

Worthing Archaeological Society

A very Merry Christmas, and a Happy, Healthy and Archaeological New Year to you all.

News sheet

Windows on the Pier

As you know, WAS commissioned 2 Windows to be installed on the Pier, to commemorate John Pull and Con Ainsworth. They are now in place, near the shore end of the pier, so please do go to see them.

We held a small ceremony on November 19th, attended by members of both families, and friends and some WAS Members.

Here are Amanda O'Carroll, John Pull's Granddaughter, and Sue Lyon, Con's daughter, beside the windows.



Many thanks to the donors for paying for the windows, and special thanks to Siobhan Jones, at the Forge, for designing and creating them.

Finds Processing

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

Next meetings will be: Thursday 7th December at the shed.

Thursday 21st December – at the Downs Barn, in Lambleys Lane. This will be our Christmas 'Get-together' meeting - all welcome to join us for coffee, mince pies and other festive goodies! If the weather is fit, we can also have a walk on the lovely Downs.

Then Thursdays 4th & 18th January, back in the shed. If you are interested and not already involved, please contact Gill.

Ggturner@aol.com

December 2017 – January 2018

Fieldwork

Plans for 2018 involve digs on Slindon Field 20 and on the Malthouse site, some Fieldwalking with CDAS plus surveying.

Full details will be in the next Newsletter and on our website as they are confirmed.

BHAS ladies have the right of reply to comments made (tongue in cheek) in our last Newsletter.

"Here are a couple of photos of a typical Autumn day on our site at Ovingdean; which we thought you might like to share with your membership. As you can see our fetching attire is no hindrance, even when excavating the well."



Surveying

Our main news this month is that our Surveyor (and Treasurer), Connie, is now an MSc. With Distinction. We have always known she is Distinguished, but now it's official. Congratulations – all that hard work was worth it!

New Year's Walk

Will be on Sunday January 7th. We will meet at 10.15 for a walk on the Downs. Put the date in your diaries, full details to follow.

WAS Walk – Our annual 'Brenda' Walk.

Cheryl led a group of interested folk around Littlehampton on the afternoon of Sunday October 15th. She chose the weather well. We learned about Maritime Littlehampton, and walked around parts of the Town which some of us hadn't seen before. It was a really good afternoon, and Littlehampton was looking good. Thanks, Cheryl.



Lecture Programme 2017 - 2018

In the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre at 7.30pm. All Lectures on the website.

December 12th

Nigel Rumble on "The life of an English Soldier in the English Civil War"

January 9th 2018

Robert Turner: The First Brexit

How Britain became an island and its effect on Neanderthals, Mesolithic and Neolithic Man.

WAS Social



Thanks again to the Gardeners' Arms (a proper pub), for giving us a room for our Social, and a great buffet.



WAS Study Day

Put the date in your diaries, details to follow. Saturday March 3rd, in the Education Room at the Museum, Matt Pope will give us a day on the Ice Age in Europe.

Honorary Members

WAS has traditionally made Honorary members of folk who are actively involved – mostly Professionally - in Archaeology in our area. We are pleased to say that we have recently added two more. Mark Wardle, who has been associated with WAS through the National Trust at Slindon for many years, and has just moved on, and James Sainsbury, Archaeological Curator at our Museum.

Worthing Museum Talks

James Sainsbury's very successful series of talks finish in December. Thursday 7th December, Photographic History of Worthing. 6.30 to 8.30., coffee, tea and wine, plus object handling, included.

Leaflets are available in the Museum.

To book the talk, for £7.50 please contact 01903 221448 or email the Museum:

museum@adur-worthing.gov.uk

WAS Study Day

The Bronze Age in Sussex by David McOmish

Although David McOmish hails from Glasgow, he has a deep love for the chalk landscapes of the south of England.

He started by showing us the pot-belly hill of Gobekli Tepe, from 9,500 BC. These circular temple monuments, with their 4m high, 'T' shaped limestone structures, have no apparent predecessors. They were made by hunter-gatherers, before the invention of pottery. Yet these 'T' shaped stones have beautiful relief carvings on them, of vultures, bulls, foxes and cranes. The vulture link maybe to do with 'sky' burials and excarnation, although some have

suggested there may be an astronomical link. These are not hunting scenes, although many bones of gazelle, boar, sheep and red deer have been found. This does not show a steady evolution, as they seem to have appeared out of nowhere.

