

2nd VOLUME No 29 WAS NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2002

INDEX

	Page
Editorial	1
The very first Mantell Piece	2
Young archaeologists	x
Slindon	x
CBA	x
Small finds	x
Southern Counties Archaeology	X
Stretham	x
Bignor Limekiln	x
Boxgrove	x
Summer Outings	x

EDITORIAL

Some of you may already be aware that the next edition of the newsletter will be my last as editor. The reasons for this are as usual manifold. Some are to do with what I want to do with my time and some to do with the way the newsletter is changing. My way of doing things is not readily compatible with the modern way of producing this sort of publication. In the past I enjoyed the work in producing the letters and hope that I brought to the newsletters a certain something. Recent editions have not been 'all my own work' – probably an improvement. Modern desktop publishing is so much better carried out by those more conversant with the techniques. I hope that my successor will continue to receive support from the members in the shape of contributions. My constant plea was always that diagrams or black and white sketches/pictures should be included. Nowadays it is digital pictures and, who knows, shortly, coloured pictures at that.

As a final gesture it is my intention to make available a complete set of newsletters dating back to those produced by Ian Martin. I took over about 14 years ago. If you care to add up the numbers, I should warn you that they do not fit. One edition was missed because I was too involved in personal problems involving moving house. A further glitch occurred when the numbering was not consecutive.

This issue contains an article by Anthony Brooks about Gideon Mantell. Mantell and his wife where as you may recollect the finders of the 'Giant Lizard' fossils in Sussex. It is interesting that Mantell was concerned about 'improvements' to sites and buildings destroying their historical/archaeological value. His

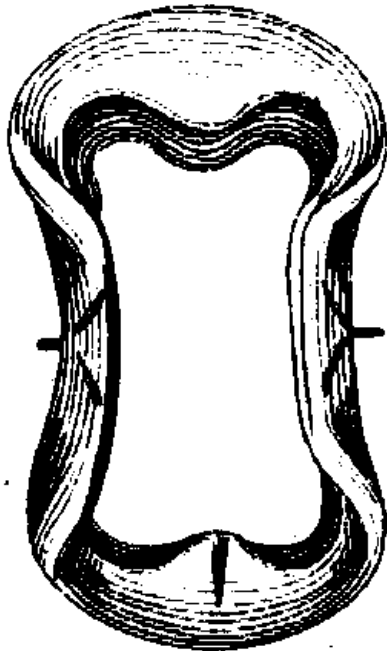
concern about the recycling, or bluntly stone robbing, at Lewes Priory is commendable. All this before the great works of the Victorians started improving or conserving our heritage.

Mantell's comments about Bignor brought a wry smile. What will the young archaeologists find this year?

THE VERY FIRST MANTELL PIECE

A Sussex born scientific genius Gideon Mantell (1790 - 1852) gained fame as a geologist and the discoverer of Iguanodon and other dinosaurian fossils but it is little known fact that his first appearance in print related to Archaeology rather than Geology. After qualifying as a surgeon and midwife at the Royal College of surgeons in April 1811, 21 year old Gideon returned to his hometown of Lewes to begin his medical career ministering to the citizens of the county Town and its hinterland. On the 14th September 1811 he addressed the following letter to Mr. Sylvanus Urban, Editor of the Gentleman's Magazine which was eventually published in the December issue (pp 514 - 516):

Fig. 5. p. 514



The discovery at the Roman Pavement justly excited the attention of the Antiquaries and Literati in its vicinity and the number of persons who visit it daily is really incredible. Doubtless a more particular account than that contained on p. 183 (Aug. 1811) will be acceptable to most of your Readers. I therefore send you a copy of the learned and excellent letter inserted in the Lewes Journal a short time since, from the pen of an eminent Antiquary. (re the Roman tessellated Pavement. etc at Bignor, ending with the initials I.D).

After reiterating this learned and discursive missive. Gideon concludes by remarking that:

I visited Bignor a short time since, and had the good fortune to find among the rubbish, which had previously covered the pavement, a Roman fibula, of which I have sent you a representation (Fig. 5 on Plate II p514). Lewes and its vicinity abound with relicks (sic) of antiquities richly deserving a place in your valuable Repository. Could I flatter myself that sketches and descriptions of them, from so unworthy a pencil as mine, would be acceptable: I should feel the greatest pleasure to employ the few leisure

hours professional engagements allow me, in communicating the same to you. I am more particularly anxious to obtain them a place in your Magazine as the rage for *improvement* and *whitewashing* has already defaced one of our most ancient churches, and the remains of our venerable Priory are daily dilapidated for the sake of the materials."

The following observations seem pertinent:

1) It was quite customary, in the early – to – mid 19th century, for letters of note and significance to be relayed in this way to national monthly magazines for wider circulation amongst the educated elite. Gideon assumes that the correspondent, identified only by his initials, will be easily recognised by readers but at this distance of time, who was I. D? A Sussex antiquarian well versed in the minutiae and artefacts of Roman civilisation, who had made a particular study of Bignor Roman Villa.

