

# Worthing Archaeological Society

## News sheet

John Mills retired on March 31<sup>st</sup> as West Sussex County Archaeologist. His knowledge and experience will be very much missed in the County. Luckily he has agreed to carry on as WAS President. He is now also an Honorary Member of WAS.

We wish him well in his retirement, and hope to see much more of him.....

At our AGM, Connie stood down as Treasurer after 13 years of great service. WAS is very grateful for all that she has done.

The mantle has now passed to Patricia Leming, and we wish her well in her new role.

### WAS Field Unit

#### Field Unit Forum

Given that outside activity is resuming we are planning a Field Unit Forum on Monday 10th May at 7pm. Sadly this still has to be with Zoom so let us know if you want to take part and we'll send you the link.

### Mapping

Mapping activity continues on 30th March at 7pm with Brian Drury taking us through Google Earth - if you haven't already signed up for the mapping zooms, let us know and we'll send you a link.

### The Malthouse Returns!

Ever hopeful that life will return to some sort of opportunity to be out and about this Summer, we are planning to return to the Malthouse Field for excavations. The plan is to have some sort of limited Geophysics in June and then open the trenches for digging from 5th July for the month of July. We will keep the trenches open to a limited extent so that we can retain our Friday activities on the site throughout August. The idea is to keep going for a longer dig but maybe have fewer people on site and try to have all the finds team with us. There have been some changes to the site but we will still have plenty of space to spread ourselves out. The plan at present is for long 1m trenches to keep us distanced. Please can you let us know

## April - May 2021

if you are interested in taking part or just want to see what we are planning. It would be good to see how many are interested and even if you have an idea of when you might want to take part so that we can start to schedule it all.

Email Connie : [connieshirley1@aol.com](mailto:connieshirley1@aol.com)

### [Lecture Programme on WAS Facebook](#)

#### [April 13<sup>th</sup> Ben Jervis](#)

#### [Material Culture of Medieval Rural Households On WAS Facebook, 7.30pm](#)

This talk gives an overview of the findings of the recently completed project 'Living Standards and Material Culture in English Rural Households, 1300-1600', which combined historical and archaeological data to investigate the possessions of non-elite households in this period. The talk will reveal the diversity of objects acquired by rural households, including cooking equipment, tableware, bedding and furniture, and explore some of the factors which influenced the consumption habits of medieval households.

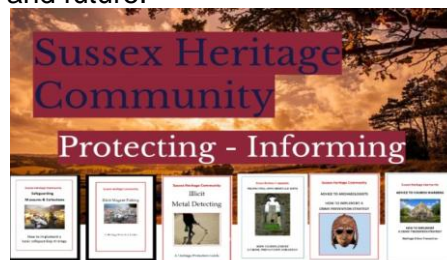
### [Watch our 2020 – 2021 lectures on WAS Facebook.](#)

If you need help with this, see the instructions on page 6. They are also on our Facebook page and WAS website.

### [Finds Processing](#) – watch this space.....

### [March Lecture](#)

Facebook Lecture by Daryl Holter:  
Sussex Heritage Community – Threats to Our Heritage: Defending our heritage past, present and future.



[sussexheritagecommunity@gmail.com](mailto:sussexheritagecommunity@gmail.com)

Daryl grew up with a passion for history – being interested in heritage he became interested in preventing heritage crime.

Heritage crime, he explained, is criminal actions that damage or harm historic buildings and other artefacts, such as local churches, forts, earthworks and other sites. He gave examples and showed photographs of damage to churches, many that have been around for hundreds of years, surviving the destructive effects of time and two world wars. Churches have been under constant attack from vandalism and theft – destruction of roofs in order to steal lead, stained glass windows and ecclesiastical objects and relics, paving and grave stones as well as the money from offertory boxes. The criminals who carry out this damage have no regard to the meaning these buildings have to the community in which they sit. Also, once an historic object has been stolen, whilst it may be worth money to the thief, its true value is its significance in history - its story is lost – its provenance is often more important than the object itself. Daryl explained that linked to this is illicit metal detecting; the damage to archaeological sites by removing archaeological finds from their contexts and losing or destroying critical information. Daryl has worked with museums, such as Bexhill and Heritage Eastbourne, also heritage sites and monuments including Battle Abbey, Pevensey Castle and Shoreham Fort as well as the Diocese of Chichester, to help the reduction of crime and inspire the community in keeping their heritage safe.

