

Worthing Archaeological Society

[Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a Merry and Healthy 2020.](#)

[News sheet](#)

[WAS Lectures](#)

[The December Lecture is postponed until April](#)

as we can't use the Gordon Room on December 10th.

[GDPR](#) - If any of your details - address, post code, telephone number(s), email address or Gift Aid option - have changed since you last filled in a WAS Application form, please let me know. Please refer to our updated Privacy Notice on the Society's website <https://www.worthingarchaeological.org/membership.html>.

[Finds Processing](#)

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

Next meeting will be Thursday, 5th December. Please note that our Christmas 'Get-together' is on Thursday, 19th December and will again be held at the Downs Barn, Sompting from 9.30 a.m. to lunchtime. There will be the usual festive fare to enjoy with coffee and some fun quizzes!

Thursdays January 9th and 23rd.

gqmturmer@aol.com

[Slindon Stableyard](#)

Many thanks to all who have laboured on Saturdays at the Stableyard. We have successfully finished the area we could reach of the northwest corner, recorded it, and now have backfilled so that the wild flowers will grow next year.

We will be returning to the yard to complete the west wing in the spring when the scaffolding will be gone and, hopefully, the lake in the middle of the yard will have drained a little. If anyone is tempted to join us next year, please let me know - hutchincheryl@hotmail.com.

Once again, very many many thanks.
Cheryl

[December 2019 – January 2020](#)

[New Year Walk.](#)

[Sunday January 5th](#). Meet at 10.30 in the car park next to the Adur Activities Centre for a walk upriver, then back down to Shoreham for lunch.

[Lecture Programme](#)

In the Gordon Room of the Town Hall.

[December Lecture – John Mills](#)
Postponed until April

[January 14 th 2020](#)

Professor Naomi Sykes

Fishbourne Roman Wildlife Park: new questions from old bones
Over the last 20 years Fishbourne's animal remains have been subject to large-scale re-investigation through a series of projects funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. This talk by Professor Naomi Sykes will present the results of this work, highlighting their importance for our understanding of the past but also their significance for modern international animal conservation policy.

We have an **extra Lecture**:

[Wednesday January 22nd at 2pm](#), in the Museum Education Room.

Paul Mason, from A.S.E., will talk about their recent Excavation in the fields North-West of 'our' Walberton Villa at Blacksmiths Corner. All welcome, and bring a friend!

[February 11 th 2020](#)

Dr Janet Pennington

The John Pull Memorial Lecture
An Archaeological Childhood in Sussex.
Janet grew up in the post-World War II years looking at the ground – daughter of Sussex archaeologists Eric and Hilda Holden. Most of her early memories are of Sussex history, field-walking with her parents and observing, later taking part in, archaeological excavations all over Sussex. This talk takes

us back to a more peaceful time with little traffic, no health and safety, and when every outing seemed to be tinged with excitement and mystery.

Con Ainsworth Memorial Lecture

Malthouse Field, Sompting by Connie Shirley; Sompting Site Director, Surveyor, Project Manager, and WAS Treasurer

Connie began by saying she was honoured to give this lecture as it was Con who first introduced her to archaeology way back in 1986 when she took one of his courses, and she has not looked back since - hence her long list of WAS titles.

Connie introduced the site, an area of land currently in use as horse paddocks just south of the A27, opposite Sompting Church and Sompting Abbots. The project started when WAS were asked in 2017 to investigate the remains of a small flint building in one of the paddocks that was only meant to be a couple of days work.....

Connie gave us a history of the site, from the church - built in the 10th century - to the current Tristram family landowners owning the land since 1879. A 1627 survey documented a Malting House on the site, 1772 Map shows the area as Malthouse Barn Field, Malthouse Field and Malthouse Close, a 1896 map shows a pond and line of trees and the 1936 South of England show map shows the excavation area as close to the entrance.



