

Worthing Archaeological Society

News sheet

WAS Field Unit

By the time you read this, the 'dig' at the Malthouse Field, Sompting, has started. Tuesday 28th, we set up, tent up, trenches marked out....so maybe we have time for a little furtleVal and Jim, Professionals as they are, started on a square near the flint building:



Not a bad start.

Digging officially starts on June 1st, but we have 2 extra days for those who are free: May 30th and 31st. The last day will be June 15th.

Do let us know if you can join in, and when.

We will be on site each day from 9.30am until about 4pm.

Please note that you do have to be a fully paid-up Member of WAS to join in.

We also have a £5 day rate.

connieshirley1@aol.com

liz.13lane@gmail.com

Slindon Stable Yard.

Looking for a reason to get your trowel out in August and September? We have been asked by the National Trust to complete the plan and section drawing of the southern wall (with the arches) of the former Slindon House Stable Block, including the area with possible loose boxes along the southeast and west sides which were inaccessible back in 2012/2013. Many of you may remember the work done by WAS under Peter Brannlund and John Green and the excellent research by John resulting in a report

June – July 2019

submitted to the National Trust and which also appeared in the 2014 WAS Journal.

Briefly, the stable block was built along similar lines to those at Goodwood, Petworth, Wiston, Parham and Arundel early in the nineteenth century by the Earl of Newburgh and was destroyed by fire in the 1960s.

Our work will take place on Saturdays from 3rd August through August and September until it is finished. Please bring your trowels to clear the mud and weeds from the surface, and if section drawing interests you, come along and learn how to draw a whole wall from our expert Bob Turner. We will ask for volunteers after our dig at Sompting and hope you will turn out with the usual WAS enthusiasm. Cheryl

Finds Processing

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

Next meetings will be Thursday, 20th June
Thursday, 4th July

Thursday, 18th July is cancelled as we will be at Worthing Museum on the Binsted Pottery Project

Thursday, 1st August

Thursday, 15th August



ggmturner@aol.com

Surveying

The focus of Friday activities is on keeping our skills going and enjoying being out in the open air.

For those folk who are available on Fridays, we are able to continue to dig at Malthouse Field after the official dig ends.

If you would like to take part, email Connie on connieshirley1@aol.com

Lecture Programme

Lectures are held in the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre at 7.30pm.

October 8th

Connie Shirley

The Malthouse Field at Sompting –

Investigation of Building Remains.

WAS has investigated the building remains in Sompting Paddocks which may be part of a malthouse and farm complex known to be on this site in the 17th Century.

Excavations have taken place over three years and a chalk-lined well and further flint walls have been found. Finds recovered include pre-historic flints and pottery from the late Neolithic to the present day. We present a review of the site in the landscape and findings to date.

November 12th

Carolina Rangel de Lima, Finds Liaison Officer - Sussex

'The Portable Antiquities Scheme'.

The PAS promotes best practice by finders, landowners, archaeologists and museums in the discovery, recording and conservation of finds made by the public. Carolina is the Finds Liaison Officer for Sussex and will talk about some of the recent finds recorded in our area. She may also bring along a selection of artefacts for handling at the end of the session.

December 10th

Mr John Mills

Archaeologist WSCC and President of Worthing Archaeological Society

Researching the life of a bridge: Old Swan Bridge and the Arun river crossing at Pulborough, ancient and modern.

How do you research the history and changing life of an ordinary small local road bridge? This talk uses archaeology, topography, geology, transport and local history to study the archaeology and history of Old Swan Bridge at

Pulborough, built in the 1780s. Previous bridges and river crossings on its site, from Roman Stane Street onwards, the bridge builders and rebuilders, flood and bridge authorities, and the villagers of Pulborough all come into the picture.

Gordon's Day School, 4th May

Gordon gave us a very thorough explanation of Roman Pottery - form, fabric, texture, colour, origin – from the late Iron Age to the Roman Period. We learnt to identify local, regional and imported pottery.



There were some very familiar pieces, from local Potteries such as Rowlands Castle, and some from much further away. It was very well illustrated, and we all enjoyed the sorting sessions in the afternoon.



Photos from Vicky L.

