Worthing Archaeological Society

News sheet

WAS Field Unit Malthouse

There will be resistivity and magnetometry done on the fields during May, dates to follow. Main dig: 20th August to 4th September. Please contact Connie if you are interested. connieshirley1@aol.com

Bignor Villa – dates for your diary

WAS will be undertaking an excavation at Bignor Roman villa (outside the scheduled area) on the following dates: July 2-3, 9-10, 14, 23-24, 30-31 August 6-7 and 13-14.

There may be other dates i.e. Fridays, but this will be confirmed closer to the excavation.

Climping

Friday April 8th

We are going with the intention of looking at the area to the West of the Car Park, meeting there at 9.30.

The parking app is ParkandPay and the cost is £1.50 minimum and £7 for the full day.

Low tide is mid-morning, so we should be able to look at the 'cliff' going towards Poole Place.

Keith



One of the wells.

Just to let WAS Members know that a new project has been added under Discoveries on the WAS website, called Climping. Bill

April - May 2022

Watkins, the local expert on Climping, has kindly given us a video and document relating to a structure and associated medieval pottery found on the beach.

Field Unit Forum Next Meeting,

Tuesday May 10th at 7.30

in St Botolph's Church rooms, in Heene. BN11 4LY. On the North side of the Church, entrance from Manor Road.

Finds Processing

Our next meetings at the Slindon Shed will be on Thursdays 7th and 21st April and 4th and 19th of May from 9.30 a.m. to about 12.30 p.m. when there will be tile to mark and assess from our Medieval Binsted kiln excavation. Bob will also be assessing flint from either the Upton Collection or from a previous fieldwalk.

.Processing Edburton Finds

We are booked into the Museum, 10am until 3pm, from Tuesday March 29th to Friday April 1st, inclusive. There are flint finds, Roman pot, CBM., etc. Something for everyone and space for a few more to help....

Lecture Programme

Tuesday April 12th 7.30pm at Worthing College. Judie English will give the April lecture: 'Reconstructing the Anglo-Saxon and early Medieval Landscape using Place-names and maps'

WAS Study Days Saturday May 7th

10.30 – 3.30. Study day with Ben Jervis on the Binsted pottery at the Museum. See poster at the end of the Newsletter

Saturday 23rd April 2022 (9.00 – 17.00)

Sussex Archaeological Society – "Sussex Flint Mines and the Arrival of the Neolithic in Britain: Visions for Future

Research"

A focus on the internationally important archaeology of the Early Neolithic flint mines of Sussex.

Venue: Kings Church, Lewes Fee: £45 in person or £15 online

Details and booking from:

https://sussexpast.co.uk/whats-on/ (and 'our' James is one of the Speakers)

Tuesday February 8th

Dr Matt Pope, Archaeologist and Principal Research Fellow of UCL Institute of Archaeology gave the John Pull Memorial Lecture. 'The next 100 years of archaeology in Sussex and challenges we are all going to face.'



Matt started his lecture by dismissing claims of omniscience in predicting the next 100 years of archaeology. Instead he would talk about current trends and their playing out over the foreseeable future – and they are not good! But this was not to be a counsel of despair as he had 'activist' recommendations to help turn the tide.

Twentieth century archaeology in the United Kingdom has developed in the context of a growing body of planning and legal infrastructure, with general consensus that it was a public good to be supported. This (along with many other aspects of civic consensus, it must be said) changed radically with the global financial crash of 2008.

The main pillar of civic support for UK archaeology in the late twentieth century were the 'Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16). Seeing archaeological remains as a finite and irreplaceable resource, it created a framework for the investigation and curation of archaeological sites, particularly those threatened by development. County archaeologists were involved in planning

decisions and the research and curation of artefacts through museums was supported. The 'austerity' policies inflicted on local authorities after 2008 have disrupted the investigation and curation infrastructure with the diminution and loss of the role of county archaeologist, and the lessening of municipal responsibility for museums through their hiving off into independent trusts. PPG16 was replaced by the 'National Planning Policy Framework' (NPPF) in 2012 and its subsequent updates. Its focus is on 'sustainable development' and it effectively weakens planning guidance. This is often portrayed as removing 'red tape' and the direction of travel is to further this.

