

Worthing Archaeological Society

News sheet

August – September 2017

Fieldwork

Rough Copse - an amateur writes:

I have often wondered why the ladies of Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society wear Empire Line dresses, carry parasols and posies, whilst the ladies of W.A.S. wear denim bib and braces, hard boots and stoop. The answer is that East Sussex archaeology is on the surface whilst ours is much deeper. Much much deeper, so deep that within a couple of days all you can see is the occasional head and a rising bucket. This year's dig was no exception. Depths were delved and dug until the ground's mantle became warm, and, of course, the diggers as well. The site was picturesque, with sun-dappled woodland, a gentle breeze and the wonderful marquee offering a safe shelter (luckily not really needed for shelter this year). Connie, as always, hit the trench on the head and located us in the site with precision. There then followed the brute force of Henry, Colin and Richard et al who can dig for Britain, or in this case for Australia. Down down down with nary a find to slow the pace but gradually the predicted ditches began to take form. There were some finds, lots of cartridge cases and a 10p coin, oh and some wonderful bits of pot which, rumour has, Henry keeps about his person, not a lot of it but enough for the experts to date the site. A good dig in beautiful surroundings with too many nibbles but great company and an even greater team effort with back filling.



So next year it's sand, never mind what the archaeology is or what the site holds, as long as it's sand, sand we can cope with.

Chris L

Finds Processing

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

The next meetings will be on Thursday, 5th and 19th October, and Thursday, 2nd and 16th November

We have benefitted this year by talks in the Slindon shed from Bob on flint, and from Gordon on the pottery from Field 20. Gordon also helps us with our knowledge of CBM so we can do our own reports after digs. We are very lucky to have such expertise in the Society.



If you are interested and not already involved, please contact Gill.

Ggmturmer@aol.com

Surveying

We start at around 9:30 each Friday and finish mid-afternoon. Anyone interested in taking part in these works, even if you only want to come occasionally, let Connie know at connieshirley1@aol.com.

Our Friday activity in Malthouse Field, Sompting, has – to no-one's surprise – turned into another very interesting project, for which we need more time.....(Shades of the lime kiln).

The original plan was to investigate the surviving flint walls of a small 'building' – about 8' by 4' in old money. That was last June.



With expert guidance from Connie, since then we have uncovered a well, lined with very beautifully carved chalk blocks, other flint 'walls' (some beneath others), a distinctive area of burning, and a lot of pot, some of it from the 13th and 14th centuries.



So we are planning to return next year. Back-filling has been done so that horses can graze again, but we'll be back. There is a lot more to be found.



WAS Walk – Our annual 'Brenda' Walk.

On Sunday 15th October a 1.5 hour easy walk around historic Littlehampton with Cheryl Hutchins. Meet at 2pm at St Martin's Car Park, Littlehampton town centre (off Franciscan Way, turn right and car park is between the back of Sainsburys and the front of Littlehampton Tyre & Exhaust Centre. Do not follow the road around to the left as it will lead you to the one-way system and out to sea).

Cheryl, who has played a starring role with WAS portalos....., will wait by the lavatory block, in the middle of the car park.

St Martin's Car Park: Charges 80p for 1 hr, £1.60 for up to 2 hrs, £2.40 up to 3 hrs, £3.20 up to 4 hrs, £7.00 over 4 hrs.

There will be libations.....

Lecture Programme 2017 - 2018

In the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre at 7.30pm.

October 10th

Gordon Hayden on "Iron Age Memory vs. Roman Metaphor; re-reading the archaeology of a Client Kingdom."

This is the Con Ainsworth Memorial Lecture. There will be wine and hot drinks afterwards..

November 14th

James Sainsbury on "Evidence for Saxons in Post-Roman Sussex"

James will be bringing some finds from the Highdown Cemetery for handling after his talk.

December 12th

Nigel Rumble on "The life of an English Soldier in the English Civil War"

WAS Social

7.30pm on Friday 24th November, at the Gardeners' Arms in Sompting.

There will be quizzes and a buffet.

Tickets, £10 a head, to include the buffet, available at Lectures and/or from Committee Members.

WAS Study Day

Saturday 25th November – Place-names in the Landscape

A morning session will be led by Judie English on 'Place-names in the Landscape and how they were derived.' This will be held from 10 – 1pm in the Education Room at Worthing Museum.