2) The accidental discovery of large, well-designed and decorated Roman mosaic pavements, by

a ploughman at Berry Field, quarter-mile east of Bignor church, on land farmed by Mr George Tupper, in July 1811, had occasioned a tremendous outburst of feverish excitement about Antiquities amongst classically - minded Sussex gentry, and about the Romans in Britain in particular. Within a couple of months Bignor had become a honeypot heritage site.

3) Without considering the consequences, Gideon casually removed an archaeological artefact for his own Collection, an action which would produce howls of anguish from archaeologists nowadays, as constituting the contextual defilement of an important historic site, but which, unfortunately, still happens, particularly overseas.

4) Gideon's offer to report on the abundant antiquities in and around Lewes was not taken up, as there are no further Mantell pieces, of any sort, in this upmarket news journal of the time. Maybe he was considered too young, too inexperienced and unqualified, and, perhaps more to the point, too lower-class: Gideon's father was only a cordwainer. Otherwise, Gideon Mantell might have gained renown as an archaeologist rather than a geologist.

Gideon Mantell . *Courtesy of the Royal College of Physicians London*



This engraving was made for the Royal society's portrait when Gideon was 47. Some think the engraving makes him look 27!

5) Gideon's concern about what was happening to the ancient buildings of Lewes is praiseworthy. Many 'heritage buildings' were subject to spurious 'improvement', which only got worse in the ensuing Victorian era. Many ancient churches suffered severely in the Gothic Revival

6) Gideon seems particularly perturbed by the recycling of building materials from the ruins of Lewes Priory, a process, which had been, commonplace for centuries. A focus of contemporary Gothic novels, ancient ruins had long been scavenged for useful stone and timber for later constructions.

Gideon Mantell's early enthusiasm for Antiquities became subsumed beneath his magnificent 'obsession with fossils but never completely waned. It remained dormant and occasionally surfaced, as, for instance, when he contributed drawings, data and accounts of his antiquarian finds for Horsfield's *History and Antiquities of Lewes and Vicinity* (1824). He wrote in his Journal (19th August 1824) that he 'finished 6 Plates of Antiquities for Horsfield; drew him a vignette for his treatise on Urns; gave him lists of all the English and Roman coins found in this neighbourhood ' All this antiquarian activity came between the publication of his first and foremost volume, *Fossils of The South Downs*, in 1822, and his medal-winning paper on the Iguanodon, read to The Royal Society on the 10th of February 1825.

Much later on, in the last decade of his life, Gideon contributed in a minor way to the principal

archaeological journals of the 1840's, culminating in his major paper "On the Remains of Man, and Works of Art embedded in Rocks and Strata", read at the Oxford Meeting of The Archaeological Association on the 21st June 1850, and later published in The Archaeological Journal (Vol. 7, 1850, 327-46). The subtitle of this essay is particularly illuminating, viz. 'as illustrative of the connexion between archaeology and geology'. Throughout the 19th and well into the 20th century, Archaeology was defined much more broadly than postwar to encompass almost every aspect of earlier times, so that to most learned gentlemen of Gideon's generation, Archaeology and Geology seamlessly merged. There was no K-T Boundary. Archaeology was simply ultra - late Geology, with the extra ingredient and added complication of Homo sapiens. As confirmation of this concept, Mantell records speaking to a Meeting of the Archaeological Institute on the 5th December 1851 on 'cavebones, human and quadrepedal, found together beneath a stalactitic floor near Torquay'.

Monstrous reptilian fossils of the Mesozoic and variegated mosaic pavements of the Romans were conceptually similar, as fortuitous fragments of ancestral systems, fundamental for the imaginative reconstruction of past eras and lost empires. As long as it was old - and the older, the better, multi-millions of years preferably, Gideon Mantell was addicted from an early age!

Athony Brooks

SLINDON

Some of the work at Slindon this year has been a little different from our normal run of work. We have been clearing undergrowth from a cross ridge bank and ditch at Lambhanger, (to the west of Bignor Hill car park – past the radio masts).

After clearing the area we returned to carry out a survey with a view to recording the state of the bank and ditch for future reference. We used our new auto level for the tricky bits and a laser level for most of the cross sections. Apart from completing the task we learned a lot about the equipment. A number of



our members are now familiar with the use of this level, which should be useful in future work. The level was much easier to use than the theodolite we used before.

The laser level is a simple bubble level, which emits a beam of red light (hopefully a level beam!), which is then seen on a levelling staff. It sounds simple but when the sun is shining the resulting red dot is not easy to see. We improvised using two hazel sticks, one with a sheet of paper providing shade, and the other to carry a sheet of card, which was gently waved in the anticipated path of the beam until we could trace it on the staff. It worked well. So did a piece of red cellophane stuck over a hole in another card used to enhance the dot.

So if you see photographs of one of us with a strange banner (without a device) you will know what is going on.

Alan and Tom with Sioned in the distance 'chasing the level' from the trig point by the radio masts.



The object of Alan's desire

The Benchmark adjacent to the radio masts

Cross sections produced by Alan Brown

Note that one of them extends beyond the others. This is to make the point that the ditch was dug out, and the spoil piled up to form a bank. There is no second bank. Follow the line of the slope and picture where it was before the ditch was dug and you will see what we mean.