Daryl ended his talk by saying that it is through education and community involvement in our local heritage sites that they become valued. Local residents can learn how to protect our valuable historic landscape, what to do and who to contact when it is a victim of criminal damage or vandalism, illegal metal detecting or burglary and theft. As Daryl says, “We have a choice to defend our heritage, past, present and future....we are custodians of a rich heritage”.

You can continue to view this lecture on our Facebook page and find out more on the Sussex Heritage Communities other social media sites.

Sussex Heritage Community website: download security guides for archaeologists and several others.

[davidbexhill.wixsite.com/sussexheritage/archaeologists](http://davidbexhill.wixsite.com/sussexheritage/archaeologists)

Sussex Heritage Community – Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/SussexHeritageCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/SussexHeritageCommunity)

Sussex Heritage - YouTube

Theresa

[February Lecture: Amie Friend on Nancy Wake and the S.O.E.](#)

Nancy Grace Augusta Wake was born in 1912, in Wellington, New Zealand, but she grew up and had her education in Sydney.

Initially she worked as a Mental Health Nurse and Journalist, but she wanted to travel. In 1932 she went to New York, then to London, focussing on Journalism. She enrolled on a Journalism course and started to make her name as a Journalist. She got a job in Paris, which she came to love. She mixed with all classes of individuals, and met refugees. In 1934, visiting Vienna and Berlin, she became determined to do anything to help refugees, especially Jews.

In 1939, in Paris, she met and married Henri Fiocca, who was a very wealthy French Industrialist from Marseilles. His family did not approve of the match!

Later on in 1939 she tried to join any of the three Armed Forces. It was clear that her role would be to make tea, so she gave up! Back in France there were food shortages and men being called up – which Henri would soon be. She persuaded Henri to buy her a vehicle which could be made into an ambulance, and in 1940, after Henri was called up, she took to the road in her ambulance.

After France fell, there were no more ambulances. Nancy and Henri were living in Marseilles, which was in the free zone. Nancy got involved in the Black Market, to help friends and family. She also got involved with British prisoners of war and tried to help them too. Eventually Nancy got involved with the Resistance as a Courier. Women were much freer as the Germans didn't expect them to be involved in espionage. By 1942 they were an integral part of the escape route across the Pyrenees. They helped 1037 men to escape – a lot of them downed pilots. Henri was a great support with supplies, safe houses, finance etc.. Nancy eventually, after 7 attempts, crossed the Pyrenees herself and reached Gibraltar. Hence to England, where she was head-hunted by the S.O.E. She had everything that they needed – she knew France and spoke perfect French.

Before Dunkirk, in England, the War was seen as a lost cause. After Dunkirk, attitudes changed. The Special Operations Executive was set up in July 1940, by Churchill. It was very secretive, and was created from the three Armed Forces. Initially there was not a lot of support, but by 1942 it was thriving as a force to disrupt and resist German Occupation, and by 1945 there was a section in every country occupied or attacked by Axis forces. Nancy joined the French section. She had excellent language skills, but having female agents was most controversial. She was code-named 'The Witch' and was dropped into France as a Courier in February 1944.

She organised huge supply drops and earned local respect, working with about 7000 Maquis fighters, who knew her as the 'lady who always laughs.'

Eventually the Germans were in Nancy's area to search for the suspected saboteurs, who continued to be highly successful. However, their radio got lost, which was a major problem. Nancy cycled over 2000km to get another radio, as she was the only one with any hope of getting through. She made her contact, got a message to London, and then went back – the total journey taking 72 hours.