Another contemporary influence on British archaeology is the prevalence of metal detecting and the commercialisation of finds. The Con Ainsworth memorial lecture in November by Mark Roberts also addressed this threat most robustly. Metal detecting as a hobby increased during the pandemic as a fun way to be outdoors, with English Heritage reporting a doubling of illegal metal detecting. The publicity surrounding the life changing rewards given under the Treasure Act 1996 for discovered hordes has increased its appeal. There is a whole parallel heritage community developing, focused on the commercial value of portable antiquities and outside of the influence of responsible organisations. Even stone artefacts have commercial value. Matt now has a policy of refusing to identify informally presented stone artefacts, as this only increases the 'value' when they are subsequently sold. The existence of this dubious parallel community has implications for the traditional open culture of free distribution of archaeological research, as it may lead to degradation of identified sites.

There is currently a crisis in the storage and curation of preserved artefacts; museums are at capacity and are refusing deposits. There is a case to be made for regional repositories, but the mere storage of artefacts is only part of the issue. Without expertly informed curators, the deposit's value is lost. We need to be advocates for retaining, developing and protecting curatorial expertise that is being lost from museums. This despite museum visits being very popular.

An aspect of archaeology that might not be sufficiently regarded is that of landscape. Again legal and regulatory change threatens here.

The European Union Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) had regard for heritage embedded in it. Its post-Brexit replacement, the 'Environmental Land Management Schemes' (ELMS), overseen by the 'Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' (DEFRA) downgrades the heritage element in favour of 'sustainability'. One consequence of this will be the intensification of forestry. Whilst this may impact specific archaeological sites, loss of whole archaeologically significant landscapes that have been created over millennia such as the sheep-grazed South Downs are also under threat. Whilst most would not argue against sustainability, un-nuanced policies in its name will be irretrievably destructive of ancient landscapes.

As an academic archaeologist at UCL, Matt is well placed to report on the catastrophic demise of university archaeology. In most universities, it is subsumed under the humanities, a category not currently favoured for support. There is a lack of student numbers, certainly influenced by the career prospects for professional archaeologists, with starting salaries between £20-22K. They are the poorest paid on a construction site. The economics of research funding, where university administration seeks to use it for cash generation with substantial oncosts added is also challenging. The publishor-die culture of research assessment also inhibits involvement in long term training-dig projects.

A surprising alleviation of the gloom was provided by Matt's analysis of the *opportunities* presented by the ravages of climate change. Coastal and river landscapes will be eroded, exposing potential archaeological sites. These however may be challenging and even dangerous to investigate, e.g., Seaford Head. Amateur archaeologists should look out for destabilised landscapes and keep a watching brief.

The promotion of interest in archaeology through such programmes as BBC's Alice Roberts 'Digging for Britain' and Channel 4's 'The Great British Dig', whilst welcome, has a darker underside; a proliferation of pseudo-archaeological programs, with amongst other things crediting space-aliens with the construction of ancient monuments. Whilst these may be laughingly dismissed, the association of archaeological discoveries with racial origin theories, exploited by far right activist groups as part of current 'culture wars',

is chilling. That the link is real was illustrated by the defacement of Wayland's Smithy in Oxfordshire with Nazi iconography. Matt's proposal to counter this is to develop an ethos of guardianship rather than ownership (with its racial group connotations) of archaeology. On a positive note, Lottery Heritage Fund partnerships are a good model for this.

So, what is to be done? There is a pressing need for archaeological activism. Whilst WAS is already a good example of this, there is strength in numbers. Joining and supporting other active groups should be pursued, e.g., Council for British Archaeology (CBA), Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), The Sussex Archaeological Society, The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) a.k.a. The Countryside Charity, Sussex Modern (sussexmodern.org.uk), Sussex Wildlife Trust. Archaeological issues should be raised with representations to both local and national politicians. A local MP Tim Loughton, (who actually has an archaeology degree) chairs the 'All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group'.

