

Worthing Archaeological Society

Newsletter

February & March 2025

Just a gentle reminder

Thanks to those that have, but for those of you who haven't paid yet, Subs for 2025 are due

£30 for ordinary members, £10 for full-time students.

Feel free to pay by standing order or BACs (details on request).

WAS Field Unit

Burpham Big Dig

We will be returning to Forge Field in the Spring. The plan is to open two trenches over two or three long weekends. All subject to getting landowners permission.

Malthouse/Whitehouse

We are hoping to start looking at what we think is a well cut and well and some of the area in the SW corner on Fridays in the Spring.

Highdown

James Brown, of the N.T., has given permission for a 2-week dig in July 2025 during the Festival of Archaeology, involving the Museum, WAS, UCL and the N.T.

Flint Sessions in the Museum.

12th February, from 10.30 to 1.30.

This will be our last session until the Museum re-opens.

Finds Processing in Slindon

6th and 20th February and 6th and 20th March. We will be processing last year's Sompting finds. Bob will also continue the assessment of the Upton Collection flint.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to attend any of these meetings, as attendance will be limited to 14 people per session.

Please remember to bring your own drinks and wear or bring extra layers of clothing as, despite some heating, the shed is very cold! ggmturner@aol.com

2025 Lectures

In the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre, 7.30 to 9pm.

- **Tuesday February 11th**
 - John Pull Memorial lecture—James Sainsbury on the Burpham Big Dig
 - Last August WAS joined with Burpham Residents, Students and Museum friends to excavate in Burpham and Wepham
- **Tuesday March 11th**
 - AGM at 7pm
 - Followed by Dr Matt Pope on the Neanderthal People of the English Channel
- **Tuesday April 8th**
 - Amie Friend will talk on the Smugglers of the South East
 - Theresa has produced our Lecture Programme in full – look for it at Lectures and on our website



Chris Lane

Very sadly Chris passed away on January 23rd. Chris was admitted to hospital but despite all their efforts, he didn't make it. It has been a huge shock to the whole society community & his beloved family. Chris leaves his loving wife, Liz, his two children & a treasured granddaughter. Chris has been a huge part of WAS since joining in 2008 & he will be hugely missed with everything he got involved in, from repairing & transporting the equipment, erecting the tent, metal detecting the many spoil heaps & supporting Connie with the Total Station. He was a lovely & generous man, with a great sense of humor, always smiling and friendly. He will be missed by us all, but especially by the Finds Team.



USAS Online Lecture

• **Wednesday 19th February 2025**

- The bio-cultural history of the rabbit, brown hare, and domestic cat
- Speaker: **Dr Sean Doherty (University of Exeter)**
- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1132516359919>
 - Sussex School of Archaeology and History

<https://www.sussexarchaeology.org/>

Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society

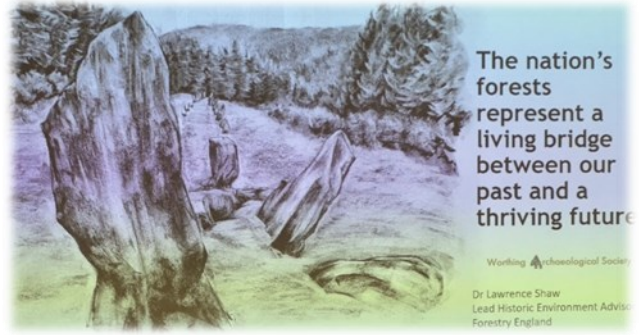
• **Friday 14th February**

- **BHAS Lecture – The Smallhythe Excavations**
- Speaker Nathalie Cohen – Venue Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton, start time 7-30 pm.
- Fee: Non-members £3
 - Details from: <http://www.brightonarch.org.uk/6.htm>

December Lecture

Rooted in History, Branching into the Future: The Story of the Nation's Forests

Dr Lawrence Shaw – Lead Historic Environment Advisor for Forestry England



Lawrence is from Worthing and an archaeologist, currently being the lead historic environment advisor for Forestry England. Lawrence has worked and published on archaeological sites in Britain, Greece, Spain, the Cook Islands, and Easter Island. Lawrence is a host and co-creator (together with Derek Pitman) of the archaeology podcast Career in Ruins. He has also appeared on multiple episodes of the online revival spin off of the British Archeological TV programme Time Team, also appearing on the BBC Radio 4 programme Gardeners' Question Time.

