

Worthing Archaeological Society

News sheet

2022 will be the Centenary Year of WAS.

Alex Vincent is kindly preparing a Commemorative booklet.

From Alex:

"I am doing a booklet to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Worthing Archaeological Society, which takes place in 2022. The booklet will be A5 and I plan to have 24 to 36 pages. I am editing it and have already made a start. I would like articles from WAS members to include in the booklet such as someone writing about WAS excavations over the past 100 years, events over the period, past lectures at meetings etc.

The articles need only be between 2 to 3 A5 pages (600 to 1000 words approx) and also photographs of excavations, people etc. James is doing a piece about John Pull's excavations at Blackpatch as this will also be 100 years since he dug there in 1922. Could photographs be sent to me on jpg. I hope to get the book printed by January 2022 to be given out to members at the John Pull Memorial Lecture on February 8th 2022.

My email is alexecclipsing@gmail.com"

(PS Please don't email anything to Alex just yet, wait until 2020, you will be reminded...)

Jo Thornton

We were very sorry to hear that Jo passed away in August. She played a major role in WAS as soon as she joined the Society in the early 1980s, serving variously as Hon. Secretary, Membership Secretary and Programme Secretary. As a token of our esteem, she became a Life Vice-President in later years.

Her involvement, like that of many Members, came about as a result of Con Ainsworth's Evening Classes. She was fully involved in Con's Day Trips, 'Study Tours', Field-Walking, days at Bignor and could be seen on 'digs', both for WAS and further afield.

Our Treasurer, Connie, says she was introduced to WAS by Jo: 'When we attended Con's lectures, Jo would make sure we signed up to WAS as well!'

From Cheryl:

"Jo had the gift of sitting a group of people around her kitchen table and fulfilling both their physical

October – November 2020

needs by presenting a magnificent meal, with apparently no effort, but also creating an atmosphere of conviviality and friendship. I experienced this when she invited the WAS committee to supper. When we were seated she floated around the table and offered delicious food and drink, which we accepted, hardly aware of its being offered as we were enjoying ourselves so much. Then we went home feeling warmed and welcomed. Thank you Jo."

And from Gill: "I have a lasting memory of Jo digging a test pit at Binsted and wearing a coordinated outfit and the most stylish sun hat!"

We extend our sympathy to Jo's family.

Pat Hennings

Sadly, Pat passed away in August. She was a WAS Member for many years.

We send our sympathy to Gerald and the family.

Coronavirus

Due to the current COVID-19 situation we are being advised to avoid unnecessary social contact. Therefore, as a Society we have made the difficult decision to suspend our Lectures and other face to face activities including Finds Processing and Meetings until further notice.

MALTHOUSE

We are hoping that a small group can meet at the Malthouse, mainly to do some clearing, but maybe investigate a promising area. Details will be sent round when we have dates.

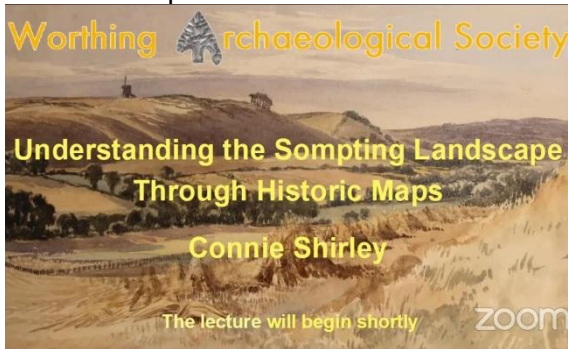
WAS Social/Quiz

Sadly there won't be a Social this year, but we are organising a Quiz on Zoom/Facebook at 7.30pm on Friday November 27th. Full details will be sent round nearer the time.

WAS Lectures

Our first attempt at a Lecture, live on Facebook, was very successful. Many thanks to Connie,

our Lecturer, and to the Richard/Theresa team who made it possible.



[October 13th](#) is the date for our next Lecture – James Sainsbury will be talking about his recent dig North of the Downs. It will be live on WAS Facebook at 7.30.pm. If this goes well, watch out for another one on Tuesday November 10th.

