big chalk rubble from a nearby quarry. A possible storage pit was found with a piece of a sheep's cranium that was carbon-dated to 850 A.D.

A GPR survey was conducted which showed possible rectangular stone remains of a barn connected to a circular structure (eg a barn attached to a dovecote).

During new excavations in 2014, a section cut through the north earthwork revealed a buried land surface that produced mid to late Saxon pottery, and a rare bone gaming piece. Below this surface was a pit which contained a number of bones, one of which was Carbon-14 dated to the late Saxon period.

An open area excavation started in 2015 and revealed more post holes and a number of linear gullies that could be trench foundations for substantial structures.

Also some Saxo/Norman pottery was found.

A flint wall was found that had a strange composition as it had 3 layers of flint, repeated through its structure. This could have been the wall's foundation and used to create a more stable surface. Another thin wall was on top. It was thought this was possibly a retaining or garden wall as opposed to being part of an actual building.

Also excavated was a well, which went to a depth of 2.5 metres. As the excavation of the well progressed, charcoal was found indicating a possible wooden lining that had been burnt after rubbish within had caught alight. Items found were a skillet handle and charred grains which are yet to be carbon dated but likely to be Saxo-Norman.

A charcoal pit was found rich in fragmented daub, with a thick layer of charcoal, thought to be an oven or a kiln. There were also several

very large pits (possibly storage) and post holes which suggested a possible building.

Field Walking and Test Pits were carried out. Finds included Medieval pottery, a broken end of an axe. Nine out of 11 pits revealed archaeology. Using Photogrammetry, 3D models were produced.

A particular find (identified by Luke Barber) was a possible Cresset Lamp – eg a Saxo-Norman Lamp.

Summary of Structures

- A possible Manorial building
- A Barn and Dovecot – Saxon or Saxo-Norman structure
- A Well
- An Oven/Kiln

It was established that features extended beyond the enclosure

Finds – a range of diverse finds

- The Amor Buckle (girdle belt?) A medieval gilt buckle – possibly a love token.
- A bone disc 5 cm thick with circles on it and slight decoration on the rim. This was a possible gaming piece, thought to be Saxo-Norman.
- One registered find was a decorated copper alloy, riding 'spur' probably from military exercises conducted in Hog Croft c1900.
- Small bottle dated c 16/17th Century with its contents
- The Illustrated London News 1870 – an engraving showing the Downs 'The defence of Ovingdean'
- A possible Hag Stone or Adder Stone – believed to have magical powers (eg a stone with a natural hole in it)
- Arrowheads; possible beads, horse furniture; colander; a metal potmend; a scabbard; bone combs; bones; some green glazed pottery; a chimney pot.

John gave us an introduction to both Photogrammetry and Reflectance Transformation Imaging..

Patricia Leming

WAS AGM and Lecture on Clandon Park

46 Members attended our AGM on March 12th. John Mills, our President, chaired the Meeting. Keith, Chairman, thanked everyone for all their efforts during the past year, especially as his job keeps him away most of the time.

He sent our best wishes to Alan Stanley and John Green as they recover from serious illness, and mentioned the passing, in January, of Anne Induni, who played a big part in WAS and CBE SE over the years.

The Officers and Committee were re-elected. As our Field Unit Director, Keith thanked all those involved in the Binsted Pottery Project, and the digs at Field 20, Sompting and Fittleworth

He also mentioned WAS's concern over the loss of Archaeological Advice on all future Planning Applications in the Adur and Worthing District, after March 31st.

Thanks to the National Trust for letting us take over an ex-garage next to our Finds shed, for tool storage, and for supplying timber, and to all involved in the refurbishment.

Connie delivered the Treasurer's Report, copies of the Statement of Account, audited by Bob, were available at the Meeting.

Following the AGM, Tom Dommett (National Trust Archaeologist) gave a fascinating report on the Clandon Park Project.



Clandon is a National Trust Property, which was seriously damaged by fire in 2015. The fire presented opportunities for understanding the history of the building. There was more than enough survival to justify conservation, and to use it as a learning opportunity as they work towards restoration.

It was one of the country's most complete Palladian Monuments, Grade 1 listed, and the

seat of the Onslow family who had it built in the early 18th Century. The Architect of this rebuild was Giacomo Leoni.

The fire started in the basement. Over 400 items were recovered in salvage efforts, which involved huge numbers of National Trust Staff and Volunteers. Apart from the fire damage, there was water damage. Salvaged material was sorted and went off to be conserved. As the 4-storey building had collapsed down, in places there was debris 8 feet high inside the shell. A large crane lifted out all the timber, which was numbered, tagged, labelled and stored. Some of the beams were up to 40ft long and dense enough to withstand the heat from the fire. All marks were recorded.

Dendrochronology revealed that the trees (mostly Scandinavian pine) were felled in 1729/1730 – the first definite date for the construction. This was a real chance to understand the structure.