Our other clearance job was on a section of Stane Street on Bignor Hill. Surveying in this area is anticipated but no date set. Whilst looking at the site with a view to establishing a 'modus operandi' we found what could be a drainage channel. Should we include this in our survey? After looking around, the answer was clear – no. There are many such channels and it would take many days to survey these. Hardly worthwhile since they may well be modern accessways.

There has been of course the ongoing processing of finds.

Some small scale excavating has been carried out. We hope to trace the route of the ditch found last year and the chalk floor in Keepers Wood remains as yet a little enigmatic.

There is always room for more help in all these areas.

YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS DAYS AT BIGNOR 2002

July 20th and 21st

We look forward to seeing many of you at Bignor this year. A small sub-committee has been working on our displays and activities. Come along with your children/grandchildren or some other child and join in. Children under 16 – free admission when accompanied by an adult.

We have planned for the usual dig with finds processing, some drawing, surveying, wattle and daubing, use of a resistivity meter, Childrens tours of the Villa, Time Team videos.

AND with the consent of the National trust we will be walking part of a Roman road. It will not be the section we cleared, but a section farther south where the outline and more classical shape is discernable.

6

Picture(s) of children at Bignor Plus our members if available.

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY (CBA)

John Mills is now chairman of the CBA South East Committee He and tells us that the CBA SE website is now up and running (www.cbase.org.uk), administered by Stuart Edwards. Who would welcome suggestions and ideas for items and links. Now doubt we will be one of the links. We will certainly be letting him know of our intentions for Young Archaeologists days on 20th and 21st July.

Anne Induni was the Chairman of the CBA South East Committee and reminds us of the following.

CBA Annual Conference and AGM will be held in the Chichester Lecture Theatre at Sussex University on Saturday November 16th. The subject will be "Roman Temples, Shrines and Cult Objects" and is being held jointly with the Centre for Continuing Education.

The CBA S/E now has its own web site, which will give news of events, exhibitions, conferences and courses throughout the region. It is happy to promote events from other societies in the region, and can be found at: - www.cbase.org.uk

The CBA are involved in discussions about the proposals for road works around Stonehenge. They hosted a meeting where tunnels, cut and cover or bored, were discussed with other items such as paying more to farmers not to plough and light pollution. For more details go to www.britarch.ac.uk/stonehenge

There is a new resource centre for Archaeological Material now open. The London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre is available for students and local society members and will also hold events and exhibitions. There will be internet access for researchers. Contact the archive Manager John Shepherd, Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, near Old St in Hackney. 020 7566 9317
The house is part of the Museum of London and houses their social and Working History collections – architectural fragments, tools, machinery and materials associated with workshops, factories and homes

SMALL FINDS

Dr Dixon's antiquities. The Antiquities Museum at Alnwick Castle, first established in 1826 by the 3rd Duke of Northumberland, was reorganized in 1998. and many of the objects from the Dixon collection are on display. Alnwick Castle is open to the public from early April until the end of October.

The few Antiquarium publications of Dr Frederick Dixon, surgeon and geologist, who lived at 3 Union Place, Worthing, were published in the Earliest volumes of the Sussex Archaeological Collections:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| S.A.C. 1
(1848) | On Roman Coins, etc found near Worthing and on British Gold coins found in Sussex.
On a British Sepulchral Urn and Brass Pin found on Storrington Downs. |
| S.A.C. 2
(1849) | On Bronze or Brass Relics, Celts etc. found in Sussex.
Reprinted as a 12 page separate, London 1849 |

In his very first paper Dixon draws a very interesting and significant analogy linking geology and archaeology: "coins are to the historian what fossils are to the geologist: they are often the only record of great events, and without them many important facts would have escaped notice". Very perceptive, and an analogy worth pursuing.

Athony Brooks

Tony also tells me that Gideon Mantell suffered with excruciating back pains after a carriage accident. He took laudanum to ease the pain and this probably contributed to his death. However he asked that his spine, with its unnatural curvature, as a result of the accident, should be kept for medical research. Legend has it that it was kept on the desk of his arch critic – his boss. The sad end to the story is that

8

whilst it was still available for research in 1927, it was unfortunately lost to a flying bomb during WW2. Who knows? It may resurface like the York Bank Turd.

John Mills tells me that things have been quiet over the winter re rescue type digs/observations so he proposes to give us a resume for the year in the next newsletter.

On a chance visit to Worthing Museum I came across another example of 'wandering artefacts'. In May 1907 when the Museum and Library were being built, the site foreman Mr Hutton reported finding a Roman urn with burnt bones and two pots.

In 1950 a lady from Glasgow sent a small bowl or pot to the museum. Recently a lady from Nuneaton sent a group of old photographs including two of interest. One showed workmen with pots and the other pots and bones. The pot now identifiable was discovered in the Museum Store.

This is as remembered with help from rough notes. Check the full story yourself at the Museum.

Most of the displays at the Museum were of a high standard. The flint tool and bronze axe displays could be improved by some indication that there was a progression in technology/shape. What do you think?

