

Worthing Archaeological Society

News sheet

We wish you all good health. Take care and get those trowels and boots shining ready for their next use.

Coronavirus - WAS activities and events will resume as soon as it is safe to do. We will keep you posted.

Fieldwork Health and Safety Form

In the light of the current situation, the form has been revamped. It is our best attempt at a way forward at present. A copy is on our website under Documents/Policy. Many thanks to Patricia for her work on this.

Field Unit

EPIC Project

Some site-walking has been done, and we hope this project can continue, possibly in July. The Project Plan is being finalised, thanks, Connie.

This is part of our proposed site.



MALTHOUSE

Connie is working on the Project Plan and write-up of work already done. A new (17th Century) map has come to light – seems we were 1m from the building on this map! It might be possible to keep to our August plan for this – we will keep you informed.

GDPR

If any of your details e.g. 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

June – July 2020

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

Many thanks. Patricia

Study Day

Saturday 14th November – Dr Ben Jervis,

Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, Cardiff University

Understanding Medieval Pottery: Binsted in context

Over the past few years WAS members have been working hard to record the nationally important assemblage of medieval pottery from the Binsted kiln site. The aim of this Study Day is to review the results of the analysis of the data generated by WAS, and to place Binsted into the wider context of pottery production and consumption in medieval Sussex. The day will comprise 2 lectures; one providing an overview of the results of the work undertaken by WAS volunteers and another on medieval pottery production and consumption. There will also be an opportunity for WAS members to (re)acquaint themselves with the Binsted material and to explore possibilities for further research into the trade and use of the Binsted pottery using the Worthing museum collections. This study day will be held in Worthing Museum Education Room, Chapel Road, Worthing. It will start at 10 and finish at 4pm with a lunch break and coffee breaks throughout the day. The cost is £25 for WAS members and £30 for non-members.

If you are interested please contact Patricia Leming: p.leming@btinternet.com

WAS at Climping, March 2020

Climping Storm Surge

With only seven of the ten plagues left to go, one plague has provided a great opportunity to the Archaeological Society. I refer to the Great Flood Of Climping. This occurred in March

when the combination of heavy rain and a very high tide was opposed by a strong south westerly wind. This resulted in a storm surge over-topping the sea wall and defences at Climping.



The land west of the river Arun is very low-lying and was, before man's intervention, part of the

flood plain whilst the coastline was a further half mile south.

The village of Atherington has long ago disappeared but the storm badly damaged the modern sea defences thus exposing the foundations of some of the original village buildings.

Later wartime defences built on top of the C17th and C18th sea walls have



also been washed aside amply demonstrating the power of the sea. The resulting exposure of this new coast line has provided a great opportunity for an archaeological investigation. Sadly the second plague has taken hold and we are now confined to barracks.

However before lockdown a group of the Society's members along with Matt Pope and James Kenny managed an afternoon walk around the newly exposed waterfront. The exposed outcrops provided some wonderful evidence of previous occupation and industry, the sad part being that this new coastline is being ravaged by detectorists with the argument that the "new foreshore" is no longer private land but is Crown Land and therefore open to all.

These pictures illustrate the damage done to the sea defences and the distance inland that the sea travelled.



Sodden WAS members examine the new sea cliff.



Ancient and modern sea defences swept aside by the waves.

Chris Lane

[Martin and Gilly Simons dig a test pit.](#)

At the end of April, enterprising WAS Member Martin, and Gilly, dug a 1metre test pit in their back garden.

Their dig was fully reported on WAS Facebook, and is now also on the WAS Website: worthingarchaeological.org

If you've never seen a perfect test-pit, see below!

Flints to gladden the heart of our many Prehistorians.

Martin says: 'Our house is built on what was a very large World War One army camp in Shoreham, existing from 1914 to 1919. It covered an area of farmland from west of Buckingham Park then east along the north side of Upper Shoreham Road as far as Southlands Hospital and stretched northwards on the Downs to beyond what is now the A27. Up to 20,000 recruits were housed here at any one time!'

That made digging interesting.



Beautiful section.



Back-filling (Martin is kneeling!)

SOME THOUGHTS ON A PREVIOUS PANDEMIC

Me being me, I have just finished reading 'The Plagues of London' by Stephen Porter, published in 2008, which reminded me that it ties in with rough field-walking that I have done over the decades on the block of Downs between the Arun & Adur especially the Western half.

At several of those sites Luke Barber identified for me the pottery that came to light after ploughing, which indicated that the sequence stopped around the date of the Black Death in the 1340's and then generally commenced again at least a century later.