Archaeology is about the communication of ideas. It's thought that Causewayed Enclosures and Long Barrows started in Kent and rippled outwards. The Orcadian monumental architecture near the Ring of Brodgar shows this invasion of ideas, known to have come from the Belgium area, where the rare Orkney vole comes from. The idea that ancient people built tombs and mounds in bursts of activity and not in a steady continuity was echoed on other sites such as Blick Mead near Stonehenge or on the South Downs at Black Patch.

So where do Bronze Age Beakers come from? DNA analysis across Europe indicates that the Beaker 'package' came over here from Holland and Rhineland area. But David McOmish has looked at the Early Egyptian material in the British Museum and thinks Bell Beakers are evident there and may have origins in Sudan in 3,200 BC.

The famous Amesbury Archer's burial was surrounded by 5 Beakers, flint arrowheads, daggers and tools, but also copper knives and a cushion stone for metal working. DNA tests shows us that he came from a metal working area in the Alps, as did the young (25 yrs old) Boscombe Bowman. DNA testing tells us that the latter was related to the Amesbury Archer. The Bowman had visited the Alps, perhaps to see his family. Isotope analysis of skulls from the Amesbury area reveal that these people had visited Wales and the Lake District, where knowledge of mining and metalworking skills would be very useful.

Dave Field has investigated Bronze Age barrows, in their many forms, dating from around 1800BC. The South Downs barrows can be seen in clusters, on high points, often close to watersheds, or lower down, close to spring lines or to springs. On Petersfield Common at the head of the river Rother, water bubbles up in a variety of forms. It appears it was important for BA barrows to be near water.

Around 1600BC, a Bronze Age landscape of field systems emerges and LiDAR has transformed our understanding of these systems. In Denmark and NW Europe, radiocarbon dating shows that the field systems appear at the same time as Linear Ditches. This

is the first time the landscape is marked and divided up. Maybe a special ritual accompanied the formation of field systems. This might explain one curious fact about them. Many of these systems are orientated to the Solstices – NW to SE or NE to SW. They cut across landscapes, totally ignoring the topology of hills and vales. This act of creating Field systems is defining the land for the first time and was possibly done according to their belief systems linked to the sun – the giver of life. But as we see throughout prehistory, many field systems are abandoned and then reused, with pulses of these activities up to 750BC.

Midden or rubbish sites also appear in this period from 1600 – 800BC. The East Chisenbury midden sits on top of the meeting point of 6 Linear Ditches. It covers 3 hectares and is 3 metres deep. There is evidence of special pottery and exotic goods, and many sheep, cow and pig bones, also human bone. This shows that much feasting went on and a hierarchy was emerging. Similar evidence was found at Woolstonbury, Highdown and Mucking. The workshop audience were asked which journals they read. Everyone saw *'Current Archaeology'* and a few read *British Archaeology*. Few belonged to the Prehistoric Society or saw PPS – much to David McOmish's chagrin - nor did they have access to the Antiquaries Journal, although Esme Evans noted that you can read this in the SAS library at the Barbican in Lewes.

Altogether David McOmish gave us a fascinating overview of the Bronze Age and we went away with a few questions and much food for thought.

Sue Brown

[October Lecture: Gordon Hayden on 'Iron Age Memory v Roman metaphor, re-reading the Archaeology of a Client Kingdom.'](#)

Both the Atrebates and the Regni were Client Kingdoms – politically, militarily and economically aligned to a larger power, Rome. They had links across the Channel with Gaul before the Romans were here. For instance, looking at material culture, coinage and wheel-finished pottery were in use before the Romans came, but probably adopted from developments in Gaul. Archaeological evidence shows that Chichester was a significant town in the Iron Age. Pottery kilns were found in its NE quadrant, and there were burials in the town before AD 70 – both against Roman law, so pre-dated the Roman invasion. Another

example is that of a Samian stamp being deliberately removed from a pot. Roman pot was adopted, but the people who did so didn't want words inside them, they were not literate.

Gordon had us thinking about 'Empire' - the Romans brought 'civilisation'. They conquered a land, as did the British Empire, because their new way is 'better'. Also what was it to be Roman - i.e. a male and propertied? One could live all one's life in Rome but not necessarily be a 'Roman'. Could one have a villa and, possibly, a mosaic, without necessarily being a Roman? For instance there is a mosaic at Fishbourne with a 'Celtic' symbol in the middle. Was this because a Celt commissioned it or because the Romans liked the pattern? 'Roman' is one word which divides Archaeologists - they brought literacy, roads, central heating, the word 'Britain', but also taxation, new diseases and parasites, slavery.....