WAS Study Days 10am – 4pm

8th June Judie English 'Food and Feasting' Day School in the Barn, Lambley's Lane.

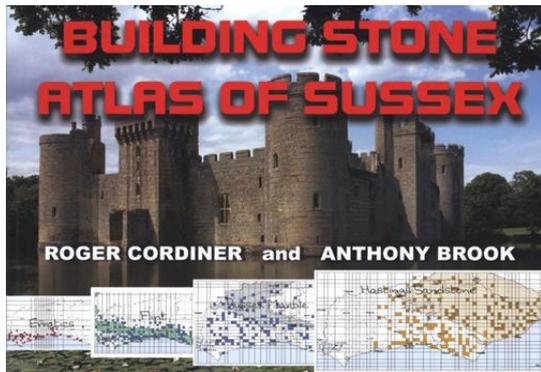
Full details at the end of the Newsletter.

23rd November Simon Stevens 'The Archaeology of Death and Commemoration' – Museum Education Room.

Please contact Patricia Leming
p.leming@btinternet.com
if you wish to attend either of these days.
£25 for WAS Members. £30 for non-Members.

April Lecture
'Medieval Building Stones in Parish Churches of the Worthing Area'

Our final lecture of the Spring 2019 programme was provided by two speakers Roger Cordiner and Anthony Brook. Roger and Anthony are experts in the field of geology and have studied, taught and lectured on the subject for many years.



They have both recently written and published a beautifully illustrated and detailed book 'Building Stone Atlas of Sussex'.

The aim of the talk was to describe the identification and description of the building stones used in Medieval churches of Sussex of which there are 302 in Sussex and 55 within our area.

Roger began the Lecture by showing a map of the underlying geology of the South East of England revealing that Sussex has four specific geological areas - the coastal plain, the South Downs, the greensand belt and the central Weald. He explained that by examining the building stones of medieval churches in our area we can learn about the local geology and, in addition, the origins of the early building stones that were used.

Roger told us that there are over 50 types of rock used to build the churches in Sussex mostly being of local origin and some imported from other areas of Britain as well as from abroad. He showed us a chart of the different types of building stone from local Tertiary and Cretaceous geology time scale periods and exotics and erratics from the Quaternary, as well as imported stone from the Isle of Wight,

Dorset and Normandy. He presented a map which demonstrated the relationship between the church building stones and the source or locality of the quarries as well as the routes of distribution, for example the navigable rivers Adur and Arun.

Anthony Brook added further insights on the topic, enhancing our enjoyment with anecdotes throughout the talk and finished the lecture with an extremely useful matrix format to add to our understanding of distribution patterns. Roger and Anthony's lecture was thought provoking and entertaining- an excellent way to finish this seasons programme. Their accumulated experience and knowledge in the subject of building stones is remarkable.

Theresa G

Judie English excavations at Steyning.

Several WAS Members went just before Easter to join Judie and HDAG folk to investigate an area to the east of Steyning Museum There were many Finds, of many periods, but no evidence of structures.



Some of the pottery found.

(Photo from Vicky L)

Amberley

The society was asked by local historian Bob Hutchinson to undertake geophysical survey on a field which has been designated for surfacing as a local car park for Amberley village. The survey team carried out magnetometry and sample resistivity surveys on a cold wet day and felt fully justified in sampling the offerings of the excellent local café. The results seemed to indicate drainage and former fencing associated with the previous use of the field as horse paddocks. So nothing interesting was found but we had the opportunity to hear about Bob's latest book about Henry VIII and keen historians can find out more at Bob's forthcoming talk in London. See

<https://www.sal.org.uk/events/> for the 5th November 2019 talk.

[GDPR](#)

[WAS Data Protection and Privacy Notice Update](#)

The Society has updated its Privacy Notice to include 'WAS members' details are provided for Society business only and should not be used for other purposes without the explicit consent of individual members for that alternative purpose.

This Privacy Notice can be viewed on the WAS website.

If any of your details – address, post code, telephone number(s), email address, or Gift Aid option - have changed since you filled in the form last year, please would you let us know. Many thanks.