So Matt's take away points for developing archaeological activism are:

- Vigilance
- Networking
- Democratic Engagement
- Teaching
- Campaigning
- Find the Global in the Local Richard N Griffiths

WAS AGM March 2022 Chairman's Report

(This covers the period March 2021 to March 2022)

As we came out of the Pandemic a number of our regular activities have recommenced and 2022 looks to be a busy year for the society. Especially relevant as this year marks the centenary of the founding of the society and a special thanks to Alex Vincent and Liz Lane for producing a great booklet celebrating the anniversary.

Lectures

The 2021 lecture season has seen us use a mix of on-line and physical meetings. The society is now using a new venue at Worthing College which is proving to be very successful.

Many thanks to Theresa and Richard Griffiths for the technical support of the on-line lectures and to Patricia Leming (our Treasurer), and Nigel Rumble for arranging the hire of the room. Again, we have had a great set of speakers arranged by Theresa: The Con Ainsworth Memorial lecture from Mark Roberts and John Pull lecture by Matt Pope. Other speakers have been James Sainsbury, Amie Friend, Connie and Bob Turner.

If there is a possible speaker you hear of (directly or indirectly) then please let a committee member know.

Day Schools

QGIS Training

A very special thanks to Connie Shirley for organising and running three training sessions on QGIS at Worthing College. The training was exceptionally well prepared and delivered (especially the training notes) and given the audience there should be a special Nobel prize for patience.

Others

Study day held in November 2021 on 'English Coins and Tokens' by David Rudling. Looking forward to others being scheduled.

Journal

Another excellent journal was produced under the editorship of Cheryl Hutchins and contains a number of interesting and informative articles.

Members

Committee members:

Thanks to John Mills for continuing to be our President and for his advice, which is often sought and acted upon.

Members

Currently, we have 11 Honorary members, 17 Life members and 109 Ordinary members. Gordon Hayden has become an Honorary Member of the society in recognition of all the work he has undertaken for the Field Unit, both in his capacity as a pottery expert and in Codirecting a number of our digs – including Goblestubbs, a report on which appeared in the 2015 volume of the Sussex Archaeological Collections which was co-authored by Gordon and David McOmish from English Heritage.

WAS was sad to have news of the death of Pete Skilton. Pete was an early member of the Field Unit and was involved in all our projects until 2018. Pete led the surveying team at Blacksmith's Corner and other excavations up to 2014. Two of his best projects were the surveying of the Slindon Deer Park Pale and the surveying undertaken ast part of the Operation Nightingale project at Saddlescombe. The latter a project dear to his heart as an exservice man himself. The quality of his work was outstanding, far better than anything I had produced.

It is fitting that his surveying work appears in the most recent SAC edition on the field work undertaken at Brinsbury college.

Field Unit Report

Coming out of the Pandemic, 2021 saw increasing activity by the Field Unit and 2022 appears to be continuing that trend involving new projects at Climping and elsewhere. I would like to start by saying congratulations to Pete Brannlund, Gill & Bob Turner for the excellent report on the fieldwork at Brinsbury, which appeared in the latest edition of the Sussex Archaeological Collections. We would also like to thank Davids Field and McOmish from English Heritage for all their assistance in making this happen.

Field Work Projects

EPIC 'Enhancing Places, Inspiring Communities') Project

This project is now in the post-excavation phase with a report on the flint finds nearing completion

Slindon Excavations

2021 saw the completion of the clearance in the stableyard at Slindon and a small-scale excavation of the arched foundations in one of the stable bays. The aim being to produce the excavation report as part of the 2022 annual Journal.

Sompting Paddocks (Malthouse Field)

The summer excavation took place and a twoweek excavation is planned for August 2022. The exact location of the trenches will depend on geophysical survey to be undertaken before the dig.

Surveying Projects

Climping

The storms of February 2022 have shown how quickly the beachscape can change at Climping, so we will be planning regular visits there to monitor coastal erosion and record the archaeology as it is exposed.

Finds Team

Due to Covid restrictions, the numbers involved at Slindon have been limited. However, as the weather improves, we hope that more work can be undertaken outside of the shed and the number of attendees increased.

Worthing Museum Binsted Pottery project

The last session was held in February 2020. It is hoped that this activity can recommence sometime in 2022.