The Forestry Act of 1919 came about due to Britain having only 5% of its original forest cover left due to the enormous use of timber in World War 1 and the government at that time wanted to create a strategic resource of timber. The first trees planted were in Eggsford Forest in Devon.

In 1923, the Forestry Commission became responsible for the first two Royal Forests in the New Forest & the Forest of Dean.

During World War 2 Britain was at risk of a wood shortage due to the huge demands. The country consumed one third of the nations timber to satisfy the needs of war. At this point the Government took control via the Ministry of Supply.

In 1981 the Wildlife & Countryside Act balanced forestry with conservation policies.

In 1988 the first archaeological consultant, Professor Peter Fowler was engaged as it was realised that this was necessary due to the amount of archaeology being found within the forests.

Today Forestry in England is broken down into three bodies:

- Forestry Commission Statutory body, felling licenses, guidance & regulation, grants
- Forestry Research GB's principal org supporting sustainable forestry
- Forestry England Curators of the nations forest & England's largest land manager

Forestry England today:

- Over 1,500 forest in England covering 250,000 hectares
- Shaping landscapes for people, wildlife & timber
- 1,800 miles of trails
- Supplying England's largest amount of sustainably sourced timber
- Caring for important habitats, wildlife & historic environment assets

Types of sites Forestry England look after:

- Listed buildings (82)
- Scheduled monuments (752)
- World Heritage sites (4)
- Conservation areas
- Registered parks & gardens (28)
- Registered battlefields (2)
- Protected military remains of aircraft
- Close to 100,000 undesignated sites & monuments

Digging deeper into our past, Forestry England's forests has physical & geographical evidence of habitation & structures dating from the Paleolithic & Neolithic periods into Roman occupation right through to 20th century wars.

2 major Paleolithic sites:

- Lynford Water, Norfolk where the remains of multiple mammoths, hyena, deer & other herbivores have been found along with a variety of flint tools. Forestry England have developed a visitor area to engage the public with nature & history
- Wye Valley has Merlin's Cave & King Arthur's Cave where the countries earliest human remains were found dating to between 15.2 & 14.6 thousand years ago. Animal & flint tools were also found nearby



11 Neolithic sites in England:

- Stretching from the North to the South of England
- Long Barrows very prominent throughout
- Unique Pit Alignment site in Yorkshire

Examples of the Bronze Age include:

- Settlements
- Stone Circles
- Rock Art
- Barrows

West Woods in Wiltshire has recently been established as the site where there is an exact chemical match to the majority of sarsen stones found in Stonehenge.

In October of 2024 the third largest standing stone was found near Matlock in Derbyshire, it is set above a natural spring & a stone paved surface. Carbon dating analysis is in progress & it is hoped to prove that this will be proved to be a newly discovered stone circle.



Examples of the Iron Age include:

- Hillforts
- Square Barrows
- Industry (iron & stone)
- Banjo Enclosures

Roman Britain examples can be found in the forests in:

- The Lakes District – The Hawks & Ennerdale
- Northumberland
- Alice Holt

Examples of the Saxon period locations include:

- Mott baileys (ringworks)
- Offa's Dyke
- Mercia (Marlborough in Wiltshire)

Examples of the Norman period locations include:

- Forest of Dean
- New Forest



Examples of the Medieval period include:

- Royal hunting forest & associated infrastructure
- Rabbit warrening (Yorksire & Thetford)
- Ennerdale (upland farming)
- Mining
- Contested borders
- Glass works
- Ship building



Examples of the Post Medieval period include:

- Big Houses
- Industrial Revolution
- Parks & Gardens



Wartime

32Km of surviving training trenches can be found in the New Forest

Operation Nightingale was established in 2011 to assist the recovery of wounded, injured and sick military personnel and veterans by getting them involved in archaeological investigations. Today they work closely with Time Team



Leaving our legacy

During the 1920's an ambitious project began, the construction of Kielder Forest, village & resevoir in Northumberland which was the start of building Western Europe's largest manmade forest



The Forestry Commission - 100 years of history, 300,000 years of stories.

January Lecture

The Myth of the Minotaur and the Archaeology of the Minoans

Sarah Green—Joint Director of the Sussex School of Archaeology & History, the 'Keeper of the Keys' of Bramber Castle, co-founder of the University of Sussex Archaeology Society and a Practitioner of the Chartered Institute for Archaeology

Mythology

Sarah started by talking about King Minos of Crete – was he a man or a myth? Some early excavations were done to see whether he existed.

