

# Worthing Archaeological Society

## Newsletter

February & March 2023

### WAS Field Unit

#### **Bignor Roman Villa Dig**

We may possibly return to this in 2023.

#### **Climping**

WAS folk visited on January 20th (at high tide..) and 27th. Well 1 was very visible and Mark and Malcolm uncovered well 2, despite very wet conditions.



#### **Malthouse**

July 10th – 23rd to continue our 2022 dig in the SW corner of the field, and to investigate possible houses on the east side of Church Lane.

#### **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.



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

### **Finds Processing**

Our Finds meetings next month will be held at the Slindon Shed on Thursdays 2nd and 16th February and 2nd and 16th March from 9.30 a.m. to about 12.30 p.m. when we will continue marking and recording the finds from last Summer's Bignor dig and then move on to those from Sompting. Bob will also be assessing and recording flint from Sompting at both sessions.

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: [ggmturner@aol.com](mailto:ggmturner@aol.com)

#### **Binsted Finds Processing Day Jan 25th**

18 WAS folk spent a busy day in the Museum Education Room, sorting and recording the last of the Binsted tile etc.

Thanks to James for making this possible.



### WAS Walks

#### **Saturday March 18th Slindon — Leader: Keith**

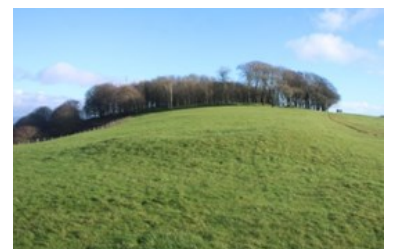
Meet at Bignor Hill carpark at 10am. Tour of ancient monuments in northern part of Slindon Estate. Bring coffee and lunch. Warm clothing. Libation to the recently departed.

#### **Saturday April 1st Sompting— Leader Connie.**

Meet at Bramber Green, at 10am, walk to EPIC across the fields then walk back through Sompting village and drop in on the Malthouse. Possible pub visit across the road at the Downlands or Gardeners, if they are doing food by then.

#### **New Year Walk**

A goodly group of WAS folk walked between Cissbury and Chanctonbury on January 2nd. It could not have been a better day, the sun shone, the views were lovely and it was only muddy in places.





## Lorna Cherry



It was with much sadness that we received the news that WAS member Lorna Cherry had died at the very end of 2022. Lorna had been a member of WAS since 2015 and despite being confined to a wheelchair, managed to take part in many WAS activities. Since most (probably 90%) of the archaeological activities needed to produce a report do not require getting into a trench, Lorna was able to contribute to many aspects of the archaeological process.

We first met Lorna in 2009 while we were all students at Sussex University Centre for Continuing Education, studying part-time for a BA in Landscape and Archaeology. Lorna enjoyed the intellectual challenges and emerged with a first class honours degree. However, access to a university campus constructed on a steep slope presented many obstacles but Lorna refused to be beaten. Every week she did battle with the disabled parking provision hoping that at least one slot would be free with enough side space to be able to get her

wheelchair out beside the car. She managed to attend many site activities including visiting the Barcombe training site and arranged a wheelchair adaptation which enabled her to traverse the rough slope.

After graduation, Lorna embarked on a masters degree with Kingston University to study Geographic Information Systems. Lorna had an excellent first year but sadly declining health meant that she was not able to complete the course but she was able to use the knowledge gained for a number of organisations including HDAG.

At this time Lorna shared her home with a flock of parrots which she cared for as tenderly as any parent with children. She tended their ailments of itching feathers and bumble feet, provided spacious accommodation with beds and toys, arranged outdoor access and structured play activities and the best nutrition. The parrots were superb mimics so Lorna had to watch her language. One had managed to reproduce Lorna's phone voice of "yes,,,,mm,, I see...mm.. yes " etc to the point that it was hard to know who was speaking!



When we visited Lorna, the parrots would go silent over lunch, the parrots enjoying a postage-sized tuna sandwich each while we and Lorna had the standard size.

Lorna's mobility declined in the last few years but an electric wheelchair and a ramp entry vehicle kept her mobile and out and about. She visited the Malthouse dig this last summer and refused our offer to bring the finds over to show her but made her way across the field to the finds tent. The same technology enabled her to drive her partner, Simon Stevens, to Newcastle in July last Summer where he collected an award for the Youth Engagement Project of the Year for The Stiances Archaeology Project at the Council for British Archaeology Marsh Community Archaeology Awards 2022. Her last visit to a WAS activity was in November when she drove through wind and rain to deliver Simon to give the Con Ainsworth memorial lecture on the subject of the Stiances project.