There was a 1642 building - a Lodge, bought by Richard Onslow. The 'new' building was built on the footprint of the older one. One discovery was that there are no foundations, the entire building – and the previous one(s) – were built directly on to the chalk. There is practically no documentary or archival evidence of earlier buildings – there could be up to three – on the site.

Protecting the building after the fire involved miles of scaffolding. The building is 'shrink-wrapped', shored-up and supported.

The Archaeologist in charge of the archaeological excavation said 'Daunting is an understatement – it seemed like an impossible, endless task.'

People working on the building have to wear full hazard kit – face masks, hard hats – it makes it very hard to work there. There was massive contamination by lead.

The survival of items was completely random, for instance door locks, sash pulley weights.

It's possible to see the history of the building, e.g. the changing styles of metalwork, of fireplaces. The grand oak staircase turns out to be oak-clad pine.

Laser scanning, Photogrammetry, C.A.D – all sorts of techniques have been used to capture everything before restoration could start. By 2017 people were allowed back in to the basement and ground floor area to see what had been revealed.

The plans are to restore parts of the house to 18th Century glory while creating a building of beauty and relevance for the 21st Century. There will be some research excavations in the park and grounds. Liz L

[Museum Object Handling](#)

Every Saturday, 10 -12am and 1 - 3pm.
Worthing Museum Public Gallery.
Well worth a visit – at any time.....

[Project to record all Sussex War memorials](#)

If you are interested in this, a joint East Sussex/West Sussex Project, please look at eastsussexww1.org.uk/take-part

[Brighton Museum](#)

Has an excellent new Archaeology Gallery – well worth a visit.

[WAS Archive.](#)

Connie is currently Curator of our Archive. Thanks to Roy Plummer and Jackie Phippard (widow of Norman), we have a good collection of Sussex Archaeological Collections, starting from the very first. Please feel free to use them for your research. There is a selection on sale after Lectures.

[South Downs Cross-Ridge-Dyke Project](#)

Judie English, David Lea and Richard Tapper have been involved in this huge project for some time. The section between the Arun and Adur is on our website. Makes very good reading.

[Archaeological Roundup](#)

If you are interested in what has been happening in Archaeology in all of Sussex, there is a Round-up on the SAS website. Follow this link:
<https://sussexpast.co.uk/research/sussex-archaeology>

[Annual Journal](#)

Articles for our 2019 Journal are welcome. Send to our Editor, Cheryl, on hutchincheryl@hotmail.com

[Worthing Heritage Alliance](#)

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

[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 Theresa and Richard on theresa_in_brighton@yahoo.co.uk
If they are not recent ones, we would be grateful if you could give us names of people and sites included, where possible.

Archaeology Walks for 2019 with Alex Vincent.
Meet at the Resource Centre (Davison House) Car Park, North Street, Worthing, BN11 1ER on Monday evenings at 6.45 for 7 PM.
June 3rd Sullington. Church, village and manor.
June 10th Saddlescombe. Old manor and donkey wheel
June 17th Black Rock, Brighton. Ancient sea cliffs and Palaeolithic site.

[Beedings and Bramber LHS](#)

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.
Wed. 3 April Matt Pope and Garrett Sheehan: An Anglo-Saxon execution burial and other discoveries from the Rampion Cable Route.
Wed. 1 May Bob Turner: The First Brexit, how Britain became an island and its effect on Neanderthal, Mesolithic and Neolithic Populations.

[Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society](#)

Lecture programme: held at the Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton at 7.30. Free entry for members, £3 to non-members.

Thursday 11th April – A Dr Geoffrey Mead Walk – Twilight Brighton - West Hill is one of the city's hidden gems; twittens and cottages, villas and views. Meet at St Nicholas Church doorway (TQ 308044) at 6-00 pm.

BHAS Summer Outings

7th July 2019 – [Salisbury](#)

11th August 2019 – [Chatham Dockyard](#)

Full details on BHAS website.

To book for either Salisbury or Chatham, please enclose a cheque for **£30 per person (BHAS member)** or **£35 (non-member)** made out to BHAS and send to:

Margaret Carey
27 Quebec Street,
Brighton,
BN2 9UZ

Please be sure to include: your contact details, including email and phone number; and your preferred pick-up point – Patcham, Old Steine, Hove Town Hall or Holmbush for Salisbury, and vice versa for Chatham dockyard.

[Horsham and District Archaeology Group](#)

Saturday 27 April 10am - 4pm. Day school with Simon Stevens. The Medieval towns of Sussex. Dial Post Village Hall. RH13 8NJ. Members £16, non members £25 For further information and to book please contact horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk or 01903 872309

[Sussex Archaeological Society](#)

<https://sussexpast.co.uk>

[Liss Archaeology](#)

Liss Archaeology would like to say a Big Thank You to Pat Nightingale and her brother who contacted us after the item about Ludshott, drawing maps for us and giving us information that has helped a great deal. Especially the bank that we thought was army made but actually was a council creation! Pat and her family lived in the houses there after the war and to get an actual report has been amazing. Work will continue on Ludshott next winter, it's ground nesting bird season now!