The story begins with Zeus who, disguised as a bull, lured Princess Europa to be his mistress. Their eldest child was Minos, who was said to have controlled the seas. As such he had to be kind to Poseidon. Poseidon sent Minos a bull to be sacrificed, but Minos sacrificed one of his lesser bulls. As a punishment, Poseidon caused Minos's wife to fall in love with the bull and mate with it. The result was the Minotaur who had the head and tail of a bull, and the body of a man. Daedalus is said to have built a labyrinth for the Minotaur to hide in. Theseus is said to have killed the Minotaur, with the help of Ariadne, Minos' daughter.



In Greek the Cretan double axes are labrys, so it's possible that labyrinth refers to these.

We don't know what the Minoans called themselves. The Egyptians called them Keftiu, which has various meanings.



The first Excavators were Minos Kalokairinos, who found tombs in 1878, and Sir Arthur Evans from about 1900. Evans bought the Knossos area. He had seen sealstones on markets, coming from Crete, which led him there. He excavated Knossos, and made some alterations/rebuilding which led to some criticism, though it made it interesting and attracted publicity.



Others who excavated about the same time were Duncan Mackenzie (with Evans from 1903), John Pendlebury (from 1929) and Harriet Boyd Hawes, an American who dug at Gournia in 1902.

Duncan Mackenzie was the equivalent of a Site Supervisor today, a meticulous draughtsman, one of the first professional Field Archaeologists. He left Crete in 1926. Evans published the Knossos excavation in 5 volumes, relying heavily on Mackenzie's notes.

John Pendlebury produced an excellent book 'The Archaeology of Crete' in 1939.

Topography

There are 3 areas on Crete – the sea, the plains and the mountains. At its narrowest the Island is 14 km wide. There are 3 dominant mountain ranges, caused by the movement of tectonic plates. The area is still susceptible to earthquakes. It has no natural mineral resources, producing grain, growing vines and olive trees.

There is some Mesolithic evidence in obsidian flakes, which must have come from the island of Melos as there is no obsidian on Crete.

Colonisation

Possibly by the first Hunter-gatherers being blown off course? Or by planned migration?

There are 4 main early sites: Debla, Vasiliki, Fourni Korfi and Myrto Pyrgos.

In the Bronze Age, tools were bronze (an alloy of tin and copper). There are lots of theories as to what led to the development of monuments.

A Palace's function was very important – for the centralised storage of agricultural wealth from the surrounding area, control of incomings and outgoings, for example sealstones.

The first palaces, e.g. Knossos, Phaistos, dating from about 1900BC were destroyed by fire or earthquake by 1700 – 1650BC. There is no evidence of any attacks.

Palace features were monumental, they had no defensive walls. There was a Central Court with a secondary Court to the West. There was evidence of food storage, grand staircases, 'royal' quarters, areas for entertainment and ritual, cult rooms.....

Knossos occupied 14,000m² or 3½ acres, Malia 7,000m². There seem to have been lesser sites, e.g. Galatas, Gournia – were these also Palaces? They played an economic role in their administrative area, with shrines etc. Were these local elites?

There were also small towns, such a Paleokastrisa, also small palaces with a surrounding town. Maybe these towns or villages were holiday areas?

There is a vast amount of Minoan architecture across the whole island.

Cretan arts were pottery (the potters' wheel had been invented), terracotta, bronze statuettes... There was architecture, sculpture and frescoes. Kamares ware had light-on-dark and dark-on-light and nature scenes, and in the later period, patterns based on sea-life – maybe after a tsunami? Snake Goddesses, rhytons are familiar Cretan features.

The main palaces looked to the mountain ranges, there were peak sanctuaries on the tops.

It had all ended by 1450BC. Ideas about how or why include earthquake (e.g. the Thera eruption), rebellion, invasion by the Myceneans. It might have been a combination of all of these.

Liz

[Luke Barber's Pottery Day Saturday January 18th 2025](#)

Luke covered Pottery from Late-Medieval to the 20th Century.

Transitional – 1375 – 1525/50

Due to the Black Death, there were big changes in Sussex. High-Medieval pot disappeared, there were fewer potters. It's hard to pin-point transitional pot in rural areas in the late 14th Century.

