

Worthing Archaeological Society

News sheet

December 2021 – January 2022

The season's greetings to you all

WAS Field Unit

Field Unit Forum Next Meeting.

Tuesday February 15th at 7.30. pm.,
in St Botolph's Church rooms, in Heene. On the
North side of the Church, entrance from Manor
Road.

Mapping with QGIS

This Course has now finished – we await the
development of Mapping skills in WAS
Members. Many thanks to Connie.

Finds Processing

Thursdays 2nd and 16th December from 9.30
a.m. to about 12.30 p.m

January dates are yet to be confirmed with the
National Trust, but write the 6th and 20th Jan in
your diaries, in case we can meet then.

We are restricted in numbers, please don't
arrive unless Gill has you on her list. Let her
know as soon as possible, so that she can
confirm your place.

Christmas Finds 'Get-together' will again be
taking place at **Downs Barn, Sompting on
Thursday, 9th December** from 9.30 a.m. to
lunchtime. There will be fun quizzes and festive
fare so contributions of both would be most
welcome on the day! Please let Gill know if you
would be interested in coming along.

gqmturmer@aol.com

Lecture Programme

Lectures for 2021 – 2022 will be a mixture of
online and in person. The online Lectures will
usually remain on WAS Facebook for some
time afterwards. Worthing College has given us
space for some of our Lectures in their
Exhibition Hall.

Tuesday December 14th - 7.30pm online live
on WAS Facebook page.

Amie Friend "Angmering St Nicholas Church
Excavations Revisited"



Tuesday January 11th 2022 – 7.30pm online
live on WAS Facebook page.

James Sainsbury – "Old and new discoveries
on the Burpham Downs The investigations I've
been conducting with my group north of the
village - as well as a look at older sites and
finds from that area. With main focus on the
Romano-British period."

Tuesday February 8th 7.30pm at Worthing
College Exhibition Hall

John Pull memorial Lecture

Dr Matt Pope The next 100 years of
Archaeology in Sussex.

"The challenges we are all going to face and
how important citizen archaeology through
active organisations like WAS can be in
meeting those challenges"

Tuesday March 8th at Worthing College
AGM at 7pm., followed by

Keith Bolton 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.

[EPIC Lecture Connie and Bob](#)

(This is still available to view on WAS Facebook page.)

Connie started by giving an overall view of EPIC (Enhancing Places, Inspiring Communities), delivered by the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust.

This is one of the few open green spaces on the Sussex Coastal area. A new river was cut, and there are several other waterways, which are drainage ditches.

Sompting Estates suggested that WAS should be invited to look at the site. We had a field-walk and noticed many struck flints, and possibly a knapping site. Also beach deposits. The soil from the cut raised the ground around by about 30cm.

This is an area of alluvial and beach deposits, and was once known as Broadwater. WAS was working in the middle of the innings, which developed into marshland. Lidar data backs this up, and stresses how significant Medieval Churches were – acting like navigation beacons.

There were several constraints on our dig, including Covid 19, significant habitats... So test pits were cut on a grid of socially distanced points. And later there was an area on the banks of the river which was carefully dug, with everything recorded in 3D. Martin found a pick in the last 5 minutes of the last day...and on a later visit a pestle of Late Neolithic, early Bronze Age.



Bob said that the analysis that has been done has taken flints from several places – pits, river bank, field walks. Over 1000 pieces of debitage, 352 tools, with the majority coming from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. A vast number of pure flakes were found. Bob gave a detailed analysis of all the flint found. Theresa found 28 blades all from one small area. This moved the investigation to the river

banks, hoping for a flint knapping site. The knappers were probably resident – but on higher ground – and the site was used for a considerable period.

The area is now open for the public to explore.

[EPIC Walk](#)

On Friday October 8th Alistair of EPIC took us on a guided walk through the EPIC site, to show us their progress over the last couple of years. It was fascinating, and a really good way to spend a morning.



[Multi-period Research Projects in Sussex](#) (Con Ainsworth Memorial Lecture in October)

[Mark Roberts](#) Archaeologist and Principal Research Fellow, UCL Institute of Archaeology



Mark started by saying that none of his career would have happened without Con. In 1978, aged 17, he had a part-time gardening job, and one of his jobs was at Con and Ena's. The work was very light and tea and biscuits were frequently provided. Con was very interested in providing work for young people. Mark had planned to do a Short-Service Commission in the Army while at University. Instead Con introduced him to Peter Drewett's dig at Blackpatch. He stayed on the dig for 8 weeks, met John Mills, Owen Bedwyn – and

College let him stay on site at Chidham into September. He went on to study Archaeology. He kept in touch with Con in the early days at Boxgrove and the diggers were invited for meals and drinks. "I cannot tell you how much we looked forward to these trips out. They were wonderful hosts and influenced my politics. Con was a gentleman in a profession where not many gentlemen are left!"

During lockdown, at Ashington, a large stone sarcophagus was revealed by metal detectorists west of the villa site. (Ashington Villa was dug in 1947 by WAS – there's not much left of it. It was scheduled in the 1950s.) The site had been metal-detected and badly robbed out. The Landowner rang Mark. A project was needed to safeguard this. The sarcophagus was broken when it was originally buried – there was a lead coffin inside the stone one. It proved an extensive dig – remains of an oven were found, a cremation pot of Arun Valley ware, a line of chalk nodules by the coffin, evidence of iron smelting. Afterwards the sarcophagus was re-buried under big iron gates.