Cost £15 for WAS Members, £18 for Non-Members.

If you would like to attend this Study half-day, please contact: Patricia Leming by email:

p.leming@btinternet.com

(Apologies to Bob Turner and to Patricia. Patricia's report on Bob's Flint Day was left out of the last Newsletter.)

Saturday 17th June – Flint-knapping Study Day led by Bob Turner

Seventeen of us spent a fascinating day in the very special setting of the Downs Barn in Sompting. Led by Bob and with Gill providing expertise on a viewing of the Upton flint collection, we sat under gazebos for protection from the sun and knapped happily to our hearts' content.

Bob's aim was for us to produce a flint tool kit which during Neolithic times would have consisted of at least 9 different types of tools. All members of the family would have taken part, with the younger

ones learning knapping skills from their elders. Essential for skinning animals to provide food, fashioning wooden implements and so on, flint continued to be used prolifically until the Bronze Age when the use of flints decreased with the introduction of metal.

This was very much a 'hands on' demonstration as was evident from the amount of plasters needed during the flint knapping process, flint being an extremely sharp material!

Connie brought along a deer skin which a few brave souls amongst us (not me!) applied their newly fashioned blades to.

Towards the end of the day, Bob gave us all a lump of flint and tasked us (in 20 minutes!) with the job of fashioning a flint tool of some sort. We then went round to each person to say what type of tool we had made and what it would have been used for.

We learnt a lot and had a great time and many thanks to Gill and Bob for their tuition and for everyone who made it such a splendid day.

Patricia Leming

Saturday 30 September – The Bronze Age

David McOmish's study day will be reported in the next Newsletter.

Worthing Museum Talks

James Sainsbury is giving a series of talks in the Museum on Thursday evenings, from 6.30 to 8.30., coffee, tea and wine, plus object handling, included.

Leaflets are available in the Museum.

To book a talk, please contact 01903 221448 or email the Museum: museum@adur-worthing.gov.uk

£7.50 per talk, or book all eight and get two free.

Thursday 12th October, Sussex in the Stone Age – from Mammoths to Monuments

Thursday 19th October, Bronze Age Worthing – Barrows, Beakers and Hoards

Thursday 26th October, Cissbury Ring and Worthing's Iron Age

Thursday 9th November, Roman Sussex – Legions, Roads and Villas.

Thursday 16th November, Saxon Worthing and the Kingdom of the South Saxons

Thursday 23rd November, Norman Sussex – Conquest, Castles and Towns.

Thursday 30th November, The Coming of the Railways.

Thursday 7th December, Photographic History of Worthing.

Windows on the Pier

Our two commemorative Windows are being designed by Siobhan Jones.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this.

We are hoping that the windows will be installed by the end of November/beginning of December – we will let everyone know the dates when we have them.

CBA South-East Conference – Lewes 7th October – see flyer at end.

Newsletter

If anyone has 'electronic copies' of the Annual Journals pre: 2014, that were not on the old website, it would be great to put them on the new website as they include WAS reports and photos from past excavations and other excellent articles. Theresa
theresa_in_brighton@yahoo.co.uk

Annual Journal

Articles for the next one will be very well received. Cheryl's email:
hutchincheryl@hotmail.com

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.

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 Oct Shepherds of the South Downs
Ian Everest

Wed. 1 Nov Sussex Industrial History
Geoffrey Mead

Horsham and District Archaeological Society **Monday 30th October at 7-30m.**

'Recent Archaeological Work in Sussex and Beyond' A talk by Simon Stevens "it's been a busy time!"

Venue Beeson House, Southwater, RH13 9LA.
All welcome, members free, non members £3.

For further information please contact
horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society Winter Lectures

The lectures take place at the Unitarian Church,
New Road, Brighton BN1 1UF.

Talks begin at 7.30pm. BHAS members have
free entry, non-members £3.

October 13th

Jo Seaman - *'Eastbourne Ancestors – A story
of life from bones of the past'*

Jo is the Heritage Officer at Eastbourne
Borough Council and organised the Eastbourne
Ancestors project. The aim was to identify the
gender and age of each skeleton in its
collection. Detailed scientific analysis of more
than 300 skeletons of people who lived in the
south of England thousands of years ago has
undertaken by scientists and archaeologists.
Testing of the bones and teeth has identified
the national or regional origins, age, gender,
state of health, diet, and in some cases, how
they died.