Large pottery industries fragmented, but continue, for instance, Ringmer and Rye. The trend was for harder-fired, less decoration and finer pottery. Coarse fabrics disappeared. In West Sussex flint had mostly gone – Binsted was an exception.

Wares were mostly sandy – bunghole pitchers and pipkins appeared.

By the 15th Century there were new kilns in Sussex. They were producing plain jugs, wide strap handles, as well as cooking pots or jars. By now, fireplaces were used for cooking rather than open fires. Metal vessels became more common – they were for cooking, ceramics were for the table. Local earthenwares were copying German imports, e.g. the start of thumb-frilled based pots.

Black and white painted ware was becoming common in West Sussex – earthenware tempered with medium sand, as in Graffham and Binsted. White slip decoration was painted on. Glazing was rare, and only on the inside.

Sometimes oxygen in the kiln was reduced which produced dark grey/black pot.

In the 15th to mid 16th Century earthenware was made with sparse sand, hard-fired.

Jugs, jars, pitchers had wider forms and some unusual rim forms. Dishes appear such as chafing dishes. Costrels – water bottles for travellers, sometimes called pilgrims flasks – with loops to take a strap, kept in basketwork containers. Also strainers, colanders, mugs, candlesticks. Glazing was still patchy, and inside.

95% of the assemblage would be local, but there was some material from Surrey, e.g. red pottery, white wares, with similar forms. Glazing was more common there.

Imports were Dutch redware during the 15th Century – more common in East Sussex – reached W Sussex by the 16th century. There were rare Spanish imports, e.g. olive jars, high status wares. Also very rare, and high status Italian tinglaze. Stonewares were appearing from the Rhineland, e.g. Siegburg. Also Raeren – thick salt glazes. Pottery came in from Cologne, Aachen. Cooking pots etc. were not affected by status, but tableware was.



Early Post-Medieval c1550 – 1750

Decorative techniques such as incised lines continued, as well as rouletting, moulded decoration, encrusted. The general trend was for lower-fired, more sandy and better glazed pots. There was a continuation of small-scale local pottery sites.

Jars, dripping dishes, pipkins, chamber pot as well as dishes, bowls and porringers were made. Still normally inside glazed only.

There were sugar-refining vessels such as moulds and syrup jars in redware, mostly coming from London. They produced cones of sugar.

A variety of wares came in from other places, such as Staffordshire slipwares, Jackfield wares. By now the very rich were using Chinese porcelain.

Tin-glazed earthenwares came to the UK in the late 16th Century. They were initially trying to copy Chinese porcelain.

London stoneware in the late 17th and 18th Centuries was copying Frechen.

There were the beginnings of industrialised wares.

Imported wares came mainly from the Low Countries, but also from all around the Mediterranean. There were well-fired flasks from Beauvais, Italian tin-glazed drug jars.



Late Post-Medieval 1750 -1900 and beyond

This was the start of industrialised wares. Decoration, e.g. incised lines, were lathe-turned or engine-turned.

We in this country started to export pottery for the first time.

Sprigged and moulded decoration continued.

Post 1750 local red earthenwares dropped out because the new decorated wares were cheaper and easier to use.

Local potters specialised now in flower pots and larger vessels because they were expensive to transport – bread binsm butter jars. From the 19th Century onwards there were brown teapots, all glazed. Yellow-ware was typical e.g. yellow mixing bowls – (almost all of us have them, they are still on sale!)

English stoneware developed in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries. There were lots of producers – e.g. mineral water bottles, spirit bottles, ink bottles, preserve jars.

Creamware, such as Wedgwood was common after 1760.

Blue transfer prints came in from the late 18th Century.

By 1745 the first English porcelain was made in London, and there were minimal imports.

Luke showed us assemblages of pottery from Ropetackle from about 1840 – a complete mix of all wares, lots of blueware.





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



Sussex Archaeological Society
<https://sussexpast.co.uk>



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.



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
www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk



Worthing Archaeological Society

UK GDPR: UK General Data Protection Regulation

Please can you refresh your memories by reviewing this document, which can be found on the Society's website under Documents / Policy / Privacy Notice.

If any of your contact details have changed since you completed your WAS Membership Application Form, please advise the Membership Secretary, Liz Lane.

Many thanks Donna



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

And finally a reminder

Subs for 2025 are due on January 1st - £30 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

Please note that at the 2024 AGM it was agreed to increase subs to £30 from January 1st 2025. Please update your standing orders / direct debits if you pay that way.