After Liberation Nancy discovered that Henri had died, having been tortured and killed by the Gestapo for refusing to give Nancy up. She was much decorated, briefly pursued a career as an intelligence officer in the Air Ministry, and eventually, back in Australia, went briefly into politics. In 1985 she published her autobiography – the White Mouse – which was what she said the Germans called her. She died in 2011, in London.

Liz

#### [Diversions in Lockdown](#)

[www.antoninewall.org/map](http://www.antoninewall.org/map) for lots of information on an interactive map.

<http://yougoculture.com/virtual-tour/olympia> to explore Olympia (Greek version!)

<https://ashmolean.org/museum-secrets> a podcast with an insight into the Ashmolean Museum.

#### [www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)

Tour the 7 Museums and galleries in Liverpool, and take virtual tours.

#### [www.mmfromhome.com](http://www.mmfromhome.com)

Explore the virtual tours and events in Manchester Museum.

#### <https://ancientromelive.org>

Lectures and learning resources in Roman Culture.

Also [DigVentures](#) – just search on it. Highlights and best finds of 2020.

Last, but not least [Time Team](#) has put old episodes etc. on YouTube.

#### [Rampion 2](#)

The first consultation is now over and is being considered. If you would like the latest information, go to [Rampion2.com](http://Rampion2.com) WAS has a place on their Environmental Project Liaison Group, so if you have any comments, please pass them on to Liz.

#### [2022 Centenary of the establishment of WAS](#)

Alex Vincent is kindly preparing a Commemorative booklet.

From Alex:

"I am doing a booklet to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Worthing Archaeological Society, which takes place in 2022. The booklet will be A5 and I plan to have 24 to 36 pages. I am editing it and have already made a start. I would like articles from WAS members to include in the booklet such as someone writing about WAS excavations over the past 100 years, events over the period, past lectures at meetings etc.

The articles need only be between 2 to 3 A5 pages (600 to 1000 words approx) and also photographs of excavations, people etc. James is doing a piece about John Pull's excavations at Blackpatch as this will also be 100 years since he dug there in 1922. Could photographs be sent to me on jpg. I hope to get the book printed by January 2022 to be given out to members at the John Pull Memorial Lecture on February 8<sup>th</sup> 2022."

Please send to [alexclipsing@gmail.com](mailto:alexclipsing@gmail.com)

#### [UKGDPR](#)

If any of your details eg: address, post code, telephone number(s), email address or Gift Aid option - have changed since you last completed your WAS Membership Application Form, please let me know.

All members have the right at any time to withdraw consent for WAS using personal data

for communication purposes, please contact the Membership Secretary to do so.

Please refer to our updated Privacy Notice on the Society's website

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

Thank you Patricia

### Sussex School of Archaeology –Sussex Archaeology Symposium

Postponed until Saturday 9th October 2021 when it will (hopefully!) be held 'Live' at Kings Church, Lewes.

### Sussex Archaeological Society and CBA South East –Archaeology and climate change

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (9.00-17.00)

This will be the theme of the joint CBA South East and Sussex Archaeological Society Zoom Conference. The Speakers will be Lara Band, Professor Martin Bell, Professor John Boardman, Dr Hannah Fluck, Tor Lawrence, Professor Robert van De Noort, Dr Robyn Pender, Dr Matt Pope and Dr Marcy Rockman. There are half price tickets for members of the SAS or CBASE and also for students. Register via SAS or CBASE websites.

### CBA SE

We are releasing a series of blogs from those involved with community archaeology that reflect on 2020 and how groups have found ways to adapt in the most challenging of circumstances. There are five blogs currently up, with more on the way. Get in touch if you have a story to tell or a problem to solve -our members have told us that the chance to connect and share has been more important than ever in 2020.

Find them here: <https://blog.archaeologyuk.org/>

Lewes Priory Trust is putting on a series of on-line symposia in May this year to raise the profile of Lewes Priory after the period of lockdown. There will be four separate events comprising a colourful series of 16 illustrated talks on Zoom.

