

Worthing Archaeological Society

Newsletter

December 2022 & January 2023



WAS Social

Held in the Brewhouse & Kitchen, a very pleasant evening, good company, good food – thanks Brewhouse - good quizzing – thanks Alex and Chris, good raffle prizes.



WAS Field Unit

Bignor Roman Villa Dig

We may possibly return to this in 2023.

Malthouse

Plans are being made to continue our 2022 dig in the SW corner of the field in July 2023, to investigate possible houses on the east side of Church Lane.

Climping

Under discussion.

WAS Walks

We are hoping to walk between Cissbury and Chanctonbury (and back) on Monday January 2nd.

Also Keith will lead a walk above Slindon sometime in March.

Details for both nearer the time.

Field Unit Forum

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st February, 7.30 – 9pm in St Botolph's Church rooms, in Heene. BN11 4LY. On the North side of the Church, entrance from Manor Road.

Finds Processing

Our usual Finds Meeting at the Slindon Shed will be on Thursday 1st December from 9.30 a.m. to about 12.30 p.m. when we will continue with marking and recording the finds from our Bignor dig and Bob will be assessing flint from this year's Sompting dig.

Our Christmas Finds 'Get-together' will again take place at Downs Barn, Sompting on Thursday, 15th December from 9.30 a.m. to about 12.30 p.m.

Slindon Shed Finds Meetings will be on Thursday 5th and 19th January from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and a further Binsted Pottery & Tile Project day at Worthing Museum on Wednesday 25th January from 10 a.m. to 4p.m. Full details about these activities will be sent nearer the time.

Please remember to bring your own refreshments and come prepared to work outside by bringing extra clothing.

Numbers are still limited to 14, so contact Gill if you would like to be there: ggmturmer@aol.com



Keith

Has given part of his collection of books to WAS – look out for them at Lectures – donations to WAS.





Lecture Programme

Re Parking at Worthing College. There are now parking charges at the college. However, WAS has had their evening parking fees waived. In future all attendees for Evening Lectures will be required to sign in their car registration details on arrival in reception in order to ensure they do not receive a fine (up to £100). There will be someone from WAS Committee to assist in this (simple) process.

December 13th — Worthing College Venue – 7.30pm.

James Brown National Trust Archaeologist London & South East Region.
'National Trust South Downs – Past and Future'

****January 10th 7.30pm**

Bob Turner: Longitude. How we learned to navigate and the losses that happened at sea.

**January's Lecture will be in Worthing Library's Lecture Theatre, as the College isn't available. There are a few local on-street parking places, the nearest Car Park is next to the Connaught Theatre, in Union Place. Parking west of Heene Rd is free for those who like a short walk!

Spring 2023 Lecture Dates — At Worthing College

February 14th

John Pull Memorial Lecture
Miles Russell:
Roman Imperial Sculptures in Sussex

March 14th

Amie Friend:
Women in Archaeology

April 11th

Jane Clark:
Recent Finds from the Portable
Antiquities Scheme in Sussex.

WAS Training Course in Surveying.

Course Content

The course focusses on two main elements: Surveying with a Total Station: Geo-physical surveying. The principal aim of the course is to give WAS members: an understanding of how the equipment works; how to use the equipment in the field, how to pre- and post-process data for the production of field reports. The course will be delivered in 5 half day sessions:

Who should attend:

People who want to understand these systems and wish to be able to use the equipment in the field are welcome to attend all sessions and observe in the data processing sessions. Those who wish to undertake data processing should have their own PC which they will need to bring to the first session so that any software application issues can be checked when a full WiFi environment is available. PCs should be Windows or Android operating system.

Timetable

Session 4 – TBD February or March 2023 Resistivity training outside in the field – Slindon NT

Session 5 - TBD February or March 2023 Resistivity data downloading and processing using Snuffler software.

Cost The cost will be £15 for the course and covers all sessions.

Please let Connie know if you are interested.

connieshirley1@aol.com

Day School – date for your diaries:

at Worthing Museum on Saturday 13th May 2023.

Barb McNee on Pottery – early Neolithic to Late Iron Age.





Lecture Programme

October Lecture at Worthing College Keith Bolton - Binsted Tile Kilns

Keith gave us a fascinating summary of all the digs at the Binsted site.