April – Short Notice due to weather windows – Test Pits at Stroud

April – Trench Supervisor/Assistant Supervisor Training.

March 31st – Membership Renewal Date!

April 2nd – Tuesday, 7.15 for 7.30 start – AGM – Short! Followed by a talk on what is known about the heritage of Alton (all welcome, non-members £2)

April 6th – Saturday – Pottery Identification Day School

April 25th to May 21st – Spring Excavation at Colemore. Booking has now opened for the spring dig at Colemore. We have a few clues that the Romano-British archaeology continues beyond the pond. We are planning a big test pit project up there in the autumn 19/9 to 14/10 so the spring will be evaluation in advance of this. More diggers required plus finds processing, drawing, recording etc.

There will be a mini jcb to open and close the trenches and we will be providing tea/coffee/hot chocolate at the start of day and in breaks.

Other events; Alton Big Dig 13th July to 28th July;

More information is available upon request from lissarchaeology@gmail.com
www.lissarchaeology.uk

[CBA Southeast](#) runs lots of Archaeological events, workshops, etc.
www.cbasouth-east.org

[Chichester District Archaeology Society](#)

Lectures, in the New Park Cinema Centre, start at 7.30 pm and usually finish about 9 pm. An entry fee of £5 is payable by non-members at the door.

24th April Daryl Holter on his work as a Police Heritage Crime Advisor.

Day School. 7th April The Origins of Coinage, and Celtic and Roman Coins

Led by David Rudling (Sussex School of Archaeology) this course will examine the development of coins before considering early British coinage.

Venue: Fishbourne Roman Palace (RudkinRoom), Roman Way, Fishbourne, Chichester

Fee: £30 non-members (if places available)
Book via activities@cdas.info

[Lewes Archaeological Group](#)

All talks take place at 7.30pm in the Lecture Room, Lewes Town Hall (Fisher St. entrance)

Entrance (including tea/coffee) for members is £3 (£2 for concessions) Non-Members welcome at £4/£3.

Details from: www.lewesarchaeology.org.uk

Friday 12th April: Mike Allen on 'Lewes to Wessex and back again. A new Archaeology of the Prehistoric Downs'

Mike will commence the celebrations of LAG's 50th anniversary with a talk looking back to LAG's early excavations and research and how this relates to more recent developments.

[Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society](#)

Has a variety of events

See landscape-events@hantsfieldclub.org.uk

[Wealden Buildings Study Group](#)

www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk

[South Downs Society](#)

Based in Pulborough, the Society has a variety of walks and talks which might well be interesting.

Email them:

enquiries@southdownssociety.org.uk

[And finally a reminder](#)

Subs for 2019 were due on January 1st - £25 for Ordinary members, £10 for full-time students.

Many thanks to all those who have paid already.

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:

www.worthingarchaeological.org

Items for next News sheet please to

Liz, as above,

or liz.13lane@gmail.com

The Worthing Archaeological Society is a registered Charity (291431)

Roman Pottery Study Day with Gordon Hayden

4th May 2019 Worthing Museum Education Room 10am – 4pm



The course will concentrate on the identification, production and use of pottery found in West Sussex, from the last decades of the Late Iron Age and throughout the Roman period (c. 10BC until AD410). Using presentations and handling, the most common types of pottery will be studied with the aim of differentiating between local, regional and imported pottery. The morning session will focus on vessel type and fabric - that will involve an element of handling material found during recent excavations. The afternoon session will be a more practical one, with the opportunity to sort, identify, record and date pottery.

Cost for the day £25 for members, £30 for Non-Members. To book a place contact Patricia p.leming@btinternet.com or Jacqui at jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com

A day school with Judie English on Food and feasting, 8th of June 2019

The day will be held at the idyllic Downs Barn Sompting between 10am and 4pm.

We will look at food and feasting from the days of *Homo Neanderthalensis* to the Late Medieval/ Early Tudor period and will consider the relationships between food and social culture.

‘Feasting’ usually involves food provided in surplus and consumed wastefully. The giver both proves his wealth and status by accessing exotic ingredients and having them made into dishes which show that he has good taste and employs the best chefs, and creates a debt owed by his guests. Having demonstrated his superiority those guests either have to reciprocate in kind (or even better him) or accept public humiliation. Feasts are often part of socially important events – marriage treaties for example.

We are hoping to try out some ancient recipes, however there will be the normal midmorning coffee/ tea breaks provided and please bring a packed lunch.

Cost for the day £25 for members. To book a place contact Patricia p.leming@btinternet.com or Jacqui at jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com

Downs Barn directions

: <https://somptingestate.com/app/resources/documents/www.somptingestate.com/Downs%20Barn%20directions%20v050615.pdf>