The sites now either have the odd modern

building adjacent or none at all, and where there are existing villages or farm complexes only excavation would establish sequences of occupation, as they may now be pasture. The sites field walked were Lower Barpham, Lee Farm (leper settlement?), Chantry Bottom, Cobden and Muntham. There appeared to be no similar settlement pattern on the Downs to the east of Cissbury, which would possibly be associated with different land tenure? The sites abandoned on this side appear to be around the periphery to the north of the scarp slope and down the west side of the Adur valley.

<https://ancientmonuments.uk/114093-deserted-medieval-settlement-at-lower-barpham-farm-angmering#.XpWZe8hKiUk>

Although peripheral, coastal plain/Arun valley sites such as Poling, Warningcamp (daughter Chapel to Lymminster), Lymminster, South Stoke, North Stoke (the field used for pony jumps to the east of the Church used to suggest the presence of dwelling platforms), Arundel Town and the scarp slope settlements such as Sullington also may demonstrate the same aspects of partial abandonment as Burpham/Wepham, Upper Barpham, Myrtle Grove, Patching, Clapham and Findon. Burpham/Wepham are on either side of a chalk spring stream but all the timber framed buildings surviving are 1450+ on stylistic grounds. Interestingly a retired roadman who grew up in Burpham mentions a tractor partially sinking into a hole in the field to the north of the parish church and when they looked into the hole after the tractor was extracted there was what looked like a lead coffin therein which they were instructed to backfill and cover up. This is not now consecrated ground but as there was a squint provided in the church for the leper colony perhaps they had a separate subsequently forgotten burial plot.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1027657>

Upper Barpham was partially excavated in 1952/56 and some material from the small medieval church has been used in the buildings of the present farm.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1015882>

Myrtle Grove consists now of a later farm complex housing various small commercial units.

The precursor to the 50-room Tudor mansion of the Shelley's at Michelgrove appears to have also been a small settlement.<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/sussex/vol6/pt1/pp10-21>

Patching & Clapham again have no timber framed buildings earlier than the Black Death but Church House's hall at Clapham has been dendro-dated to 1374 and I noted before the area now used for pony jumps between the rear of the houses on the north side of The Street towards the Church was levelled, they showed characteristic 'croft & toft' features, confirmed by David McComish, (pers comm).

Holt to the east of Clapham once housed 23 souls.

Findon is interesting as the Church is now separated from the present High Street by a considerable gap to the east where The Gun Inn is - at least late 15thC. In my wilder days, hopping over the fence to walk the ploughed field north of the drive to the church, between it and the A280, revealed again a similar group of medieval pottery which might indicate that the original settlement was situated there as well as in the dry valley or moved completely subsequent to the Death. <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/sussex/vol6/pt1/pp20-34>

Looking at the corpus of interpretive surveys of timber-framed buildings from the more substantial settlements of Steyning, Arundel, Storrington, and Angmering there are noticeably very few pre-Black Death timber framed buildings, an example being the high status Old Priory adjacent to Bramber Castle. Nevertheless in the later houses constructed, there are several instances of earlier timbers being reused in their construction especially in the roofs.

Along the Scarp Slope spring line there are the surviving remains of several pre-Black Death high-status aisled dwellings such as at Sullington Manor Farm, and further along Duncton & Cocking.

A burgeoning of the population at the turn of the 13thC coupled with the cultivation of marginal areas and successive bad harvests made

communities much more vulnerable before the Death which resulted in estimated population loss across Europe of at least a third, with the resultant knock on effect of a steady change in the structural organisation of society thereafter, leading to the upheavals of the 16th& 17th centuries.

Obviously we have not reached anywhere near the extremes of the post WW1 influenza epidemic, depending on what happens in refugee/war zones and especially Africa in the coming months but much greater worst scenario research co-operation must be put in place, as other types of mutating disease are inevitable in the future.

On the South Downs Folk Singers website there is a song we sing related to the conditions the soldiers and sailors experienced on returning from the Napoleonic Wars 'The Hard Times of Old England' whose last verse looks to better times, 'keep on singing'

<http://southdownsfolksingers.blogspot.com>

John Crane

Dr G. W. Winsor BSc, DK, FRIC

Geoff, who sadly died in early March, was President of WAS in 1967/68, and a member of WAS Committee until the mid-70s.

He celebrated his 97th birthday with a party in the Hospital, with his family. There was a birthday cake, and Nurses sang. He and wife Audrey were in their 70th year of marriage. He worked at the Glasshouse Crop Research Institute in Rustington. His research focussed on tomatoes and he was involved in producing several books on the topic.

Our condolences to Audrey and family.

What will I do for Archaeology during Lockdown?

The Open University has a series of free Archaeological Courses on its 'Future Learn' website.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/subjects/history-courses/archaeology>

The CBA have made a large number of their publications free to download during the present situation.