Life threw many challenges at Lorna but she met each one with stoicism and determination, if not always to overcome an obstacle, but to use everything in her power to make the best of a situation. She amassed a considerable knowledge of disability rights and was willing to share that knowledge and act on behalf of others to improve their lives. We were honoured to have such a friend; caring, kind and so very brave.



**Susan Howe and Connie Shirley**





### 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.

#### **Spring 2023 Lecture Dates — At Worthing College**

##### **February 14th**

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

##### **March 14th**

AGM at 7pm (see flyer at end of Newsheet)  
Followed by Amie Friend: Women in Archaeology

##### **April 11th**

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

##### **Day School – date for your diaries:**

at Worthing Museum on Saturday 13th May.  
Barb McNee on Pottery – early Neolithic to Late Iron Age.

#### **University of Sussex Archaeological Society**

All online zoom talks start at 7.30pm

##### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

With a Mag (netometer) on Roman Farne Street  
Speaker: **David Staveley** (Archaeological geophysicist)

##### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

Secrets of the High Woods –South Down Heritage  
Revealed.

Speaker: **Anne Bone**

email: [admin@usas.org.uk](mailto:admin@usas.org.uk); [www.usas.org.uk](http://www.usas.org.uk)

#### **Sussex Archaeology Symposium 2023**

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

Programme and booking details from <https://www.sussexarchaeology.org>

### Project Initiation Training Course

#### **Presented by Keith Bolton—Saturday 4th February 9.00 am – 2.00 pm**

Slindon NT Base Camp, Top Road, Slindon BN18 0RG—Classroom and Outside activity

If you are a member of WAS and ask yourself why does the Field Unit investigate a specific site or if you are interested in knowing how the project is planned and then undertaken – this is the course for you.

It will cover all the activities that take place before any field work starts and we will be visiting a site (weather permitting) and putting some of the concepts covered in the morning into practice.

On the course we will go through:

- Identifying potential sites
- Research Questions
- Logistical considerations and issues
- Permissions required
- Field work approach to be adopted
- Post Excavation and Archiving
- Dissemination of information
- Health & Safety
- Finance

Fee : £15.00

Please let Donna Wiltshire and Keith Bolton know if you would like to join— [donna.wiltshire@sky.com](mailto:donna.wiltshire@sky.com); [keithbolton14@gmail.com](mailto:keithbolton14@gmail.com)



## **Lecture Programme**

### **December Lecture - James Brown National Trust Archaeologist London & South East Region.**

#### **‘National Trust South Downs – Past and Future’**

James began by sketching out his role from early in 2020, as National Trust Regional Archaeologist, covering Hampshire, Sussex and Surrey, especially as it relates to the South Downs. He is a Consultant to all the N.T. properties.

This is a very diverse area.

All the landowners provide opportunities for local organisations, etc., to get out and archaeological. James says it is very exciting to see the depth of activity these organisations have.

He gave instances of the CDAS Citizen archaeology at West Wittering, WAS at Slindon Stableyard, Drovers Estate (Mark Roberts’ project, where, among other things, students from Portsmouth University have been doing drone training.)

James also talked about Heritage crime which takes up a lot of his time, especially recently with the Covid restrictions. There is a ‘Disc’ app from the Sussex Rural Crime Team. You have to sign in so information is shared. They want to encourage as many folk as possible to join. (Try <https://sussexalerts.co.uk>) One problem is that, during the pandemic, people were removing gates as they are ‘touch points’ – it also makes for easier access.

He mentioned Cissbury Ring where a digital interpretation trail has been put in – in conjunction with James Sainsbury – which has won a national award. It links the Museum Collection with the landscape where it was found.

James also showed us some Strava heatmaps to illustrate how people’s engagements with certain sites can be recorded.

He also talked about Nature and Archaeology. A joint approach is very important. Nature recovery is not trying to turn the clock back, but to make the right land management decisions.

The Changing Chalk Landscape Partnership Scheme, with HLF money, and the NT as host (although they only own about 4% of the land in the scheme) will run for 4 years, mainly in the East of our County. There are 18 interconnected projects being set up. The aim is to bring together the populations living near the area, in projects like restoring dew ponds, restoring chalk grasslands, etc.. There will be some archaeological involvement.

Two big projects are ‘Monument Mentors’ and ‘The Downs from above’.

Monument mentors will be able to assess damage to monuments, their vulnerability, e.g. to vegetation, agriculture, metal-detecting, barbecues....

Under the Downs from above project there is to be an ‘Adopt-a-Monument’ scheme across the entire South Downs and the Project will establish a framework for monitoring sites.

Gary Webster is the contact for this [gary.webster@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:gary.webster@nationaltrust.org.uk)

James gave us a outline of a variety of projects/surveys across our area, and a lot to think about.