We are presenting a line-up of expert speakers in four free evening symposia on-line. We're proud to offer an appealing programme for anyone with a love of Lewes history, telling the story of how our magnificent monastery became one of the top ten in England 900 years ago.

We are keen to bring our symposia to the

attention of the widest possible audience. I am pleased that Sussex Past, Friends of Lewes, Lewes History Group and Lewes Archaeological Group are giving us full backing.

To those who email

[enquiries@lewespriory.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lewespriory.org.uk) we can send the full programme followed by a notice at the beginning of April when registration via Zoom opens so that you can register for one or all of the events. Attendance is free.

### WAS Archive.

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

Please feel free to use them for your research.

### 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>

### 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](http://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](mailto: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.

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.

### Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

Details from [www.brightonarch.org.uk](http://www.brightonarch.org.uk)

[Sussex Archaeological Society](#)

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April - SAS Lecture at 7-00pm  
– Wolstonbury Hill – Speaker Dr Miles**

**Russell.** – Apply via the SAS website or Facebook page, you will need to be a member. Deemed to be a hill-fort, the ditch is actually on the inside of the bank so a possible large henge?

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

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

[Chichester District Archaeology Society](#)  
CDAS have made their talks available free on their YouTube channel.  
Lots of details of their activities, see:  
[www.CDAS.info](http://www.CDAS.info)

[Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society](#)  
Has a variety of events  
See [landscape-events@hantsfieldclub.org.uk](mailto:landscape-events@hantsfieldclub.org.uk)

[Wealden Buildings Study Group](#)  
[www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk](http://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](mailto:enquiries@southdownssociety.org.uk)

[And finally a reminder](#)  
Subs for 2021 were due on January 1<sup>st</sup> - £25 for ordinary members, £10 for full-time students.  
Many thanks to those who have paid already, especially those who have paid by standing order, or by 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)

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

The Worthing Archaeological Society is a registered Charity (291431)



Use this to access our website from your mobile phone.

## Viewing WAS Streamed Lectures


During the pandemic lock-downs, Worthing Archaeological Society is continuing its programme of lectures by digital means. Lectures are captured using the online meeting service Zoom, and then streamed to the Facebook Worthing Archaeological Society private group. To view the lectures you must be a member of WAS and also join the Facebook group.

To view a lecture you must sign in to Facebook and open the Worthing Archaeological Society private group page. At the advertised time of the lecture, a post like that below will appear on the page.



N.B. this is **not** the same post as that advertising the lecture previously on the page.

To view the lecture click on the  control.

To expand the image to full screen click on the  control.

To hear the sound, click on the  control and adjust the volume slider that appears.

To ask questions, click the 'Comment' control and type your question. Precede it with "Q:" so that the lecture host identifies it as a question and will read it out at the end.

After the live lecture, a recording will remain on the page. The instructions above will enable it to be replayed at any time.

If there is a technical hitch (it can happen...) , we will try to put a comment on the post. It may be necessary to complete the lecture by opening a second video post on the page.

## **Downside, Shoreham, Test Pits in Lockdown 2020-2021 Overview**

### **Background of the Site**

Since moving to our house 5 years ago, every time we planted a shrub it was very hard to get any depth easily, there seemed to be a hard layer of coal ash and clinker quite near the surface. Our house is built on what was a very large World War One army camp in Shoreham, existing from 1914 to 1919. It covered an area of farmland from west of Buckingham Park then east along the north side of Upper Shoreham Road as far as Southlands Hospital and stretched northwards on the Downs to beyond what is now the A27. Up to 20,000 recruits were housed here at any one time!

Our house was in the area of the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the vicinity of the cookhouse and drying room, so probably plenty of coal used for both! Not actually on the site of any huts.

We are also on the lower slopes of Slonk Hill which has a tumulus at the top 400m North West and a possible flint mine 400m North East. Two crouched burials have been found in a North East direction, one with a beaker, at 0.8km and 1km distance. The excavations are at an elevation of approximately 18.2 metres above sea level on a South South East facing slope overlooking the coastal plain.