Colin Martin has written an article in British Archaeology about the Defeat of the Spanish Armada. It was at first thought that since everything was well documented, archaeology could not contribute a great deal more information. A very interesting article. One item I picked up on was that the equipment provided to the Spanish gunners was not all it should have been. It appears that the shot gauges and gunners' rules were in some cases so inaccurate as to render them useless for the calculations they were intended for re the size/weight of shot. I found this interesting for two reasons. I do not doubt the veracity of the findings but think that the gunners themselves would have realized the deficiencies and make their own estimations by guesswork and experience. Furthermore I recollect an old friend of mine when being demobbed found that his tool kit was short of tools. He purchased wooden – yes wooden spanners in the local Arab market in Egypt. He maintained that the Arabs anticipated a demand because they had pinched the tools in the first place. He may have been a little cynical! He also fabricated a set of feeler gauges using carefully cut portions of a bean tin. Now I do not suggest that the Spaniards had been tins but I am convinced – as with all poorly supervised transactions, that some chicanery was afoot. Please do not send me too many of your own experiences. The fact that you can makes my point. Is someone going to check on the English side?

While carrying out repairs to a section of the Chichester City wall near Market road the (Victorian) upper part of the wall was taken down - at which point a small cannon ball rolled out of the earth bank behind! This is almost certainly graphic evidence of General Waller's 'softening up' artillery barrage that started the Civil War siege in the winter of 1642. The ball is cast iron; it weighs 2.09kg (4lb 10oz) and is 82mm (3¼") in diameter. From James Kenny.

On a recent trip to Chester we indulged ourselves with a trip on an open top bus. Our guide, a pleasant mature lady, spoke about Love Lane. Her version of the derivation of the name was centred around the saxon word for bonding or welding. So, she claimed that the lane, far from being the red light district, was probably the centre of the blacksmithing or forging business. It made sense to me. I liked the idea of the wedding or welding together as part of the blacksmith's art being venerated in the street name.

I understand from our fashion expert that it is now passé to speak of 'ritual' in archaeology. The de rigeur phrase is now 'Structured deposition'. I am led to believe that it is the deliberate placing of artifacts in layers (in antiquity). For example a cremation urn in a pit may be covered by a bowl, which is subsequently covered by artifacts belonging to the deceased. Thus layers are created that belong to the same period.

Keith Bolton spent a couple of days helping out at the Marlipins where rebuilding has given the opportunity to excavate on a Norman site.

My Two Days at Marlipins, Shoreham

Following a request for volunteers from (Gabor Thomas (SAS Research Officer)), I turned up at Marlipins museum on a cold Wednesday in March.

The actual excavation was taking place indoors in the annexe behind the museum, and whilst I knew that I wouldn't get wet, it was certainly very cold!

Unfortunately for me the actual *digging* had stopped, with the main trench being over 1.25 m deep. So instead I spent two days cleaning up sections and helping to record and plan them.

On the second day, we were visited by, John Mills, John Manley and Helen Poole, to discuss future activity. Also it was good to see Martin Snow, Jim and Val Peters from Worthing Archaeological Society being involved with this excavation.

This was indeed a very different site from Slindon or Binsted and the first time I've been involved in an urban excavation.

Marlipins pictures

Swanscombe is in the news again, apart from the fame of being your editor's birthplace. (I am sure you have heard that one before). This time the Prehistoric society has published an article on paleolithic finds from the site of my old school. I found the article interesting, not just because of the finds but the idea that we are biased in our understanding of that period because of the bias, (probably accidental) of the collectors who have found much of the material that has been studied. The authors make the point that when Roe did his work on hand axe shapes, 30 of the 38 flint assemblages were chance finds and not the result of excavation. Collections seem to consist of the shapes we are familiar with and may not be a true representative of what is or was available. A point I have been making for years is that museum collections show the 'Rolls Royces' of handaxes and not the 'old bangers' which were probably more common.

The thinking is that finders collect what they are conditioned to see, and so tend to ignore shapes which do not conform to the expected shapes. There is room for more work to be done, with assemblages of worked flint, which include all shapes and sizes, preferably excavated on a controlled site. Opportunities for this are rare. This is what makes the Swanscombe site so important.

In opposition to the point that Roe worked with mainly chance finds, some researchers will only consider 'in situ' finds such as those found by Mark Roberts at Boxgrove. Here it was sometimes possible to fit together flakes to see how they were struck. An argument against this narrow approach is that the knapping floor only shows a short period of activity, (an afternoon for example), whereas the huge number of struck flakes and tools, which have been moved, by whatever means from their original deposition point, can give a broader picture. They are usually stratified but in a geological context rather than an archaeological one, which some will claim rules them out. Whilst in no way is this any criticism of anyone mentioned. I think discussion and, hopefully more research, will continue. The net result should be a greater understanding of that period in archaeology.

I still smile when faced with a polythene sack which requires opening and my wife reaches for the scissors while I am more likely to reach out for a handy sharp flint. Not, I hasten to add, a beautiful example to be later found in a museum, but any old one, which has sufficient edge.