[Study Day](#)
[Saturday 14th November – Dr Ben Jervis](#)
This has been postponed until 2021.

[Finds Processing](#)
We won't return to the shed until next year, as there is no means of us staying 2m apart.....

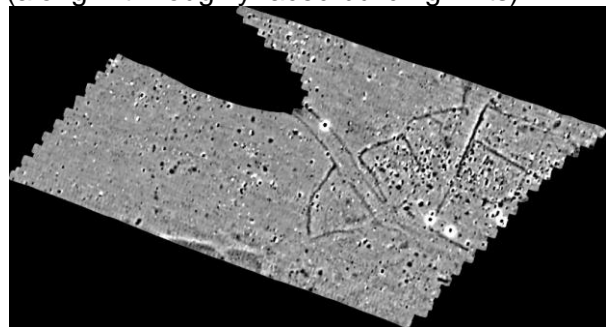
[Field Unit](#)
[Slindon Stableyard](#)
We hope to get back to the Stableyard in 2021.

[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.

[Big Survey Produces Big Results](#)
As some of you may know I run a very small archaeology group "on the side" as well as being a member of W.A.S. It is partly thanks to our small numbers we have been very lucky in that both the Norfolk Estate and the Angmering Park Estate allow us to conduct surveys across their land on the beautiful Downs.

One site that we've been looking at for the last 3 years is finally starting to reveal its secrets after an extensive magnetometry survey was undertaken a fortnight ago. To give a sense of scale the furthest left of the enclosures is about 30 metres across at its widest point.

We've theorised for some time that this site is a Late Iron Age/Romano-British transitional farmstead (we're not saying villa...yet!) and now we have the proof as seen below. A clear trackway leading into an area of enclosures, almost certainly demarcating individual houses/habitations. The field systems associated with this settlement cover the surrounding landscape, some of them are still extant whereas many are now only crop marks. We may also be seeing two phases of settlement layout - the more uniform enclosures on the right sit within the area of an extensive field walking survey we conducted last year, with many sherds of later RB pottery found (along with roughly faced building flints)



Interestingly the reason why the whole trackway isn't covered by the mag survey is that it is still clearly extant today and cuts into a huge lynchett on the edge of the settlement area - the mag machine simply wouldn't get out of the cutting!

The smaller dark circles to the left of the trackway could be associated with cremations - our detectorists have recovered 9 brooches from this area. We have also found over 130 coins, ranging from a beautiful late Iron Age silver unit of King Verica, "Celtic Cavalry Duo" to coins of Constans II (see both below)





The shooting season on the Estate starts shortly so we won't be able to visit this exciting site again until the Spring but I hope to give plenty of updates next year when we'll be putting in our first test pits!

James Sainsbury

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 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

Worthing Museum and Art Gallery

Re-opened on Saturday August 8th, and for all following Saturdays. Please pre-book your visit as there will be limited numbers.

boxoffice@wtam.uk or

<tel:01903206206>

or

<https://wtam.uk/your-visit>

Keep an eye on the WTM website, as James is also hoping to resume some of his Lectures.

There were two of his excellent walks in September.

<https://wtam.uk>

BURPHAM AND THE LEAD COFFIN.

Part 2 Will be in our Annual Journal.

Part 3 in the Feb/March Newsletter.

Royal Observation Corps

On formation in 1925 the O.C. were special constables and it was our aircraft-reporting ops room design that was subsequently developed

by the RAF for theirs, integrating the Chain Home radar plots with our sightings from our elevated observation posts throughout WW2. Certainly in our Juliet Cluster posts - Ford, Steyning & Pulborough, there was a strong ethos on aircraft knowledge and recognition that helped in attracting and retaining recruits in the latter nuclear role, as of course the ROC were in the front line continuously during WW2 and the UK's air defence would not have functioned without us. 'Seaborne' observers were placed on the D-Day invasion ships specifically to properly identify friendly or hostile aircraft for the anti aircraft gunners, especially the US ships which were well known for 'Blue on Blue' incidents to fire first at any aircraft in their vicinity.