Looking Forward

2022 is looking to be a very busy year for the Field Unit and everyone is welcome to take part or assist in any way.

Keith Bolton's Lecture "The results from recent excavations at a Romano-British site on the Slindon Estate and an interpretation of the site and its place in the landscape."

Keith introduced his Lecture by saying that he began in Archaeology in 1995 when he started a 5-year-long annual dig at Fishbourne. He then was involved on the Slindon Estate, among other places.

Slindon Estate originally belonged to the Church mostly as a hunting lodge. Joy Ede, then National Trust Archaeologist, got WAS involved in the estate. A report, written by Chris Whitfield and entitled "Archaeological Survey of Slindon Estate", was written in 1994. This is the bible in terms of archaeology at Slindon. For instance, there are extensive and uncultivated lynchets on Nore Hill, which are Pre- Roman. Stane Street goes through the estate. There was a Roman aisled building in Field 52 in the Slindon Deer Park, Local Roman evidence is the Iron Age /Roman Gobblestubbs Copse, the Roman villa, with Iron Age field systems to the North, at Blacksmiths Corner, Walberton.



Could the Field 52 building be the centre of a Roman Estate in Slindon? Or was it part of the Bignor Estate? Basically, no Roman villa has been found. There are 2 main areas of

Roman activity: near Gumber Farm and in the Deer Park. Lots of Roman material has been found, much of it in the Upton Collection. Seven fields, known as the WarAg fields, had trees felled during the war, exposing archaeology which was then ploughed. For example, in field 20, ten Bronze Age barrows were recorded in 1976 – by now they are virtually all gone. WAS dug the field, fairly unsuccessfully, in dire weather in the 1990s. and again in 2016, when a possible small farmstead was found, with guerns and pottery. Grain driers? There was tumbled flint. Lots of loose blocks but no evidence of firing. The ditches weren't deep, and there weren't many finds. There were shallow flint walls – to support a wooden structure? The site asked more questions than it answered. In the Upton collection from Field 20 there was a combed flue tile. There was evidence for something in the field, but WAS didn't find it. Glass beads, hob nails, ceramic spindle whorls - all there. The one conclusion was that the site was for agricultural storage, but not habitation. The landscape here goes back to the Bronze Age and Iron Age. It appears that when the Romans came in they re-used all that they could

Saturday 19th March 2022 Sussex Archaeology Symposium

A great treat to meet up with so many
Archaeological friends. Lots of interesting
Lectures. Amongst them Keith outlined what
WAS was up to between 2017 and 2021, and
Amie talked about the WAS dig at St Nicholas',
Angmering.

We were very well represented.

Wednesday, 30th March, 7.30pm <u>Stiances</u> <u>Archaeological Project - A talk by Simon</u> <u>Stevens</u>

The Stiances Archaeological Project (near Newick, E Sussex) was set up in 2010 and offers primary school children an opportunity to take part in an archaeological dig near their school. Documentary and cartographic evidence had shown the presence of a former farm complex at the site, but enthusiastic testpit digging by the kids and their helpers has revealed activity dating back as far as the Mesolithic. The children will be enjoying another Archaeology Week this June.

Blackbridge Community Centre, Three Acres, Horsham, RH12 1RS

All welcome, members free, non-members £4, light refreshments

enquiries horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk

WAS Member Brian Drury has identified a missing <u>WW2 Auxiliary Unit Operational Base</u> belonging to the Warningcamp Patrol and together with a group of enthusiasts excavated it. There is a photo of the excavation on Facebook.

Brian is organising a site visit and if you would like to take part, please contact him either through Facebook or his email address brian@drury-home.co.uk

Worthing Museum

Is open
Wednesdays 10am – 5pm (from April)
Thursdays 10am-8pm
Fridays 10am-5pm
Saturdays 10am-5pm
Sundays 11am-3pm

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

Thank you Patricia

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.

A team of volunteers runs the club and all our leaders are DBS checked. We charge a joining fee of £10 then £1 per session. Due to a limited number of spaces you must be a member before you are able to join a session. If you'd like to get involved please get in touch with the team using the details below.

contact: Odile Rouard

email: brightonyac@gmail.com

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.