In the late 1960s, Con Ainsworth, who was friendly with Mr Wishart, the landowner, discovered the kilns, and excavated them with WAS. The pottery kiln produced an extensive range of late 13th to early 14th century pottery, including jugs of West Sussex ware, and the tile kiln produced normal roof tiles as well as glazed ridge tiles and chimney pots. This was an industrial site. Some of the crenellated tiles were re-used on site for drainage. Locally there were springs, plenty of fuel (wood) and clay.



Between 1999 and 2002 Chris Place directed a Training Dig at the site, as a thank you to Con on behalf of all the people he had enthused and who subsequently continued as Archaeologists. Con always believed there were more kilns at Binsted. They dug test pits, one of which involved Con's '60s dig and 3 trenches. One was across the earthwork which goes North across the present A27, and in test pit 2 there was a raised beach feature, but no dating evidence.

In 2005, WAS was back on site, with a 5m x 5m trench. They found 8 kiln bars and a central spine. The walls were red, the bars were vitrified. Construction was very largely done using wasters. 1½ metric tonnes of tile was excavated.

In 2006 there were plans to extend the excavation to the North but a surface scatter in a nearby field led to the finding of a Roman Villa and the kilns were forgotten!

Taxation returns show that 2 Potters operated in the local area in 1332.

Why were the kilns built? Possibly for repairs to Binsted Manor House and Church Barn, Tortington Priory... There were 10 other manor sites in a 6-mile radius as well as Slindon's Archbishop's Palace and Ecclesiastical site.

It's also possible that there is some Roman tile as part of the kiln structure – Walberton Church is virtually built of Roman CBM.

Over the past few years, the WAS Finds Team, with Ben Jervis from Cardiff University, have worked in Worthing Museum on the 1966 finds. There were over 14,000 pottery sherds – wasters – which remained on the site. Many thanks to James Sainsbury for his help.

Keith made special mention of Gerald Hennings, sadly no longer with us, for his research and articles on the Binsted kilns.

The project continues with WAS Finds Team currently sorting finds from both pottery and tile kilns. A Report is being prepared.

Read more about the Binsted Tile Kiln in Worthing Archaeological Journal Volume 3 Number II May 2010 p3.

www.worthingarchaeological.org/journals.html

Study Day – 19th November Worthing Museum

David Rudling led a whole day school to explore aspects of life in Sussex during the Roman period (AD 43-410). He examined: historical sources, the 'Conquest' of Claudius,

the client kingdom of Togidubnus, the Flavian Palace at Fishbourne, the tribal civitas capital at Chichester, other nucleated settlements, villas, peasant farmsteads, field systems and farming, roads, industry, religion and burial practices. These topics were considered from the perspectives of both the Romans and the native population.

It was an excellent day, thank you David.





Lecture Programme

November 8th 2022 — Worthing College

The Con Ainsworth Memorial Lecture by Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA, Senior Archaeologist, Archaeology South-East (a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology)

The vision for this exciting project started back in 2009 when Simon investigated Richard Page, a serving British soldier who enlisted in 1915 but unfortunately lost his life with many thousands of other soldiers at the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

Simon's research led him to a location in the area of Newick, a field known as "Little Stiances" which was owned by a local land owner Fred Slater. Simon's charm convinced Fred Slater to grant access to Simon to dig at "Little Stiances"

Simon's children attended a local school where his wife also worked; a vision was born with the involvement of the PTA to use 230 children aged between 4 and 11 to do the dig.

The school kindly funded the geophysics activity to help ascertain the potential of the location. The children helped with the surveying - a lovely 3D image was produced compared to a 1766 map of the area. The scan showed that there was evidence of the cottage / farm house at the highest point of the field which was featured on the 1911 census but not again after that time, so what happened, no one seems to know? There were also raised platforms, large gardens, a sunken lane.

The cows that normally inhabit the field had to be relocated for each dig season. In 2010 the project started in earnest. That first season Simon had to beg, borrow and steal all the necessary equipment from marquees to toilets and tools. Simon was also unsure how the children would react

but he should not have worried as the children loved the digging and locating exciting finds including tiles, bones, nails, clay pipes, coins, buttons and pottery from various periods including Medieval, Victorian, along with struck flint from the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods.

In 12 years over 100 test pits have been dug with most of the success in the area of the cottage /farmhouse. In the lower levels little was found and the children weren't so keen to explore in those areas. Being children they found fun in working in the test pits, a competition saw 5 boys managing

to get in a pit 1m x 1m but the girls, being more sensible, got 9 in the pit by purely standing up!