The expertise of some of our members in aircraft recognition was exceptional, and we entered teams in the annual Air Britain competitions and even beat the ATC with their younger eye sight, and always the flying armed services. Each image was shown for a few seconds at an unusual angle in flight.

Whilst latterly being funded through the Home Office our spiritual home was always the RAF, and when aircraft attack tactics changed to low level operations under the radar coverage, a successful trial was conducted on the UK east coast with the RAF, purely to visually confirm whether an aircraft was 'hostile' or 'friendly' on track towards targets like airfields and other military installations but it was never adopted.

There was an unrealistic expectation that post-nuclear-attack, when the radiation had dropped to a low level, that a crew member would exit the post and use their vehicle, if it had survived, to go out and assess damage etc. No protective gear was provided. Also there was the assumption that in such an extreme emergency the 3 crew would not try to save members of their families by denying the other 2 access to the post in extremis, or that say the local farmer would do the same with his shotgun!

Much in the manner of Raymond Briggs 'When the Wind Blows' it was only approximately half way through our latter service that all the BT lines to posts were buried underground instead of marching across the landscape, and Swiss manually-powered ventilators were provided for posts but without the chemical & biological filters.

Just like now underfunded, 'Not in Time' not even 'Just InTime' HMG priorities prevailed, history regularly repeats itself but is not

regarded as a 'core' subject. The 'Herd' as always are infinitely expendable. Before and especially after Chernobyl the possibility of a nuclear reactor or military munition going AWOL, either through accident or terrorism, was a scenario that probably would have especially justified our continued existence, because in that unique instance we would have been able to plot the radiation plume to warn the population downwind to evacuate if there were time. There are 5 French nuclear power stations immediately adjacent to the Channel coast in addition to our own with a prevailing south westerly wind, also there is a possible scenario of the manufacture of a small 'dirty' terrorist device to attack an urban civilian target?

The 12,000 ROC volunteers learnt of their 'Peace Dividend' 'stand down' demise (including the majority of the small number of full time staff of around 200), the day it was announced in Parliament (1991) which rather demonstrated how HMG had valued the volunteers long-standing contributions, sounds like a familiar Treasury stroke of the pen? A few 'Nuclear Reporting Cell' personnel survived at military main control centres until 1995.

(One of our Pulborough post members Derek Wood, authored a definitive work on the ROC for their 50th anniversary in 1975 'Attack Warning Red', Macdonald & Janes, London, 357pp.)

Arundel/Littlehampton Post opened 1925 (N.bank, east of Arun bridge presumably High Street)[Princess Elizabeth visited]), resite to Ford Airfield, renamed Littlehampton, Nov 1961; Underground May 1962 until 1991.

Pulborough opened 1929 until 1991.

Steyning opened 1929 (Steyning Grammar School), operational in various places until 1991.

Once in the 1980's, on putting my head out of the entrance hatch of the U/G Pulborough Post, Juliet One, Broomers Hill Farm, during a 24 hour NATO exercise, to get some fresh air and trim the surrounding hedge, who should come into view but Con Ainsworth doing a Public-Rights-of-Way-based tour of the historical sites.

John Crane

{From 1971 (long service medal) Leading Observer Crane, 152141 (L/obs were the individual post instructors under a Chief Observer, but with different roles in Group Ops Rooms). One of the earliest Group areas

formed (with Maidstone 1), we were the 'shiny twos' with HQ ops. bunker at Denne Road, Horsham behind the T.A. centre, (now demolished).

(These are some 'observations' to be read in conjunction with Bob Clarke's full article in Current Archaeology 364 concerning the excavation of the Berkshire ROC post.)}

[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

[Current World Archaeology](#)

WAS has been given a box of these magazines – numbers 1 to 42, plus a few later ones. If anyone would like to have some/any/all of these, please contact Liz.

[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 any free time to consider writing an article for the Journal.

Cheryl, our Editor, would be delighted to hear from you, by the end of October, if possible. 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)

