

# **Worthing Archaeological Society**

## **The First 60 Years**

**Compiled by Daphne Palmer  
(Membership Secretary 1980-2000)**

On January 10<sup>th</sup> 1922, an informal meeting was held in the Librarian's room at Worthing Public Library, on the initiation of Miss Marian Frost, who was the local Hon. Secretary of the Sussex Archaeological Society. It was decided unanimously to form the Worthing Archaeological Society and a President and provisional Committee were appointed.

A public meeting was held in St. James' Hall under the chairmanship of Liet. Col. E. W. Margesson CMG. on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at which Mr. T. Sheppard, MSc, lectured on the subject of '3,000 Years of Hidden Treasure'. As a result, considerable local interest was aroused and several names were submitted for membership.

The first General Meeting for members took place in the Art Gallery at the Museum on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1922 and was well attended. At this meeting, officers were approved and elected for the ensuing year as follows:

President:	Lt.Col. W.E. Margesson, CMG.
Vice-President:	Alderman, Mrs. Chapman JP
Hon. Treasurer:	Miss E. Gerard
Hon. Secretary:.	Dr. and Mrs. Milbank Smith

### **Committee:**

Mr. H. Chidwick  
Miss M. Frost FIA  
Mr. C. H. Goodman  
Mr. C. G. T. Port FSA  
Mr. P. Twine

### **Hon. Auditor:**

Mr. A. M. Jarret

A Constitution was drawn up and it included:

Rule 7 – The annual subscription for the first year shall be 2s.6d. due on election

Rule 8 – The ordinary meetings and excursions of the Society shall be held as far as possible on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in selected months.

The first excursion was on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1922, when 80 members visited Shoreham-by-Sea and during the summer and autumn, 6 other excursions were made locally. These were very popular, the attendance usually being over 80 people.

Early in the summer an 'Earthworks' sub-committee was formed, and a member of the Society, J. H. Pull, superintended an excavation at Blackpatch. The site selected was the shaft of an ancient flint mine with radiating galleries at a depth of 12 feet. 160 implements in various stages of manufacture were recovered.

Three members of the Society were appointed members of the committee which was formed to save the ancient building at Shoreham known as Marlipins.

**1923** At the time of the first annual report, published in March 1923, the membership was 229 and the Society had a 'balance in hand' of £12.8s.7d.

The annual subscription was increased to 5s. with an entrance fee of 2s.6d. and the rules had been slightly altered. The Vice Presidents must include the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Worthing.

In July an excavation was undertaken at the rear of Muir House, Broadwater and the "interesting remains of an old kitchen midden were discovered". It was also reported that one of the members, Mr. E. Sayers had purchased the cottage in which John Selden was born in 1584 "and thus its preservation is assured". (Unfortunately, this was too optimistic and, although in 1938 the cottage was given to Worthing Corporation free of cost by Mr. A. W. Oke FSA, who was also a member of WAS, it was demolished post-war to make way for a modern residential development.)

In August a letter appeared in the 'Times' newspaper from members of WAS expressing grave concern about the possibilities of further damage occurring in the area immediately surrounding Stonehenge and urging the authorities concerned, to do their utmost to preserve one of the most valuable archaeological sites this Country possesses.

**1924** Membership had increased to 244. The report on the excavations at Blackpatch appeared in the Sussex Archaeological Collections (Vol. LXV) and excavations were under way on Harrow Hill. This was another flint mine with galleries but it is reported that the cost of the work was very heavy. The record of the excavation fund shows an expenditure of £56.14s.7d.

Another report tells of discoveries made during the year at a flint pit belonging to the Corporation in Waterworks Lane, Broadwater. The pumping station was erected in 1897 and at that time two complete skeletons were found in "round graves". The flint pit situated further south was begun about the same time, when scattered pottery and bones were "noticed" but not

preserved. In the process of obtaining flints from the Coombe rock, a wide pit was revealed filled with layers of dark soil containing pottery and bones. There was no surface depression, the dark soil being overlaid by surface soil as a result of the land having been cultivated for some time. On investigation, the layers of loam interspersed with domestic rubbish went down 20 feet, whereat the soil became damp. It was concluded that this had probably been a well into which the rubbish had been thrown over a considerable time.

Other deposits were found by workmen in the area but at the time no value was attached to the pottery and bones and they were carted away with the flints and rubbish to form a foundation for Grand Avenue. A few sherds, however were submitted to the British Museum, where Mr. Reginald Smith FSA stated that they “seemed to belong to the La Tene period and were like those from Strakoniz (Bohemia) and were not later than 1<sup>st</sup> Century B.C.”.

‘The Worthing Herald’ reported in October 1924 that they had received donations totaling 18 guineas via WAS towards the fund for the purchase of Cissbury Ring by the National Trust.

The first meeting of **1925** was honoured by a visit from Sir Arthur Smith Woodward FRS who lectured on ‘The Fossil Man of Piltdown’ and the annual report describes it as a “highly scientific lecture couched in the simplest terms”.

At the beginning of the year Mr. Russell of Southwater invited the Society to inspect some bones found by him in his garden which had never before been under cultivation. The average depth at which they occurred was 18 to 20 inches. The site had hitherto formed part of a primitive woodland with large oak trees and was situated on the opposite side of the road from the Southwater Brick Co. The specimens were identified at the British Museum as caudal vertebrae of an Iguanodon. About 8 feet south of the vertebrae was found the greater part of a tibia and fragments of an almost complete fibula. The bones were presented to the Worthing Museum.

During the year Cissbury became the property of the Nation and the fund for the purchase of Marlipins was completed.