By the Late Iron Age, it is thought that Oppida (late Iron Age high status areas) were at Selsey, Chichester and, possibly, Arundel. Certainly slaves and hunting dogs were exported from this area. Pottery found in West Sussex was like that from Northern Europe. Late Iron Age temples, such as the ones on Hayling Island and Lancing Down, became Roman temples. Their shape was barely changed. Was this because the Romans adopted local gods for fear of upsetting them? The shape of the Trundle Iron Age hillfort bears a strong resemblance to the outline of Roman Chichester - was this an attempt to help people accept change?

The Romans were here for 400 years - 12 generations. After they left, did pre-Roman ideas come back?

We were left with lots to think about!

Liz L

[November Lecture - James Sainsbury on the Saxons in Post-Roman Sussex.](#)

James pointed out that the arrival of the Saxons in Sussex was probably not achieved through fierce battles, nor entirely peacefully.

The decline of Roman Britain had begun by the 4th Century as Britain became more peripheral to the Roman Empire. With it, coinage disappeared, as it was mainly used to pay soldiers. As the military withdrew, raids came in from all directions.

The first mention of Saxons in Britain was in 280AD. The Saxon Shore Forts, Pevensey being a good example, were set up in the late 3rd Century. Pevensey was garrisoned by Imperial troops and/or German foederati - mercenaries. Mercenaries were paid with food and/or land.

However, it was a mixed picture in our area. Bignor Villa was being added to in the 5th Century, but the settlement on Park Brow was burned to the ground.

There are confusing accounts of all of this in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, but a) it was written some 400 years later and b) written by the Victorians.

There have been several Saxon Cemeteries discovered in East Sussex - for example at Alfriston - but only Highdown in the West. At Alfriston there were 130 inhumations, many with grave goods, for example a conical glass vessel identical to one found at Highdown. It would seem that in the 4th Century, Highdown was an isolated outpost of Saxon settlement. At least 200 individuals were buried there, 30 being cremations. It was a mixed cemetery, (unlike at Selmeaton where most of the graves contained adult males.) Also all the graves were orientated East-West. In 1 out of 10 graves there were spearheads.

It is possible that Highdown's Iron Age ramparts were strengthened in the 4th Century. The new inhabitants respected the Bronze Age mounds. A quoit brooch found there, was an example of late Roman militaria - maybe there were some people left from a local Roman garrison. There was a goblet which had been made in Alexandria around 400AD, and a Germanic bronze-bound bucket with serpent's heads on the handle in the graves. Also saucer brooches and Saxon pottery.

James also showed us pictures of the Patching Hoard (some of which was amongst the artefacts he brought for handling after the Lecture). The latest coin dated about 462AD. There were 2 very high-carat gold rings which have not been seen anywhere else in Britain. Was the hoard payment for services, was it buried because other settlers were arriving?



There is an excellent display in the Museum of the Highdown finds, as well as the Patching Hoard.

It is fairly certain that the original Britons were still here, but formed a powerless, lower class.

[Saturday 25th November – Place-names in the Landscape with Judie English](#)

A fascinating half-day workshop by Judie. The story that she was able to tell about settlement and land use over time, based on analysing place names in Old English, Saxon and Norman French was just spellbinding.



She was able to give a really convincing account of changes in settlement and land use by correlating ancient place names with geographical features. It seems that, just like Inuits and names for snow, the ancient Brits had a very detailed vocabulary for the quality of land.
Richard Griffiths

[Newsletter](#)

If anyone has 'electronic copies' of the Annual Journals pre: 2014, that were not on the old website, it would be great to put them on the new website as they include WAS reports and photos from past excavations and other excellent articles. Theresa
theresa_in_brighton@yahoo.co.uk

[WAS Facebook](#)

If you are not part of this, and would like to be, please let us know, and you can be invited to join.

[Annual Journal](#)

Is almost ready. If you have anything which you would like included, Editor Cheryl's email: hutchincheryl@hotmail.com

[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.