Scouring Old maps show the area as open Downland, and more recently as rough pasture. As the layer of compacted ash found in the excavations was intact, we can assume that post-1918 the area has never been ploughed. A property approximately 20 metres to the South West of the excavations has recently had a rear extension built. After talking to the builder I was told they were surprised to find that the foundation trenches had no evidence of chalk bedrock. This may indicate that the excavation site is very close to the line of the Brighton Raised Beach, a

cliff which existed 200 to 250 thousand years ago when sea levels were considerably higher than today. At the thaw at the end of the last ice age huge amounts of chalk, flint and soil/clay were washed down the surface of the Downs, and essentially buried the old cliff, so it is no longer visible in this vicinity.

### **The Excavations**

All test pits are 1 metre square (Test pit 2 had a short north extension)

Test Pit 1 excavated April 2020 (TP1).

Test Pit 2 excavated May 2020 (TP2).

Test pit 3 excavated March 2021 (TP3).

**TP1.** You may have seen my blog on this test pit on the WAS website 'News' at the end of April which is still available to view. Briefly the result was we found a layer of compacted ash/clinker 400mm down, very hard, 50mm thick, clearly a surface laid around 1915 for the Army Camp. The topsoil above had to have been imported after 1919 and contained 24 flint flakes/tools as well as a mix of glass, asbestos, CBM, cinders, old tiles, three pieces of burnt flint (FCR), modern ceramics and general rubbish. The layer below, undisturbed since 1915, contained no

historic finds, but 11 flint flakes/tools and 0.3kg of FCR. The bottom 150mm yielded no finds down to chalk bedrock.

**TP2** was dug 2m south of TP1 to determine the southern extent of the compacted ash layer. In the north wall, 400mm down was a 50mm layer of compacted chalk. On excavating a short north extension, it was found to be a foundation for the edge of the previously encountered compacted ash layer (TP2.1). The topsoil (0-450mm) was a similar mix to TP1 with 31 flint flakes/tools and 0.44kg FCR, how much of this was imported we do not know. The various tiles etc look to have been deposited in the topsoil before the days of amenity tips, if you had an old fireplace to dispose of you buried it at the end of the garden! Below the topsoil, subsoil down to 700mm we found 0.85kg FCR and 17 flint flakes/tools (TP2.2).

There were no finds 700mm down to 950mm although of interest below 750mm there were several small patches of granular charcoal (TP2.3). The mainly chalk bottom had channels running SSE following the slope (TP2.4), presumably created by the scouring of the chalk at the end of the ice age.

**TP3** was excavated 8m north of TP1. The topsoil down to 150mm was more ash than soil with no finds, then there was 50mm of loose ash down to the compacted ash layer previously encountered, again 50mm thick. The 50mm below the ash layer was fine light brown soil with a few 10mm flints and one tiny piece of brown glass indicating perhaps that this had been a levelling layer prior to the compacted ash being laid. The subsoil 300-600mm contained no historical finds, contained many broken/unbroken flints (25-75mm) but also 32 flint



flakes/tools and 1.07kg of FCR. We excavated down to chalk bedrock at 835mm, no further finds, other than a few charcoal grains and again with evidence of SSE channels (TP3.2). There was one possible piece of pottery found at 400mm, it may be natural stone, but I hope to have it checked by our expert (TP3.3-4).





So, we have estimated the area of our compacted ash laid about 1915 to cover an area of 130 square metres, whether it extends to neighbouring gardens we don't know. If we decided to excavate the whole garden based on an average of what we found in three test pits we would end up with: 124kg of burnt flint (FCR), 87 cores, 650 scrapers, 1,125 flakes, 780 retouched flakes, 350 piercers, 390 knives, 87 adzes, 87 combination tools, 390 notched flakes and 87 hammerstones! Well, it is not going to happen, but it does show what may be beneath our feet. It has to be said that the majority of the flint finds are of not very good quality, some Late Bronze Age, but most LN/EBA, with a few possibly LM/EN. Let's hope we don't have another lockdown, then I won't have to dig another one!



Martin Simons