**Liz**





### January Lecture - Bob Turner: Longitude.

Despite the rain and the many cold and flu viruses affecting our members, a good number of people came to hear Bob's talk on Longitude at the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre.

Bob explained the measurement of longitude through an illustrated story of scientific problems and rewards. The story involved sensible determined characters, some fanatical but unhinged, and some dishonourable and corrupt people throughout the ages.

Longitude came into particular consideration when ships began voyages across oceans where early navigators couldn't rely on estimating their vessel's heading using the aids on hand at the time. The inaccurate methods of resolving the problem of longitude on oceanic sea crossings out of sight of land sometimes ended in tragedy and huge losses of life. Bob described the disaster of 1707 'one of the worst maritime disasters in British Naval history' when 4 warships were wrecked off the Isles of Scilly because of the inability of calculating their position during rough seas, where approximately 2000 sailors lost their lives. The shipwrecks happened returning home, setting sail from Gibraltar to Portsmouth. The Commander in Chief of the British Fleet, Admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovell on HMS Association was amongst the dead.



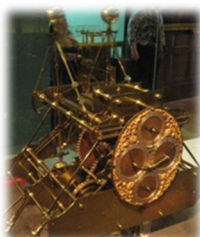
It was because of this dreadful disaster that the question of determining longitude became of vital importance. The Longitude Act of 1714 with a huge reward attached, known as the Longitude Prize, created a mayhem of theories and complicated solutions by scholars and others after the 'money' -£20,000 (equivalent to £2.96 million in 2020.) Bob told us about the worst villain of the race for power and wealth Nevil Maskelyne who was the 5th British Astronomer Royal from 1765 – 1811. Bob said that we could 'Boo and Hiss' whenever his name was mentioned. He created the British Nautical Almanac of Lunar Theory tables as a method of determining longitude and winning the Prize. In the meantime a contender for the Prize, John Harrison, a carpenter and clockmaker and hero of the story, was working on a reliable clock method. Maskelyne did everything he could to thwart, hinder and defeat Harrison's claim as the first and most accurate method of establishing longitude at sea.

Harrison introduced his first sea clock (H1) to the Board of Longitude in 1730, after working on the design for five years. H1 was given a sea trial in 1736 on a ship bound for Lisbon. It lost some time on the way there but performed well on the return journey. But as it was not the ocean voyage ordered by the Board, Harrison went on to develop the H2. He discovered an error in the balance mechanism of H2 which guided him to design the H3. Bob showed us photos of the 3 clocks that can be seen in the Royal Observatory at Greenwich. Finally, Harrison, after designing 3 very big sea clocks, realised that a modest watch could be made specifically for the task of an accurate marine time keeper (H4.) The Board of Longitude decided that the H4 watch should be trialled on a voyage from Portsmouth to Jamaica which was a success, although the Board demanded another trip before a conclusion could be made. This delay in the trials meant that Maskelyne, who was on the Board, could finish his Lunar Tables and grab the Prize. Harrison managed to get King George III to test his H5 watch at the Palace which was a resounding success. As a result, finally, at the age of 80, John Harrison was awarded £8,750. Unfortunately not the official reward which has never been given to anyone.

Bob closed his lecture by telling us that as chronometers became more affordable and accurate, most of the ocean sailing navigators had stopped using the lunar distances method of calculating longitude by 1850, although the British Nautical Almanac was still in print.



Sir Cloudesley Shovell  
(1650-1707)



H1



H2



H3



H4



John Harrison (1693-1776), English clock-maker





### **Congratulations to Vicky on her Certificate.**

Not quite the oldest student in town!

Having been involved in Archaeology at a practical amateur level since 2007, I had always intended to formalise my knowledge with academic study, but had also always found a reason not to; not the right time, too busy with the children, etc, etc. As with many other people, the year 2020 made me re-evaluate many things in life, including to stop making excuses and just get on with it!

I had been aware of the reputation of the University of Leicester's Distance Learning degree courses and, although I researched several other providers, they often required attendance at the University at some time during the course which would not be practical for me (University of Oxford and Cambridge both had offerings like this). I finally settled on Leicester's 100% online course in Archaeology. Although I have studied since A levels for professional qualifications at work, I had not ever studied 'academically' to this level, and so I initially decided to only sign up for the Certificate level to make sure this was something I could actually even do (alongside a not insignificant factor of the cost of the courses). I opted to study part time over 2 years as I was also working in the 'day job' and juggling family commitments alongside my studies.

The Certificate level mandatory modules covered Aims and Methods in Archaeology, Early Pre-History, Later Prehistory, Introduction to Classical Archaeology, Medieval Archaeology, and then my own choice of module, The Archaeology of Egypt and Nubia.