[Museum Object Handling](#)

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

[Project to record all Sussex War memorials](#)

If you are interested in this, a joint East Sussex/West Sussex Project, please look at eastsussexww1.org.uk/take-part

[Brighton Museum](#)

Has an excellent new 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 on sale after 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](#)

Articles for our 2019 Journal are welcome. Send to our Editor, Cheryl, on hutchincheryl@hotmail.com

[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, where possible.

[Archaeology Walks for 2019](#) with Alex Vincent.
Meet at the Resource Centre (Davison House) Car Park, North Street, Worthing, BN11 1ER on Monday evenings at 6.45 for 7 PM.
June 3rd Sullington. Church, village and manor.
June 10th Saddlescombe. Old manor and donkey wheel
June 17th Black Rock, Brighton. Ancient sea cliffs and Palaeolithic site.
June 21st. Summer Solstice – meet at the Spotted Cow in Angmering to join the Sompting Morris at 7pm, or meet on Highdown about 8pm.
June 24th Benfield, Portslade. Norman manor, old barn and Anglo-Saxon burial ground.
July 1st. Botolphs, Bramber. Deserted Medieval Village, church and old bridge.
July 8th Park Brow, Sompting. Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British sites.
July 15th Michelgrove, Clapham. Hamlet, house, clock tower and site of windmill.
July 22nd Franklins Green, Ferring. Old hamlet.

July 29th Jefferies Lane, Goring. Old cottages and village pumps.

August 5th Sheepcombe, Findon. Medieval manor house.

August 12th Beach House, Worthing. Palaeolithic site. As this is the last walk, if it is raining, we will meet in a pub.

Contact Alex on alexeklipsing@gmail.com

[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 £2.

Wed. 4 September Ian Everest: The Women's Land Army

[Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society](#)

BHAS Summer Outings

7th July 2019 – Salisbury

11th August 2019 – Chatham Dockyard

Full details on BHAS website.

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

To book for either Salisbury or Chatham, please enclose a cheque for **£30 per person (BHAS member)** or **£35 (non-member)** made out to BHAS and send to:

Margaret Carey
27 Quebec Street,
Brighton,
BN2 9UZ

Please be sure to include: your contact details, including email and phone number; and your preferred pick-up point – Patcham, Old Steine, Hove Town Hall or Holmbush for Salisbury, and vice versa for Chatham dockyard.

[Horsham and District Archaeology Group](#)

horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk or 01903 872309

[Sussex Archaeological Society](#)

<https://sussexpast.co.uk>

[Liss Archaeology](#)

Colemore. We are planning a big test pit project up there in the autumn 19/9 to 14/10. More diggers required plus finds processing, drawing, recording etc.

Other events; Alton Big Dig 13th July to 28th July;

More information is available from

lissarchaeology@gmail.com

www.lissarchaeology.uk

[CBA Southeast](#) runs lots of Archaeological events, workshops, etc.

www.cbasmouth-east.org

[Chichester District Archaeology Society](#)

activities@cdas.info

[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

[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 2019 were due on January 1st - £25 for Ordinary members, £10 for full-time students. Many thanks to all those who have paid already.

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)

A day school with Judie English on Food and feasting, 8th of June 2019

The day will be held at the idyllic Downs Barn Sompting between 10am and 4pm. We will look at food and feasting from the days of *Homo Neanderthalensis* to the Late Medieval/ Early Tudor period and will consider the relationships between food and social culture.

‘Feasting’ usually involves food provided in surplus and consumed wastefully. The giver both proves his wealth and status by accessing exotic ingredients and having them made into dishes which show that he has good taste and employs the best chefs, and creates a debt owed by his guests. Having demonstrated his superiority those guests either have to reciprocate in kind (or even better him) or accept public humiliation. Feasts are often part of socially important events – marriage treaties for example.

We are hoping to try out some ancient recipes, however there will be the normal midmorning coffee/ tea breaks provided and please bring a packed lunch.

Cost for the day £25 for members. To book a place contact Patricia p.leming@btinternet.com or Jacqui at jacqueline_lake@hotmail.com

Downs Barn directions

: <https://sompthingestate.com/app/resources/documents/www.sompthingestate.com/Downs%20Barn%20directions%20v050615.pdf>