In late 2019 a site in the Goodwood Estate was heavily robbed by metal detectorists. Mark eventually tracked down the site, in a chestnut coppice. The detectorists were only interested in coins, they left behind other Roman artefacts, such as brooches. All their finds and searching could be traced on Facebook. Prosecutions are in place. It is private property, and they had no permission. It proved to be a Roman temple and a Neolithic oval barrow. There was a processional way to the temple from Stane Street. The Estate has upped patrols, clear-felled the coppice and left all the detritus on site as a deterrent.

Mark talked about ground-truthing Lidar to understand the landscape. Terracing in woodlands has been largely ignored, though some is from the Late Bronze/Iron Age. He is interested especially in clay-with-flints, a deposit which once crossed the Downs and overlay the Reading Beds. He talked about the loess blanket which led to our brickearth. There was a huge area of arable fields for 1000 years, which must have needed an infrastructure to get crops out to the ports. He has our South Downs, especially the West end, in his blood,

and is spending time, with his students, investigating its history and Pre-history.



This was a fascinating and very accessible Lecture, and very relevant to WAS activities too.

[WAS Study Days](#)

13th November half-day

English Coins, Tokens and Jetons AD 600 – 1600 David Rudling

14 WAS Members assembled in the Museum Education Room for half a day of fascinating study with David.

He began by saying – as a self-confessed nerd – he'd been collecting since he was 10.

Our first exercise was to write down as many names of coins as we could remember.

So...farthing, halfpenny, penny, sixpence (tanner), threepenny bit, shilling, crown and half-crown, florin, guinea, groat, half groat.....

Farthings were sometimes cut – for instance in the 19th Century, in Malta, they used a third of a farthing!

The value of coins depended on the price of gold. There were 240 pennies in the £1 because originally it was possible to make 240 pennies with gold worth £1. Things are different now – it costs a lot more than 1p to make a 1p coin.

David talked about pre-1971 coins – they meant something, and their value was related to gold.

3% of £1 coins were fake, until they were redesigned to make them harder to fake.

We have the last hoard of Roman coins ever found in England – the Patching Hoard from 460AD - (to be seen in our Museum!)

David talked about post-Roman coins, most of which were copied from Roman coins.

By the 9th Century, different territories had their own coinage, e.g. Wessex.



Offa, King of Mercia, was the first to establish coinage proper. For instance there was a silver penny, with Offa Rex on one side, and the Roman wolf and twins on the reverse. There were great problems with clipping silver coins, to make money. Fakes and forgeries were common. By the tenth Century there were many local mints. We were given a list of mint marks – in fact a very useful set of sheets as a handout. After 1066 King William left coinage in the Saxon style - generally with PAX on the obverse, and the portrait on the reverse. In 1124 Henry 1 'purged' the Moneyers, because so much coinage was base. Edward 1 reformed the coinage significantly, introducing silver pennies, halfpennies, farthings, groat and half groat so coins were no longer cut as they were with earlier long- and short-cross pennies. Each time the value of silver was reduced, the King would call in all coinage and melt it down to re-cast, pocketing the profit. The first gold sovereign was minted under Henry V11 from 1485.



This is a sovereign of Queen Mary c 1553 Originally all coins were minted in the Tower of London. From 1662 coins could be made by the Moneyers.

We wondered why have inscriptions on coins when the vast majority of people couldn't read?

Pre 1947 there was 50% of silver in silver coins – so they are intrinsically valuable (start looking in your piggy banks now...)

Tokens were beginning by the early 17th Century, also copper coins, which were very unpopular. Jetons often have a hole in the middle – they are not currency, and were made of copper alloy. Nuremberg was a big centre for manufacture – we have two Nuremberg jetons found at Malthouse.

David spent some time after his Lecture looking at coins from recent WAS digs.

[Slindon Stableyard](#)

The trench is now recorded and back-filled. Thanks to all who came to help.



[WAS Social](#)

Thanks again to the Gardeners' for hosting us. 3 excellent quizzes – thanks, Alan, Bob and Alex. Much enjoyed by all.

[Worthing Museum](#)

Is open again.
Thursdays 10am-8pm
Fridays 10am- 5pm
Saturdays 10am-5pm
Sundays 11am-3pm
The excellent [John Pull Exhibition](#) in the Norwood Gallery has been extended until Christmas.

[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 100th 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 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. 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 in February 2022.”
Please send to alexeclipsing@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

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

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. 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/>

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.

ButserAncient Farm 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>

Tuesday 21st December 2021 (14.00-16.00)

Butser Ancient Farm – Winter Solstice

Celebration An afternoon of story telling and meditation in the Great Roundhouse

Cost £16 and booking essential

Details from

<https://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/whats-on/2021/12/21/winter-solstice>.

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](#)

New Venue for BHAS Monthly Lectures

Due to new traffic restrictions in Brighton city centre, BHAS are, unfortunately, no longer able to access the Unitarian Church for our monthly lectures. It is a pity we have to leave the place that has been home to us for such a long time but, we have identified another, very welcoming, venue to hold our meetings:

Brighton and Hove Girls' School
Montpelier Road
Brighton
BN1 3AT

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Brighton+Girls/@50.8284917,-0.1511599,15z>

Glynis

Lecture Programme 2021/2022

December 10th - Miles Russell:

“Appropriating King Arthur: an archaeology of medieval myth fulfilment.”

Details from www.brightonarch.org.uk

[Sussex Archaeological Society](#)

8th December - [The Golden Barrow of the Sun: Early Bronze Age barrows, funerary practices and cosmology in the Rother Region](#)

14th December - [Finding Anne of Cleves](#)

Properties open again, they need your support.
<https://sussexpast.co.uk>

[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 are 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.