The flint walls that started it all

The coast had been extremely close to the site but from the 13th century longshore drift led to the silting up of the local coastline and by the 18th century the land was being farmed. Connie added that a bonus to the work at Malthouse field had been the opportunity for WAS to fieldwalk an area further south of the site as part of the EPIC project.

Summarising what had been found to date, Connie discussed the structure under the tree

which had substantial walls and floor tiles. It could have held water but no drain was located. A pathway leading to it had oyster shell and clay pipe in it. A flint wall running east-west abuts the rectangular building and could be part of an earlier structure. A north-south flint wall contained a chalk block structure that revealed a well. On John Mill's advice the 2019 excavations targeted the well-cut which could date its construction. A clay-with-flints layer was discovered adjacent to the well cut, potentially deposited at the end of the last ice age and containing worked flint. When it became too deep to excavate the well cut further, an auger sample took the excavation to a total depth of 3.6 meters and revealed medieval pottery and struck flint.



The well cut: the depths members had to sink to

A compact 'yard-like' surface was located below the north-south flint wall, and features that could be postholes were identified running along the middle of the building complex. The features are comparable with other known excavated Malthouse sites. A pit was also discovered that contained medieval pottery, oyster shell and worked flint, possibly evidence of an earlier occupation.

The 2019 excavations had only just finished so results are still being analysed, but trench targets had been established through Geophysical surveys in the spring. One survey had identified features in other paddocks. One was natural geology but the other (Trench 10) contained a modern water pipe (probably associated with the 1936 show), a degraded chalk surface which is found across the site which had features dug into it, a potentially military-cut trench, Romano-British pottery and a medieval pit containing Saxo-Norman pot sherds.



The enigma that was Trench 10

A piece of Caen stone from a mullion window was discovered which contained a VV (Virgin of Virgins) apotropaic mark, possibly reused from another site. Finds include Prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and later pottery, two 16th century Nuremberg Jettons and a French clay pipe stem (Connie likes to think it is evidence of smuggling). A piece of Bronze Age pottery contained a thumb print and some of the medieval pottery could be from Binsted. More modern finds include glass, a powder compact, a key for a Hornby '0' gauge toy train and a tube of Gleam toothpaste. The flint finds indicate temporary hunting and farming but not permanent settlement. Connie finished by revealing that a recent Tristram family document had come to light from 1758 showing another building on the site which could line up with one of the as yet unexcavated geophysical anomalies, possibly evidence of an earlier building. That's for next year....to be continued.

Vicky Lillywhite

(This is a shortened version of Vicky's report – the full version is on our website.)



(Photos from Vicky and Alex)

[Exciting project at the museum!](#) [From James Sainsbury](#)

I met with Tom Booth of the Francis Crick Institute last month and had interesting discussions about future research on the museum's collection of human remains. The Francis Crick Institute is starting a nationwide project looking at natural selection in the British population between the Neolithic and Medieval period, and are looking for a sample size of around 3000 individuals. Tom contacted me to see if the museum were willing to lend some of our remains as part of this study - which for me was something of a no-brainer, especially as we have samples covering all periods of interest for this study.

I've never felt comfortable having so many remains just sitting in a cupboard and feel whenever the opportunity arises we should be loaning these individuals out for research purposes. What's particularly exciting about this project is that as soon as Francis Crick have DNA and/or radio-carbon date results, they'll be sending them directly to me, rather than waiting for an official report to be made, so the turn-around should be rather quick.

Tom showed interest in most of our human remains, particularly those from Highdown Hill as we have over a dozen examples that are suitable for this study. He will be looking at if there are any familial relationships, genetic variants/mutations shared between any individuals and also things like hair colour, eye colour etc. This exciting study will then feed into our "Highdown Revisited" project which is still in its nascent form but promises to reveal so much more about history and development of Highdown over the millennia.

We hope to have some results by spring 2020 at the latest - and I will be posting the results on social media as they come in.