Rodney has found a contact for news of archaeological interest. Ananova is the name and a number of websites are available. The note he passed to me concerns a new Pyramid accidentally discovered by Swiss archaeologists who were working just outside Cairo. Its smaller size and proximity to Redjedef's pyramid leads experts to think it is of a woman related to him. The tomb itself was robbed in antiquity.

Another article from the same source talks of a Tudor bridge and the remains of an auroch being found during rebuilding work on Ballingdon Bridge in Suffolk.

The auroch was supposed to have died out in the UK during the bronze age, but existed for a bit longer on the continent. This reminds me of a story by Con Ainsworth where he claimed that a Roman leader during the conquest of parts of mid to eastern Europe wrote back to his masters about the huge beasts (cattle) that the natives hunted in a cunning way. It seems that the aurochs took their rest standing up leaning at times against a tree (much as a modern bovine will rub against a tree). The "cunning natives" watched which trees were used and cut part way through them such that the beast fell over when it leant against them. Being big and unable to rise swiftly it gave the "cunning natives" the opportunity to pounce. I would love to know what HQ in Rome thought of that one!

From Anne Induni

Back in 1976 WAS members Ian Martin and David Whyberd conducted an excavation on the island in Swanbourne Lake, Arundel Park. (this was reported in SAC 118) Southern Water is going to dredge the Lake in April and careful preparations have been made to avoid causing any environmental problems. A desk top survey has been done and coring undertaken, which modified the plans so that the silt will only be removed down to the level of the previous work done 60 years ago. The site where the silt will be dumped has been investigated, but there will be a considerable traffic impact from the work when in progress. The cores have shown that there was a saline period in the silts and this raises interesting questions about the origins of the lake. One story about its history was that it was largely created by damming the stream, that came from the springs at the head of the lake, in order to create a head of water to power the generator for the Castle. Its proper history is somewhat obscure and does not appear to have been researched. Could the inlet have allowed ships to use it as a port? After all there are early medieval records of ships using the Black Ditch up to Poling, which was listed as a Port.

But -- why did they decide to dredge in April when all the Ducks, Swans, Moorhens and Coots will be nesting????????????

The tomb of Frederick Dixon is in Sullington Churchyard. Tony Brooks and myself (editor) have been trying to read the words upon it. We have been able to read the first few lines of the inscription but the last 4 lines are as yet undeciphered. There are 2 full lines and 2 part lines. We thought that the last two lines would be the reference for the full lines above. For example if it was a biblical quotation then Isiah Ch x verse xx would soon solve the mystery. However after failing to decipher any of lines 3 & 4 we looked hard at 1 & 2 and lo and behold we saw the words 'WITHHIS FELLOW GEOLOGISTS'. That effectively removed the idea of any biblical or classical quotations. Work on site is limited to gently washing the stone to remove dirt and some lichen.

Some odd letters can be seen (with the eye of faith) by allowing light to fall at an oblique angle. Sitting in a churchyard waiting for the sun to move round was a very peaceful occupation. Should you feel inclined to help Tony can be contacted through the editor. Any lift from Worthing you can offer him will be appreciated.

Work, offsite, is being carried out by Tony, who is exploring all sorts of contact with as yet little success. He has tried the parish records, local historians, undertakers, stonemasons and the Royal society of Physicians.

Our best ideas at the moment are centred around some form of public subscription to commemorate his work especially regarding the provision of medical assistance to the people of Worthing.

Southern Counties Archaeology will once again be excavating in the grounds of the 14th C Manor house in Barnes Green near Horsham. This excavation is perfect for total beginners and all basic training will be provided.

We cater for ages of 16 - 90 (14 if accompanied by an adult) Training opportunities last year included:

- Hands on excavating
- Finds analysis
- Surveying
- Cleaning of finds
- Recording of excavation
- Field walking

If all goes well this year we hope it may be possible to utilize the new geophysics equipment being purchased by the society.

The purpose of the rough Horsham stone floor in the main trench (that we plan to continue work in) is still a mystery. This has been laid directly upon the base clay and indications are that the topsoil had been removed for this very purpose.

We have about 30 trays of finds which include a large number of pottery shards (Green glaze, Bellarmine, salt glaze etc) hundreds of animal bone fragments (mainly horse, cow and pig) a number of metal objects including late 1500's Jettons, spectacle buckles for shoes, nails, a cast bronze foot from a cauldron, book hinges and fasteners etc. Many of the finds are still waiting to be cleaned and catalogued.

Our most interesting find is a small bronze 'fertility type' statuette (Image may be viewed via the following link: http://www.sucs.org/~cmckenna/pictures/sca_fertility.jpg) of which we have been unable to identify. Even the British Museum had no ideas as to its origin or age. However, it is certainly a fine piece and although discovered within a 15th C context, we are confident that it is of a much earlier date. (Possibly of North African-Roman origin based upon the features)

If anyone can give us any clues on this it would be much appreciated. I plan to take some clearer pictures in the next few weeks but they will not be in time for the this publication.

This year our target is to establish the extent of the Horsham stone floor before recording and lifting the stone to examine the base clay for signs of postholes and earlier habitation.