I will not deny studying alongside other commitments is a huge challenge, particularly the quantity of independent reading required alongside the set texts. At the same time as my studies were taking place, we also welcomed to our home a new puppy, went through various Covid 19 lockdowns, and, of course, I took part in the various digs at the time with WAS and any other archaeological activities I could find time for. Looking back at it now I am not sure how I squeezed it all in, but the fact is, if you want to achieve something badly enough you will find time for it.

I have learnt so much in the last two years, and I was particularly pleased I was able to focus on my interest in ritual and burial throughout many of the modules as the list of assessment essay questions often included these areas as an option to answer. The assessments for each module were not just an essay but tested your ability in other ways. I have learnt how to create an object biography, design an academic poster (didn't even know it was a thing), draw a Harris Matrix, draft a wiki entry, to name but a few.

I am pleased to report that my work seems to have been generally well received by my Tutors, having attained a standard between Very good - Excellent for my assessment efforts. But the same refrain was echoed by each; 'this is not referenced', 'where is the reference for this' etc, etc. Each time I thought I'd cracked it – sigh.

Two years on I have just attended a graduation ceremony at the University of Leicester and have been awarded my Certificate in Higher Education in Archaeology. It was exciting physically visiting the University for the first time on graduation day. I was convinced I'd be one of the oldest students there, and my nerves at attending the ceremony went up further when, on collecting my gown, I was told I was the only one at my level collecting an award that day. I then sat in a row all on my own, convinced they would forget all about me, as I watched all the bright young things going up on stage being awarded their Masters or Degrees. But I needn't have worried, I wasn't the oldest student there (what a relief), they didn't forget me, and I got my moment on the stage.

Vicky Lillywhite





## 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](mailto:enquiries@southdownssociety.org.uk)

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



Wednesday 22nd February 2023 (19.30)  
Chichester & District Archaeological Society – The Future of Archaeology in Sussex  
A talk by Dr Matt Pope  
Venue: New Park Centre, New Park Road, Chichester  
Fee: £5 non-members  
Details from <http://www.cdass.info/Lectures.html>



[www.lissarchaeology.uk](http://www.lissarchaeology.uk)  
Or email [lissarchaeology@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.worthingheritagealliance.org.uk)



**Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society** has a variety of events  
see [landscape-events@hantsfieldclub.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/butser-plus)



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

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

10th February Mike Allen New Evidence found at Cerne Abbas.



**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](mailto:brightonyac@gmail.com)



**Horsham and District Archaeology Group**  
[horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk) or 01903 872309



**Wealden Buildings Study Group**  
[www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk](http://www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk)



**Sussex Archaeological Society**  
<https://sussexpast.co.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](mailto: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.

### And finally a reminder

Subs for 2023 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](http://www.worthingarchaeological.org)

**The Worthing Archaeological Society is a registered Charity (291431)**

Please note: our email address is: [worthingarchaeological@gmail.com](mailto:worthingarchaeological@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.

### 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](http://www.worthingarchaeological.org)  
 Thank you Donna

### Items for next News sheet please to

Liz, as above, or  
[liz.13lane@gmail.com](mailto:liz.13lane@gmail.com)







# Worthing Archaeological Society

Registered Charity No. 291431

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at Worthing College, 1 Sanditon Way, Worthing BN14 9FD at 7.00pm

A lecture on Women in Archaeology by Amie Friend, a Member of the WAS Fieldwork Team and founder of Time Seekers – History and Archaeology Education for Schools and Museums - will follow the AGM at 7.30pm.

### Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM
3. Chairman's Annual Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of the Independent Examiner
6. Field Unit Report
7. GDPR
8. Election of Officers and Committee listed below
9. Any other business

### The Officers and Committee members are standing for re-election.

President	Mr John Mills
Chairman	Mr Keith Bolton
Treasurer	Mrs Patricia Leming

### Committee members:

Mr Roy Plummer (Life Vice President), Mrs Liz Lane (Membership Secretary), Mrs Gill Turner (Finds Officer), Mrs Connie Shirley (Field Unit Lead), Dr Jacqueline Lake (Day Schools organiser), Mrs Theresa Griffiths (Lecture Organiser & Website Lead), Ms Amie Friend, Mr Brendan Wyatt (Safeguarding Lead), Mr Nigel Rumble (Lectures), Mrs Vicky Lillywhite (Assistant Field Unit lead), Mrs Jennie Williamson (Assistant Finds Officer), and Mrs C Hutchins (Editor, Journal)

A full set of finance accounts and the minutes from last year's AGM will be submitted as a PDF to the membership. If you would like a printed copy, please let Mrs Lane know by email – [liz.13lane@gmail.com](mailto:liz.13lane@gmail.com)