[November Lecture](#)

[by Dr Carolina Rangel de Lima, Finds Liaison Officer for Sussex.](#)

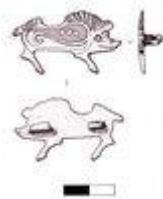
The Portable Antiquities Scheme is run by the British Museum and the National Museum of Wales, to encourage the recording of archaeological objects found by the public.

Carolina told us about a book she is planning, describing the 50 best Finds in Sussex. She described, with illustrations, about half of these, covering all Archaeological eras. Some of these are shown below.

A late Neolithic or early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead, from West Sussex.



A Roman copper alloy and enamel boar brooch, from East Sussex.



An Anglo-Saxon copper-alloy ansate brooch, found in East Sussex.



[Drawing Day School with Bob Turner](#)

About a dozen members of the Archaeological Society attended a drawing day kindly hosted by Worthing Museum on the 13th November. Under the tutelage of Bob Turner we were given the opportunity to develop, improve or advance our skills in the presentation of archaeological drawing. Bob has a great mastery of techniques and was able to

demonstrate and guide us all in the conventions of drawing for publication or just drawing for our own satisfaction. His demonstration of layout and the use of geometry was a great help to all and resulted in some very acceptable outcomes.

Thanks Bob.
Chris L

[A Geophysical Survey of the White Meadows School Field](#)

This September, Worthing Archaeological Society came to White Meadows Primary School to carry out a Geophysical Survey of the school field. Children in years 3,4,5 and 6 had the opportunity to learn about the process of Geophysics and help to gather survey data for their school field. During the day, they helped to lay out the square grids needed, use the resistivity machine and survey the points of their grids into the total station.

Comments

Year 5 Boy

We put electric into the ground to see what was under it. I really enjoyed making the squares we needed and I learnt how the geophysics machine worked.

Year 5 Girl

We had a really fun day on the school field. We scanned part of the field to see if there was anything under it. My favourite part was laying out the area grid and i learnt how to make a perfect square with two right angled triangles.

Year 5 Girl

On the day we had a machine which beeped on the floor and sent electricity through the ground so we could see what was under it. We also had to hold a stick in front of a camera (the total station) and it sent light out which told us how far apart the stick and camera were. I really liked trying to get the bubble in the right place on the stick.

After more than ten years out of the classroom it was an eye-opener to go back and see how the systems and settings have changed. The

enthusiasm of the young pupils was a pleasure to behold. As part of Amie's classwork Connie, Jacqui and I demonstrated to the pupils the arcane art of surveying. It now being digitally based they mastered it in seconds and were able to layout grids using tapes, strings, calculators and Pythagoras. Despite being over-filled with pupils, White Meadows School is situated in lovely grounds that cry out for the full resistivity and magnetometry. Time constraints meant it was just a taster day but Amie's enthusiasm has rubbed off on a dedicated groups who, hopefully one day, will be the next generation of diggers and delvers.

Chris Lane

WAS SOCIAL

An entertaining evening, at the Gardeners' Arms.



WAS Study Day 23rd November

Simon Stevens 'The Archaeology of Death and Commemoration'

Simon gave us an outline, first, of the difficulties which Archaeology has in identifying human bone in excavations, and second, of the ways that the commemoration of death has changed over the millennia.

Buried Archaeology kick-started Archaeology as we know it today – for instance, many Antiquarians were effectively treasure-hunting in sites such as barrows, in the landscape. Our definitions of the Stone Age, Iron and Bronze Ages derive from the results of barrow digging. Some of our most iconic monuments – e.g. the

Pyramids – are funerary monuments. Death was, long ago, very visible.

By the time a skeleton is found, most of the possible information about the individual is gone.

Simon explained some of the ways to tell male from female skeletons, which might give clear answers in about 80% of cases. Finding the age at death is very difficult. In ideal circumstances, it's only usually possible to within a decade. Examples of clues: by the age of 25, on average, most bones have fused. The wear on teeth is indicative and can be very useful. He used the distinction of primary (or deciduous) teeth against permanent dentition, which is usually in place by mid-teens.