Due to its success, Simon arranged an open day each year; in the first year 250 people attended, mainly parents with their excited children wanting to show them their test pits and finds.

In summary, Simon believes that in terms of academic significance, the recovery of Mesolithic flintwork was of particular importance, and fits a pattern of hunter/gatherer activity in the region based on the system of river valleys. The presence of 15th century pottery confirms the longevity of more permanent habitation at the site, arguably providing a date range for the earthworks.

However, further fieldwork will be needed at the site to confirm this hypothesis.

Alan Beazley





University of Sussex Archaeological Society — All online zoom talks start at 7.30pm
Wednesday 18th January 2023, Understanding the 'Near Lewes' Bronze Age Hoard
Speaker: Dr Jaime Kaminski (Sussex Archaeological Society)

Wednesday 15th February 2023, With a Mag[netometer] on Roman Farne Street
Speaker: David Staveley (Archaeological geophysicist)
email: admin@usas.org.uk; www.usas.org.uk

Sussex Archaeological Society

Marlipins Museum Christmas Fair - Fri 9th December 3pm – 8pm & Sat 10th December 10am – 3pm.

Tuesday 13th December (19.30)

Going loopy! Replicating Bronze Age Sussex Loops

An online talk by Dr Tess Machling and Roland Williamson about researching Sussex loops.

Fee: £5 non-members — Details and booking from: <https://sussexpast.co.uk/event/autumn-talk-sussex-loops/>

A Date for Your Diary

Sussex Archaeology Symposium 2023

Saturday 25th March 2023, Kings Church Hall, Lewes, 10am – 5pm.

Butser Ancient Farm

Friday 9th December (16.00-17.30/19.00-21.30)

Tales of Winter Magic - Venue: Butser Ancient Farm — Fee: Adult £16; Child £9

Details and booking from <https://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/whats-on/2022/12/9/tales-of-winter-magic>

Sunday 11th December (11.00-13.00)

Mead Tasting in the Saxon Hall— Venue: Butser Ancient Farm — Fee: £16

Details and booking from <https://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/whats-on/2022/12/11/mead-tasting>

Wednesday 21st December (14.00-16.00)

Winter Solstice Celebration

Gather in the Great Roundhouse to mark the shortest day of the year with an afternoon of storytelling and meditation.

Venue: Butser Ancient Farm, Chaldon Lane — Fee: £16

Details and booking from <https://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/whats-on/2022/12/21/winter-solstice>

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society

Back in the Unitarian Church New Road, Brighton- Start time 7-30 pm. The BHAS lectures will be live and not on Zoom.

9th December AGM at 7pm, followed by Janet Pennington (President) on
'An Archaeological childhood in Sussex.'

10th February

Mike Allen — New Evidence found at Cerne Abbas.

<http://www.brightonarch.org.uk>





Other Societies / Groups



Based in Pulborough, the Society has a variety of walks and talks which might well be interesting.
Email: enquiries@southdownssociety.org.uk



Chichester District Archaeology Society (CDAS) have made their talks available free on their YouTube channel see: www.CDAS.info



www.lissarchaeology.uk

Or email lissarchaeology@gmail.com



Worthing Heritage Alliance of which 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



Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society has a variety of events
see landscape-events@hantsfieldclub.org.uk



Butser Ancient Farm has launched ButserPlus: a way to enter the world of ButserAncient Farm online with professional video content. Details here:
www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/butser-plus



Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society
<http://www.brightonarch.org.uk>



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.

If you'd like to get involved please get in touch with the team: contact: Odile Rouard

email: brightonyac@gmail.com



Horsham and District Archaeology Group

horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk or 01903 872309



WEALDEN BUILDINGS
STUDY GROUP

Wealden Buildings Study Group

www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk





Worthing Archaeological Society



If you are already on Facebook and would like to join our closed WAS Facebook group, just ask to join on the Worthing Archaeological Society page

Easy Fundraising

If you shop online, do consider using Easyfundraising to make donations to WAS. Retailers give part of every amount spent to WAS, if you nominate us as your charity
<https://new.easyfundraising.org.uk>

Photo Archive

WAS is developing an archive of photos, accessible via the website. Past digs are already well covered, but if you have photos you can share, please send them to Theresa and Richard on theresa_in_brighton@yahoo.co.uk
 If they are not recent ones, 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.

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.

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 Donna

And finally a reminder

Subs for 2023 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



Merry
 Christmas
 and a
 Happy
 New Year