<https://new.archaeologyuk.org/books-and-publications>

An article in the recent e-newsletter of the British Association for Local History suggested that we could apply our research skills to the current crisis and collect information for historians in the future

<https://www.balh.org.uk/news-daddy-the-treehouse-is-wobbling-or-local-history-in-lockdown>.

British History Online has made all its subscription only content freely available for a limited period. This includes access to the Calendar of Close Rolls (1244 to 1509). You can use the index to search for a place name, so it is worth doing. See

also <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/using-bho/local-guide>.

Heritage at Home YouTube presentations by Jo Seaman, Heritage Manager of Eastbourne Borough Council.

The introduction to these presentations is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kq9lCeKytY8>

The first subject is about the Anglo-Saxon heritage of Eastbourne, titled Sleepers under the Hill

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEDS_n6oi2w

Virtual visits can be made to various Museums. I enjoyed revisiting the Pitt Rivers Museum www.prm.ox.ac.uk

The British Museum – search for this! National Library of Scotland – especially good for its pairing of current maps with older OS maps.

www.nls.uk/digital-resources

More Virtual visiting:

Stonehenge, The Roman Baths at Bath, Historic England shipwrecks, Brading Roman Villa....lots of them.

Those of you who read Current Archaeology have all these details.

There is a fascinating account of the 1959 excavations at Nonsuch Palace on Youtube.

Sussex Arch Soc

If you are interested in helping Sussex Archaeological Society to digitise Sussex Archaeological Collections, then follow this link:
library@sussexpast.co.uk

Help our Record Office document these unprecedented times

Covid19 Local Archive

West Sussex Record Office has started to create a countywide archive of the effects of this pandemic, particularly personal diaries, memories and images of the lockdown period. They are looking for volunteers to take part in contributing to the archive. All they want you to do is keep a diary (on paper or as a video) recording your individual experiences, whether you're working to support residents, have been seconded to another area to help out or you're having to undertake your day job from home, they want to hear from you all. They would also like your help in collecting any other material that you might come across.

The diaries and papers will be kept alongside other pandemic related records, which will be catalogued, stored, and ultimately available to the public for research.

You can find out more about taking part by visiting their blog post

<https://westsussexrecordofficeblog.com>

If you have any queries please email the organiser Martin Hayes at

martin.hayes@westsussex.gov.uk

CDAS has published four Reports on their involvement at Petworth in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Very interesting to WAS Members who have dug there, also to anyone who knows the Estate.

<http://www.cdas.info/Reports.html>

or on our website:

<https://www.worthingarchaeological.org/publications.html>

Current/World Archaeology

WAS has been given 2 boxes of these magazines – from about 2012 to date. If anyone would like to have some/any/all of these, please contact Liz.

WALKING INTO HISTORY.

Archaeology walks for 2020.
Alex Vincent.

Aug 3. Lyminster. The lost Roman and Medieval drove roads. M.

Aug 10. Upper Beeding. Remains of salterns. S.

Aug 17. Hill Barn and Halewick, Sompting. Farm and site of Bronze Age hoard. M.

Aug 24. Hightown. Site of Medieval windmills. M.

Sept 7. Worthing, a fishing history

As this is the last walk, if it is raining, we will go to a pub for a final gathering.

S = short walk, M = medium walk and L = long walk.

We meet at the Resource Centre (Davison House) Car Park, North Street, Worthing, BN11 1ER on Monday evenings at 6.45 for 7 PM. Route maps on how to get there will be given on the day. A fee of £2 or £3 for petrol money to the drivers from the passengers is recommended. A donation is payable to the Resource Centre for the walks and all are welcome. After the walks, we go to a pub for refreshment.

ARCHAEOLOGY WALK MEAL.

We have a yearly get together for a meal in the autumn. This will be at The George V Toby Carvery, Goring Road, Worthing on Monday October 26 at 6.30PM. We also celebrate the Winter Solstice at the Grand Victorian Hotel opposite Worthing station on December 21 at 8 PM.

Any enquires my telephone number is 07753282714 after 2 30 PM on weekdays

WAS Archive.

Connie is currently Curator of our Archive. Thanks to Roy Plummer and Jackie Phippard (widow of Norman), we have a good collection of Sussex Archaeological Collections, starting from the very first.

A date for your diaries.

Saturday 10th October 2020 (10.00-17.00)

A joint CBA South East and Sussex Archaeological Society conference –

[Archaeology and Climate Change](#)

This conference will include the CBA South East AGM.

Venue: King's Church, Lewes

Further details to follow.

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

Feel free to use your current free time to consider writing an article for the Journal. Cheryl, our Editor, would be delighted to hear from you.
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.

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 2020 were due on January 1st - £25 for ordinary members, £10 for full-time students. Many thanks to those who have paid already, especially those who have paid by standing order, or by Bacs.

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)