The Worthing Archaeological Society is a registered Charity (291431)
Please note: our email address is: worthingarchaeological@gmail.com

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



Worthing Archaeological Society

The John Pull Memorial Lecture

James Sainsbury

Archaeologist and Archaeology Curator at Worthing Museum
and Art Gallery

The Burpham Big Dig



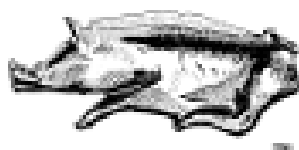
The community excavations in Burpham parish in West Sussex focused on the excavation of test pits in the gardens of 31 properties over the period 10th – 23rd August 2024.

The Big Dig project was undertaken by members of the Worthing Archaeological Society, residents and Worthing Museum staff, along with a small number of student volunteers. The objective of the Burpham Big Dig was to further enhance our understanding of the historic development of Burpham, Wepham and Peppering. The project aspired to bring these communities together and increase both local and general interest in the incredible history of the South Downs.

Tuesday 11th February 2025

Worthing Library Lecture Theatre 7.30pm – 9pm

All visitors are welcome, entry £4. Members free



worthingarchaeological.org

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 at 7pm on

Tuesday 11 March 2025 in Worthing Library Lecture Theatre, Richmond Road, Worthing, BN11 1HD

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	John Mills
Chairman	Keith Bolton
Hon Secretary	Elizabeth Lane

Committee members:

Roy Plummer (Life Vice President), Connie Shirley (Life Vice President and Excavations), Gill Turner (Life Vice-President and Finds Officer), Cheryl Hutchins (Life Vice President and Journal Editor), Alan Beazley (Hon Treasurer, Charity Commission), Liz Lane (Hon Secretary, Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor), Theresa Griffiths (Lecture Organiser & Website Lead), Amie Friend (Schools Liaison), Vicky Lillywhite (Assistant Field Unit lead) and Jennie Williamson (Assistant Finds Officer), Donna Wiltshire (Study Days), Sarah Brewer

Patricia Leming is standing down from the Committee.

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

Worthing Archaeological Society

AGM 7pm and Lecture 7:30pm Tuesday March 11th 2025

Dr Matt Pope

The Neanderthal People of the English Channel: Adaptations, Encounters and Extinctions

Dr Matt Pope, archaeologist based at UCL Institute of Archaeology, leads excavations in Britain and Channel Islands. He studies Ice Age prehistory of northern Europe to understand early human cultures pushing at the limits of their range, adaptations underpinning our species success and current challenges.



La Manche, also known as the English Channel, boasts landscapes from the Ice Age. The area, spanning southern Britain and northern France, offers a treasure trove of early human artifacts—ranging from isolated items to significant accumulations of many thousands of finds. Through these discoveries, including rare human remains, we unravel the story of Neanderthals, their culture, and their adaptive success, right up to their potential extinction due to interactions with *Homo sapiens*. This lecture delves into this fascinating record.

Worthing Library Lecture Theatre

All visitors are welcome, entry £4. Members free



worthingarchaeological.org

Forthcoming events from the Sussex School of Archaeology and History (SSAH) and the University of Sussex Archaeological Society (USAS)

Wednesday 19th February 2025: USAS ONLINE LECTURE

The bio-cultural history of the rabbit, brown hare, and domestic cat

Speaker: Dr Sean Doherty (University of Exeter)

This lecture will present new research that overturns the received wisdom on the timing and circumstances of the rabbit, brown hare, and cat's domestication and their European dispersal. It will also chart these species shifting relationships with people through time, as pets, pests, and divine creatures.



Further details and booking available [here](#)

In-Person Event

Saturday 22nd March 2025, 10am - 4pm

"Thames Mudlarking, Searching for London's Lost Treasures"

King's Church Hall, Lewes, BN7 2BY

Run in association with the Society of Thames Mudlarks, this event will 'showcase' the extraordinary range of historical finds (prehistoric to modern) recovered from the Thames foreshore. There will be 20 mudlark exhibitors displaying their finds, and a repeated lecture will explain what Mudlarks do and find. This event will be of great interest to people of all ages (including school children) who are interested in archaeology and/or history. No need to come all day, drop in for an hour or two, see the exhibitions, view the recorded lecture, and visit the archaeology bookstall.