We plan to oversee the excavation at this year's Young Archaeologist open day at Bignor. This is always an enjoyable event and meets one of our basic reason for existing, i.e. to encourage an active interest in archaeology especially by our younger population who never fail to impress me (and sometimes stump me) with their, well thought out, questions and theories.

Finally, We have been asked to investigate some archaeological features on farmland at Itchingfield a couple of miles up the road from our current dig. I had a brief walk around the area late last year and noticed a number of very ancient hedgerows & borders, a banked enclosure (which although Iron age in design may prove to be much later) and some very interesting remains of brick furnaces in the middle of a small wood. We know there was a medieval manor house in the vicinity that was rebuilt in Victorian times. Were these kilns used for making the bricks for the medieval house? Would the Victorians have fired brick on the site? I am no expert in industrial archaeology but knowing the Victorians I would have imagined that by this time bricks would be mass-produced in large factories. I would be interested to hear from anyone who may be able to advise me on this.

I am currently examining the SMR records of the area kindly supplied to me by John Mills and if possible, (and after recording the site) I would like to put in a very small test trench to one side of the kilns to obtain some dating evidence before deciding the next step.

Well, that's the latest from Southern Counties Archaeology

If you would like further info on our projects or would like to be added to the e mail mailing list of times, dates etc of the excavations you can contact me at: SCA@kiasu.worldonline.co.uk or by telephone on 01903 725831 or 0786 314997

STRETHAM MOATED MANOR SITE

From John Funnell

The site of the moated manor at Stretham lies east of the River Adur, north of where the old Steyning to Horsham railway crossed the river. (TQ 200137).

The site was excavated, from 1968 to about 1984, by the Worthing, and Brighton and Hove Archaeological societies, under the directorship of the late Alec Barr - Hamilton. The moat lies on three sides of the manor and the fourth is adjacent to the river. The excavation could not investigate whether the fourth side allowed direct access to the river, as this would have required the excavation of the existing riverbank, undermining and weakening the structure.

Stretham is the site of a Bishops Palace. The location of the palace was probably associated with the ancient road that ran from Amberley to the Bishops castle there. The Bishop was ensuring access to his lands and the river crossing. The main period of activity was the 13th century when the main building was constructed. The palace consisted of a large room with other smaller room extensions running northwards, but much of the palace was robbed of building materials in later times. A number of items recovered included stained window glass, leaded window pieces and an octagonal font base, which suggest that the palace had a chapel. A number of glazed nibbed ridge tiles were also found among the debris. A large building on the west side of the enclosure contained a number of large rooms, passageway and possible stairwell, leading to a possible wardrobe. A sturdy building with a footing of flint and layers of tiles contained areas of burning, this feature is considered this to be the detached kitchen. A number of flint cobbled track ways lay across the whole site.

The second phase, probably in the later 14th or early 15th is thought to include the demolition of the palace building. A number of small buildings located in the centre of the site and to the north include a number of hearths and fire-places. This second phase and a later phase, affecting the hearth features, are considered to be the focus of some form of industrial activity. The building at this time were of a very low status, and included a number of possible animal pens.

The final phase was the erection of some form of barn, to the west of old palace location. The barn had a chalk floor, covering much of the palace demolition material.

Stretham has a number of enigmatic features. A large structure, constructed of greensand blocks, abutted the west wall of the palace. There is some discussion as to whether the palace and abutment are of the same period. The abutment has some form of chute and interpretations as to use include a wardrobe, a sophisticated landing stage and possible a draw-bridge entrance. The other notable features are the timbers found in the moat on the west side of the manor. A significant revetment was constructed either side of the abutting building, large timbers in the moat bottom hint at some of landing stage located in this section of the manor.

The excavation produced a number of excellent drawings of the plan of the moated manor, and, a sequence of layers, in the section drawing of the moat, define a well stratified site. Unfortunately the pottery report notes that very little of the material comes from well defined stratified features and that

the majority of sherds can only be located spatially. The pottery report also suggests that the phasing of some of the building may need to be revised.

The original manor probably suffered severely during the climatic changes of the late 14th C when major storms and bad weather caused flooding and devastation along the south coastal areas. The new manor lies a little to the east of the original site.

The report on the excavation at Stretham is in its final stages of editing with only the bibliography requiring checking. A reduction in the length of the report required the removal of large areas of text and associated references. Stretham was a major archaeological undertaking, the archaeological societies of both Brighton and Hove, and Worthing consider its publication essential and are endeavouring to submit the final draft to the Sussex Archaeological Society Collections, this year.

REPORT ON SURVEY CARRIED OUT AT BIGNOR LIMEKILN

Ron Martin

Location

1. The lime kiln is located at SU 9836 1384 on the north face of Bignor Hill at the junction of two tracks and is some 10 m (33'0") from the road. Some distance behind the kiln is the pit from which the chalk to feed the kiln would have been obtained. A track leads from the pit to the charging area of the kiln.