<u>ButserAncient Farm</u> has launched ButserPlus: a way to enter the world of ButserAncient Farm online with professional video content. Details here:

https://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/butser-plus

There is also a blog about the completion of the Horton Neolithic House just in time for visiting: https://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/blog/2021/4/18/neolithic-house-project-the-completion-of-the-horton-house

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.

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

Friday April 8th

Rampion Excavations

Garrett Sheehan will discuss the archaeological discoveries during the development of the offshore

wind farm.

Venue: Brighton & Hove Girl's School,

Montpelier Road, Brighton

Non members £4 Details from:

http://www.brightonarch.org.uk/6_1.htm

https://www.google.com/maps/place/Brighton+

Girls/@50.8284917,-0.1511599,15z

CBA SE event on Zoom

Thursday 28 April at 19:30

Martyn Allen, Senior Post-Excavation Project

Manager, Oxford

Archaeology

'Animals and Roman Britain'

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtd

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YOODgZKWeT

The meeting room will open at 19:15, with the

talk starting promptly at

19:30. There will be an opportunity for

questions at the end. If you have

any questions, please email events@cbasouth-

east.org

Walking into History with Alex Vincent

Archaeology Walks for 2022.

June 6. Bignor Hill. Bronze Age barrows & linear earthwork. L

June 13. Thundersbarrow Hill. Iron Age hillfort

& Romano-British village. L

June 20. Bury Hill & the Mill Ball. Neolithic

enclosure & Bronze Age barrow. L

June 27. Tottington, Upper Beeding, Saxon

Warrior grave & Rampion sites. M

July 4. Lancing Hill & Cowbottom Hovel. Iron-

age & Romano-British sites. L.

July 11. Findon Park. Iron Age farm & old coach road. L

July 18. Highdown. A possible Roman stronghold. M

July 25. Vineyard Hill, Cissbury. Bronze Age barrows, field system & vineyard. L

(M = medium walk. L = long walk.)

We meet temporarily this year at the Waitrose car park in High St., Worthing, on Monday evenings at 6.45 for 7pm.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. All are welcome. After the walks we go to a pub for refreshment.

SUMMER SOLSTICE

On June 21 we celebrate the Summer Solstice on Highdown Hill. We meet at the Spotted Cow in Angmering to join the Sompting Morris Dancers at about 7pm. If you prefer, meet on Highdown about 8pm. Sunset is 9.19pm. Any enquiries, ring Alex on 07753282714 or email alexeclipsing@gmail.com via Worthing Library.

Horsham and District Archaeology Group horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk or 01903 872309

Liss Archaeology

www.lissarchaeology.uk

Or email 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

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 2022 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

Items for next News sheet please to Liz, as above, or liz.13lane@gmail.com

The Worthing Archaeological Society is a registered Charity (291431)

Please note: our email address has changed. It is now: worthingarchaeological@gmail.com



Use this to access our website from your mobile phone.



Saturday 7th May 2022 Education Room at Worthing Museum 10:30am-3:30pm

Dr Ben Jervis, Reader in Archaeology at Cardiff University.

The Binsted Medieval Pottery



The Binsted pottery, a nationally important assemblage of medieval pottery, was excavated by WAS from the kiln sites at Binsted, West Sussex, in the 1960s and later in 2006-7. During 2018/9 members of WAS were involved recording the assemblage for analysis at Cardiff University led by Dr Ben Jervis.

We are delighted to have Ben Jervis back at the Museum on 7th May. He will begin the day with an introductory talk which will include a review of the results of the analysis, followed by a handling session of the pottery.

After lunch there will be a second session with a further examination of the pottery and Ben will give more general talk about medieval pottery production and consumption.

Coffee and tea and biscuits will be available as per the agenda below. Bring your own lunch to eat inside or in the garden of the Museum. Alternatively, there are cafes nearby.

10.30 - Doors open/coffee
11.00 - Introductory talk, followed by Q&A
11:45 - Handling Session
12.30 - Lunch
1.30 - Handling session 2
2.15 - Coffee
2.30 - Talk on medieval pottery followed by Q&A

The fee is £25 to WAS members and £30 to non members.

To book your place please contact jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com.