November 10th

James Bromwich – *'The Garum and Salt
Industry in Northern Gaul during the late Iron
Age and Roman periods'*

Garum is a condiment made from the
fermented blood and innards of selected fish.

Being a condiment, it was something which
was added to food after cooking, much as we
might use soy sauce or tomato ketchup - it was
the diner who used it, not the cook. James will
discuss the French Garum industry and
particularly that of the Atlantic coast during the
Late Iron Age and Roman periods.

Saturday 28th October - BHAS Local History
lecture - Brighton Rock, Brighton Crime -
Speaker Geoff Mead - Venue United Reform
Church, Blatchington Road, Hove - Start time 2-
30pm

Sunday October 1st - Geoff Mead Walk - Old
Hove and Cliftonville by lamplight - (TQ
283043) Meet at 6-00pm at the King Alfred car
park entrance.

USAS Lectures

Wednesday 11th October - - Heritage Crime -
Speakers Daryl Holter (Sussex Police) & Edwin
Wood (PAS & SAS) –

Wednesday 15th November

The Sally Christian Lecture USAS
Ivan Donald Margary:

*An Officer, Gentleman, Scholar and
Philanthropist*

Speaker: Dr David Rudling, FSA, MCIfA
Venue ARTS A1 lecture theatre (near library),
University of Sussex. Start time 7-00pm

Liss Archaeology

[http://www.archaeology.co.uk/digging/fieldwor
k/the-colemore-project.htm](http://www.archaeology.co.uk/digging/fieldwork/the-colemore-project.htm)

Sussex Archaeological Society

<https://sussexpast.co.uk>

Eastbourne Natural History & Archaeological Society

Meetings are held at 7.30pm at St Saviours
Church Hall, South Street, Eastbourne
Members free. Visitors £2.50

Friday 20th October: 'Romans in the Ouse
Valley' - speaker David Rudling.

For details

www.eastbournearchaeology.org.uk

Chichester District Archaeology Society

For their activities:

www.cdas.info

And finally a reminder

Subs for 2017 were due on January 1st - £25 for
ordinary members, £10 for full-time students.

Thank you very much to those who have
already paid.

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.

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

The Worthing Archaeological Society is a registered
Charity (291431)

**CBA South-East Conference 2017: 'Breaking new ground' and engaging
in the past - a celebration of archaeology in the South-East and beyond
Kings Church, Lewes, East Sussex: Saturday 7th October 2017**

CBA South-East is celebrating its 25th anniversary during 2017 and brings together presentations from a range of exciting speakers and topics covering that period – and beyond.

<i>Arrival, registration, and coffee</i>	9.15
David Rudling (Vice-Chair, CBA South-East)	10.00
Introduction to the day	
Edwin Wood (Sussex Finds Liaison Officer)	10.10
20 Years of Treasure: a Retrospective on 20 Years of PAS in the South-East	
Chris Stringer (Natural History Museum, London)	10.50
The Global Picture: What is new in human evolution?	
<i>Coffee</i>	11:30
Matt Pope (UCL, Institute of Archaeology)	12:00
Palaeolithic Hunter-Gatherers in South-East Britain	
<i>Lunch</i>	12.40
<i>CBA South-East Annual General Meeting</i>	13:10
Paul Bennett (Canterbury Archaeology Trust)	13.40
CAT (Canterbury Archaeology Trust) at 40 – beyond 25 years	
Casper Johnson (East Sussex County Council)	14:20
Curating our Archaeological Heritage: Recent and Future Developments	
<i>Coffee</i>	15:00
Carenza Lewis (University of Lincoln)	15:30
Public and Communities in archaeology	
Mike Heyworth (Director, CBA)	16.10
Challenges, successes and ambitions	
Questions	16:50
<i>Close</i>	17:00

Tickets – Lunch included in the price

£26.00 for CBA South-East members and students, £30.00 for non-members

For further details and booking information, please visit our website at

<http://www.cbasouth-east.org/events/cbase-annual-conference/>

or email the organiser, Steven Cleverly, s.cleverly@icloud.com