Description

2.1. The kiln is circular in section and 2.44 m (8'0") diameter at the top decreasing evenly to 0.91m (3'0") diameter at the bottom with a vertical height of 3.89 m (12'9"). The pot is built of bricks, 225 mm (9") thick at the top and laid in header bond and are vitrified up to about half of the height. The floor is of bricks laid flat with a slope towards the outside. Across the kiln are three parallel iron bars 25 x 70 mm (1" x 2 3/4") in section built into the side at 0.45 m (1'6") above the floor.

2.2 The draw arch is 0.66 m (2'2") wide and 0.69 m (2'3") high to the springing of a semi-circular arched head 0.45 m (1'6") wide, the inner ring being strengthened by an iron arch bar. The arch is of three rings, the inner and outer ones being laid "on edge" and the centre one being laid "flat".

2.3 The draw tunnel is 2.54 m (8'4") wide and 1.45 m (4'9") deep, the brick walls being laid in English bond. The vault over is segmental, 1.37 m (4'6") high to springing and with a segmental vault over with a rise of 0.48 m (1'7"), laid in English bond. The eight courses of brickwork immediately above the draw arch are laid oversailing, to allow for the widening of the pot. The exposed edge of the vault is 0.3 m (12") high, the inner ring being 225 mm (9") high with bricks laid on edge and the outer ring, mostly collapsed, being laid flat.

2.4 The whole of the floor area is covered with bricks laid flat, laid to slight falls and extending to at least the front of the draw tunnel. Further investigation would be necessary to determine the full extent of this paving.

2.5 The retaining wall over the front of the draw tunnel is almost entirely missing although there is some flintwork visible at the east side, and this appears to be of large roughly knapped and squared flints.

Further investigation was deemed inadvisable.

Condition

3.1 The front part of the pot has fallen down to about 1.22 m (4 0") below the top. and a small area of brickwork immediately above the draw arch internally has collapsed. Otherwise most of the pot is in reasonable condition. Rubbish had been deposited in the bottom of the pot and this has been removed. Some of this might have fallen from the top of the pot but this was considered unlikely,

3.2. As noted in 2.5, the retaining wall above the draw tunnel is completely missing.

Comments

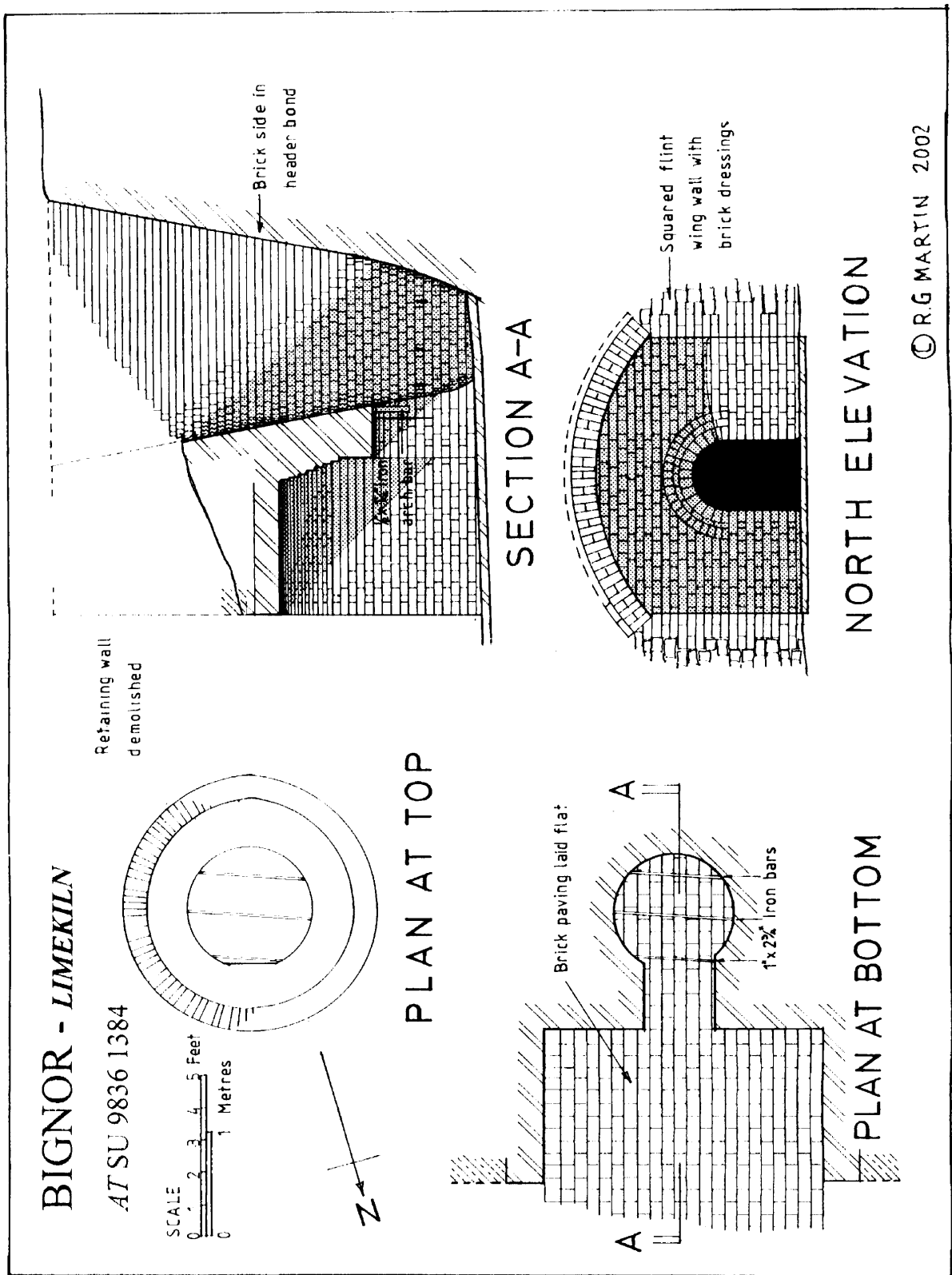
4.1 This is a typical example of the draw kiln using coal as the fuel, probably fired intermittently. A small piece of coal was discovered in the clearing. The location, some way up the foot of the Downs would have entailed quite an effort up a steep slope to get the fuel up, although getting the chalk from the pit and taking the lime out would have been easy operation. The kiln was probably associated with the farm at the south edge of Bignor village.