[Advance Notice: Sussex Archaeology Symposium](#) – 17th March in Lewes. An annual round-up of Archaeology in Sussex. Speakers include Simon Stevens, Jon Baczkowski, Greg Chuter, Chris Greatorex, Matt Edwards, Andy Gammon, David Millum, Peter Hibbs, Judie English, David Rudling, Andy Margetts and Luke Barber.

[Holleyman Lecture](#) – From Sussex to Shetland – the archaeology of Medieval coastal transport and trade – Mark Gardiner – 12th April.

[USAS Talks](#) Thursday 25th January
Gordon will give the same talk as he did to WAS in October. We can recommend it!
Venue ARTS A1 lecture theatre (near library), University of Sussex. Start time 7-00pm

[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.

[Horsham and District Archaeological Society](#)

For further information please contact horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk

[Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Winter Lectures](#)

The lectures take place at the Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton BN1 1UF.

Talks begin at 7.30pm. BHAS members have free entry, non-members £3.

Friday 15th December AGM at 7pm, followed by John Skelton talking about the final year at Ovingdean, and Pete Tolhurst talking about the geophysical survey at Old Erringham. There will be refreshments afterwards.

January 12th Edwin Wood – *'Finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme, Sussex, 2017'* 2017 represents 20 years since the Treasure Act came into force and the PAS was set up to record finds of archaeological material made by the public.

February 9th Tom Dommert – *'Heritage on the Edge – Archaeology of the Seven Sisters'* The National Trust has been working with over the last two years to investigate and record thousands of years of history along the Seven Sisters coastline before it is lost to the sea. Tom will outline how we have gained a greater

insight into this rich cultural landscape- from surveys and documentary research to oral histories and excavations.

Saturday January 20th Dayschool

The first of next year's day schools will be at Patcham Community Centre. We are continuing our collaboration with ASE and have invited two of their specialists to talk to us and provide hands on experience. For everyone who has ever wondered how we know what our ancestors ate, the day begins at 10am, with

Lucy Allott - a forensic archaeologist - who will offer us 'A Hands On Guide to the Archaeobotany of Saxon and Medieval Lewes.' In the afternoon, her colleague, Elena Baldi, an environmental archaeologist will tell us about "Quakers and WW1 letters. Conservation challenges from the Brighton Dome".

As last year, the day will begin at 10am and finish around 4pm. The cost is £25, and payment can now be made through BACs as well as with cash or a cheque made payable to B. H.A.S. Please contact either Jane Russell, or Maria Gardiner if you are interested. (Book early as there is limited capacity this year)

Also Saturday 20th January - BHAS Local History lecture - Lancing College and its local history - Speaker Janet Pennington - Venue United Reform Church, Blatchington Road, Hove - Start time 2-30pm

Saturday 27 January 2018, Archaeological Illustration: Pottery. 10am-4pm, at the Rottingdean Whiteway Centre in partnership with the Sussex School of Archaeology. A Study Day for those wishing to learn how to draw pots or pot-sherds in pencil using traditional archaeological conventions. The tutor will be Jane Russell. The course is suitable for all abilities. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided through the day, and you are welcome to bring your own packed lunch or to obtain lunch in the village. Venue: The Whiteway Centre, Whiteway Lane, Rottingdean, BN2 7HB. Fee: £25. For further information see: www.sussexarchaeology.org. To book please email MikeGregory@rwc.org.uk OR phone 07913 753493.

[Liss Archaeology](http://www.archaeology.co.uk/digging/fieldwork/the-colemore-project.htm)

<http://www.archaeology.co.uk/digging/fieldwork/the-colemore-project.htm>

[Sussex Archaeological Society](http://www.sussexpast.co.uk)

<https://sussexpast.co.uk>

[Eastbourne Natural History & Archaeological Society](http://www.eastbournearchaeology.org.uk)

Meetings are held at 7.30pm at St Saviours Church Hall, South Street, Eastbourne
Members free. Visitors £2.50

For details

www.eastbournearchaeology.org.uk

[Chichester District Archaeology Society](http://www.cdas.info)

24th January - Iain Grant & Daniel Pascoe:
New excavations at two Solent Wrecks:
Hazardous and Invincible.

28th February - Trevor Davies: The Roman villa at Warblington: a view after 10 years of investigation.

www.cdas.info

[And finally a reminder](#)

Subs for 2017 were due on January 1st - £25 for ordinary members, £10 for full-time students. Subs for 2018 will be happily accepted now!

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.

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

The Worthing Archaeological Society is a registered Charity (291431)