Also, if you break a limb and fracture your skull, the body works to heal the skull first. Broken bones, once mended, are stronger than before. Occupations can affect the bones – e.g. the Archers on the Mary Rose. Some diseases will affect the skeleton and leave permanent traces. Many more have no effect.

If there is evidence of serious trauma, such as on a battlefield, the cause of death may well be infection – sepsis – which doesn't show in the skeleton.

There is a moral dilemma in all this. When do you excavate bodies – if it's a rescue dig, yes. Otherwise?

An example of how our treatment of the dead has changed, is the 'Red Lady of Paviland',



buried 33,000 years ago. There was a dilemma there, as Biblical time does not match Geological time. Ways had to be found to fit the body in with the Church's view. The individual's bones were painted red – so the body was re-visited some time after burial, which implies a memory of the grave. Shells, ivory were buried too – which implies a ceremonial burial, and makes this the first ceremonial burial found in Western Europe. The diet included fish, so this was a Hunter-gatherer group, as, at that time,

there were no fish resources nearer than a day's walk.

The first time we see the conspicuous ceremonial treatment of the dead in monuments, is the Neolithic, for instance at West Kennet. This implies settled communities. Why and how are Bronze Age barrows round? Why, for example, at Windmill Hill, were Bronze Age barrows on a Neolithic causewayed enclosure?

We looked at the Yorkshire chariot burials - is all this commemorating or helping someone to the after-life?

Cremations are not covered by the 1860s Burials Act – as cremation was then illegal - so such burials can be examined in labs.

In the early Roman time, there was a continuity of cremation, but it isn't possible to see whether this was done with any ceremony. The position, the place of burial might be significant, but we can't ever know this. Later on, inhumation was practised which gives so much more to interpret.

By the end of Roman Britain in the 5th century, cremation came back with the Anglo-Saxons, but there were also 'pagan' burials, with grave goods. It makes for some great Archaeology, e.g. at Sutton Hoo.

Christian burial tradition is to bury in consecrated ground, usually around a Parish Church – which is archaeologically inaccessible. It became important to make provision for your soul after death.

The Bayeux Tapestry gives a very good picture of a Medieval funeral.

Simon then talked extensively about the 2 World Wars, and the treatment of the war dead. About the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the different treatment for different nationalities.

Liz L

SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM 2020

- a date for your diaries: **Saturday 28 March** at Kings Church, Lewes, 10am-5pm. Confirmed speakers include: Stewart Angell, Lynn Cornwell, Daryl Holter, Carolina Lima, Tessa Machling, David Martin, Paul McCulloch, Steve Patton, David Rudling, Jo Seaman, Simon Stevens, Richard Toms and Roland Williamson.

[WAS Bursary](#)

WAS has a small amount of money available to Members who would like to extend their knowledge by going on Archaeological

Courses/lectures, but might find it difficult to afford. This could be a contribution towards the costs of the Course, or a contribution towards travel expenses. Recipients would be expected to pay a small contribution towards the costs and provide a report back for the Newsletter. Contact our Treasurer, Connie connieshirley1@aol.com

[Museum Object Handling](#)

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

[Brighton Museum](#)

Has an excellent Archaeology Gallery – well worth a visit.

[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. There is a selection of them, and other Archaeological books, on sale at 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 sections between the Arun and Adur and the Arun and the A286/Lavant valley are 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](#)

Is in production. Thanks to our Editor, Cheryl, and to all the Contributors.

[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 developing 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.

University of Sussex Archaeological Society.

Entrance: members £3; non-members: £4
Thursday 23rd January at 7pm.

Dr David Dunkin.

The Findspots of Bronze Age metalwork in Lowland England..

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 £3.

Wed. 8 Jan. James Sainsbury, Saxon Worthing & the Kingdom of the South Saxons

Wed. 5 Feb. Christopher Rudd, A Wealden Wander

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

Lectures - Venue – Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton – Start time 7-30 pm.