4.2 The date of this kiln would have probably be early 19th century, when the demand for lime for agricultural lime was still considerable but before the big lime works were established. It is some distance from the nearest rail link and canal access being at Coultershaw a distance of some 6 km (4 miles), so the lime from this kiln would have probably been used locally.

4.3 The apparent construction of the retaining wall in large squared flints is unusual. Rough flint rubble would be more usual.

4.4 The presence of the three iron bars across the bottom of the kilns is unusual. A single bar across the front is frequently found as a support for the pokers. It is possible that there was a grating fitted at some time.

March, 2002



Suggest picture be placed between writing at end of first page this will break up text and give space at bottom of 3rd page

The Boxgrove site is of international significance for the study of archaeology, geology and palaeoecology in the Middle Pleistocene. However, the east-west extent of the sediments of the Slindon and Eartham Formations that preserve this data is unknown. Landform survey and boreholing suggest that these deposits may be widely distributed. Thus, the detailed mapping of these sediments is an essential first step for future Quaternary research in this region.

Thanks to continued funding and support from English Heritage, a two year, surveying and mapping, project is currently being set up by the Boxgrove Project team. Its aims are to delineate the surviving extent of the sediments and identify archaeologically sensitive deposits similar to those originally investigated at the Boxgrove site. The project will therefore provide a detailed record of the Pleistocene geology of the higher coastal plain in West Sussex.

Detailed mapping of the extent of the geological formations is necessary so that informed decisions may be made as part of the planning process, especially where aggregate extraction is envisaged. Similarly, mapping of the buried Pleistocene landscape is also desirable to afford protection to the sediments, perhaps in the form of designation as a World Heritage Site. Five separate study areas between Worthing and Havant will be individually examined during the course of the next two years. New fieldwork in the form of boreholes, test pitting, electrical tomography and the reinvestigation of old mineral extraction areas are providing new datasets targeted at specific, critical areas of the palaeolandscape.



3D rendering of periglacial meltwater channel at Slindon

Work Carried Out in 2001

The 2001 season of the Raised Beach Mapping Project is on-going. During the summer and early autumn of 2001 over 20 sites on the Sussex Coastal Plain were investigated.

The important archaeological deposits of the Slindon Formation, including the palaeosol Unit 4c, have now been traced by borehole over 11 km outside the original Boxgrove site. These deposits have been identified for the first time at localities west of the River Lavant. The sediments here are locally well developed, undecalcified and exceptionally preserved.

Already faunal fragments and ostracods have been extracted from samples taken during September 2001. Future analysis of these sediments and the valuable paleoenvironmental evidence they preserve will enable lateral variation in the marine, lagoonal and terrestrial environments of the Slindon Formation to be documented.

Through preliminary mapping the 40m (GoodwoodSlindon) raised beach has now been formally traced along a 26km stretch. The beach delimits the northern extent of the Sussex Coastal Plain between Arundel and Westbourne Common and along the central portion of its course is overlain by fine-grained sediments. At the limits of its extent the beach outcrops as a visible surface spread of rounded flint cobbles.

The Boxgrove site and buildings that comprise the project field centre are in the process of being sold. The future of the site and the field centre are currently uncertain.

SUMMER OUTINGS

A few seats are available for the trip to St Albans (Roman baths – Tony Rook).

A few dates you may not want to miss.

Butser	27/28 th	July	The Harvesting this year will include the building of a Roman threshing machine
	24/25 th	Aug	Also at Butser a Roman weekend including a visit by XIII Legion Martia Gemina Matrix – a Roman re-enactment society.
Bignor	20/21 st	July	Young Archaeologists day

Do not forget that many local Museums and Study Centres have activities running throughout the summer.

Examples are The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton
 Amberley Chalk Pits
 Bignor Roman Villa
 Fishbourne Roman Palace

A visit to any tourist information centre will provide you with many more ideas.

AND don't forget write to us about your visit, we may be able to use your words to encourage others.