Friday 13th December 2019

Miles Russell (President) - Mythmakers of Maiden Castle: changing a Roman siege mentality

The idea that an invading Roman army dramatically terminated the hillforts of south western Britain, using artillery fire to defeat their enemy, is one of the most powerful stories in British archaeology. Recent fieldwork on the hillforts, Roman forts and Iron Age burials of Dorset, however, has changed our view of what really happened.

Friday 10th January 2020

Oliver Gilkes – Herbert Toms

Sussex has been fortunate in having some remarkable archaeologists who have worked and lived in the county. However, perhaps most remarkable of them all was the indefatigable Herbert Toms, onetime assistant to General Pitt Rivers himself and curator of that great treasure

house of sciences and arts, Brighton Museum. As one of the few professional archaeologists of his time, Toms lived and moved in a world full of strong characters and was able to experience and record the interaction and occasional collisions of his colleagues and contemporaries

Friday 14th February 2020

Amie Friend – Saved by the Waves: Waterlogged Preservation

This lecture looks at a comparison between a well-known time capsule site and one newly discovered. Through the many perishable artefacts of sites such as the Mary Rose and Must Farm see how organic survival can revolutionise our understanding of the past and construct a vivid picture of a single moment in time.

BHAS Day Schools – 2020 - The day schools programme for next year is as follows: Please book your seat with either Glynis at glynis.jones100@hotmail.co.uk or Margaret at margaretcarey27@yahoo.co.uk

Saturday 11th Jan 2020 – Flint and Fossils

In the morning **Karine Le Hegerat**, from Archaeology South East, will be helping us identify Flint and Stonework; this will very much be a hands-on session with lots of examples to examine and learn about.

The afternoon session will look at fossils and **David Bone**, West Sussex Geology, will be telling us about what a fossil is, how they are formed, where they can be found and what they tell us about ancient environments. He will also be looking particularly at fossils in Sussex. Please note: The day will be divided into two discrete practical sessions, which complement each other, and people may attend either or both.

Saturday 8th Feb – Geology of the Mediterranean

Following on from our very successful 2019 geology day school, **Tony Corrigan** will be returning to tell us about the Geology of the Mediterranean.

Saturday 14th March 2020 – Archery Day

And, finally, a very exciting and unique day with **Amie Friend**, a conservator on the Mary Rose project, who will be facilitating an archery day. She will be telling us about the history of longbows, and how the medieval archers trained and used their weapons. She will be bringing in some lovely horse bows for us to look at, including a Mongolian and a Hungarian

one. We will be able to fletch our own arrows and even have a go at shooting (blunt) arrows at a target!

Cost for each full day is £25 for BHAS members, and £30 for non-members. However, the January **Flint and Fossil Day** will be divided into two discrete sessions and people can book for either one or both. If attending one session, the cost will be £15 per half day, £25/£30 for both.

Local History Forum talks 2019/20

18th January

Alan Hayes – The History of Brighton Fishing

15th February

Geoffrey Mead - Brighton before the Pavilion.

Talks take place at the Fellowship room,

Central United Reformed Church, 102

Blatchington Road, Hove, BN3 3YF

2.15 for a prompt 2.30 pm start.

Free entry to members. £4 to non-members.

www.brightonarch.org.uk

Horsham and District Archaeology Group

horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk or 01903 872309

Liss Archaeology

lissarchaeology@gmail.com

www.lissarchaeology.uk

Chichester District Archaeology Society

Wednesday 22nd January: The Roman Anglo-Saxon Transition, by Trevor Creighton.

Wednesday 26th February: Battle of Britain over Chichester, 1940: Aerial action and archaeological implications, by John Smith. 7.30pm at the New Park Centre.

We welcome non-members at the lectures, which start at 7.30 pm and usually finish about 9 pm. An entry fee of £5 is payable by non-members at the door.

Lewes Archaeological Group

www.lewesarchaeology.org.uk

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

Sussex Archaeological Society

<https://sussexpast.co.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 2020 are due on January 1st - £25 for Ordinary members, £10 for full-time students.

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)