The annual report for **1926-7** tells us that two outings were cancelled owing to transport difficulties during the General Strike. An account of the excavations at Harrow Hill appeared in the Sussex Archaeological Collections Vol. LXVII. This account was written by Doctors E. and E. C. Curwen, who were then both members of this Society.

Our Hon. Secretary, Miss Marian Frost gave a lecture in January 1927 strongly calling for photographic records to be made of Worthing before it was changed any more, and quoted a few things which had disappeared within the memory of her listeners. A few of those mentioned were:

A pond 'this side' of the railway bridge  
The Infirmary in Chapel Road  
A ducking stool on Broadwater Green  
Any shepherds on the Downs  
Old tombs near the Central Station containing the bodies of some millers,  
whose name was Moore  
A windmill near the Station and another in Mill Road  
The Royal Hotel  
Shady Lane and its fields

The idea was to have a catalogued collection at the Reference Library but belonging to the Society. As a result of this appeal, two collections of photographs of old Worthing were received. A Scientific sub-committee was appointed to systematically record information concerning such subjects as Roman remains, windmills, place names and the photographs.

**1928** Brought us a find of 13 bronze axes in Worthing. Through the generosity of Mr. Harry Piper the specimens were presented to Worthing Museum.

The annual report in **1929** showed 263 members and a balance in the bank of £96.11s.5d. In January the President, Councillor Cook and Mrs. Cook entertained the Society to an 'At Home' at Warnes Hotel. Also in the report was a picture of the Tarring Cottages as they existed before 1895. The cottages had been taken over by the Sussex Archaeological Trust in 1927 – and not before time! The rest of the row of cottages which were pulled down to make Glebe Road, were all timbered in the same fashion and some of the wood had been given to the tenants for firewood!

Membership numbers had climbed to 280 by March **1930** and the bank balance was very healthy, standing at £107.14s.10d. The Society had the pleasure of contributing 1 guinea to the Wiston Church Fund and a similar sum to the Steyning Church Field Purchase Fund. This followed a visit by members to Wiston and Steyning in July **1929**.

Also in that month, the Society had entertained about 100 members of the Museum's Association who were holding their conference at Worthing.

The whole party had tea at the Swan Inn at Petworth and in September about 25 members of Horsham Museum Society were entertained to tea at Mitchell's Restaurant.

Permission was granted by the N.T. to excavate at Cissbury and Dr. E. Cecil Curwen kindly consented to supervise the work. He subsequently gave a winter lecture detailing the work done and the report for **1931** show that £100.19s.5d. was spent on the work:

	£	s.	d.
Supervisor's Board & Lodging	9	19	6
Labourer's Wages & Insurance	59	9	7
Sundry Payments	1	14	4
Examination of Specimens & Preparation of			
Drawings for the Report	9	19	6
Cartage & Hire of Tents	10	1	0
Printing of the Report	9	15	6
	<u>£ 100</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>5</u>

Another lecture during the winter of **1930/31** was given by Dr. R.E. Mortimer Wheeler, MC, MA, FSA, on recent excavation work connected with 'The Earliest Capitals of Britain'. During the talk Dr. Wheeler paid a tribute to the importance of work carried out at Piltdown by Dr. Smith-Woodward, an eminent palaeontologist and who by now was our President. Dr. Wheeler went on to say that "the work had resulted in giving Sussex a place in the history of mankind, unsurpassed by any other locality"!!

Protests were made in the autumn by the Society against unsightly chalk letters placed on the south west slope of the Downs below Cissbury advertising the Cissbury Building Estate. Membership was by now 304 but the bank balance had shrunk due to the Cissbury excavations.

**1932** Dr. E. C. Curwen became President of the Society but there were no more funds for any active excavating.

Quotation from 'Worthing Herald' – Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> 1932 under the heading 'Archaeological Society's Outing to Bury'

"A hundred yards west of Swandean, the members of WAS on their outing last Tuesday, saw a forty gallon barrel of tar fall with a thud in the road just in front of them and roll almost under the wheels of the leading coach. The driver of the lorry, presumably unaware of his loss, unconcernedly drove on and there was nobody to tell what had happened. The WAS, nearly seventy of them in three coaches, examined their find. Nobody wanted it, nobody even thought it would make a good specimen for the Museum, so they left it on the side of the road and continued on their way to Bury."

In **1933** Dr. Curwen was excavating at New Barn Down, on the site of a Late Bronze Age farm behind Clapham, and £61 was spent upon the excavations by WAS. The Society also donated £5 towards the repairs on Tarring Church roof. At Church Hill Findon, Mr. J. H. Pull together with Mr. E. S. Sainsbury was investigating some deep shafts originally sunk in Neolithic times for the recovery of flint. Near the mouths of the pits were large "workshop floors" covered with the evidence of flint knapping and tool making. Two burials were discovered, one of which was

burnt bones accompanied by a stone axe and pottery sherds, found beneath one of these floors. The other, occurring in a mine shaft, was charred bones and skull fragments together with some flint implements. Over these was an inverted highly ornamental pottery bowl of a most unusual type.

The annual report for **1934** tells us that the excavation funds had expired, although there were now 321 members.

**1935** brought 6 more members. An old timbered cottage in an extreme state of dilapidation was demolished on the south side of Church Street, Tarring, the site being required for Council flats. In August, a workman in Charmandean accidentally came across a Bronze Age cinerary urn, together with ash and bone fragments, believed to be those of a young woman. The urn, nearly a foot high and of a bright yellowish-red earthenware, according to the newspaper report of the time, is now in Worthing Museum.

In December **1935** the Society lost its founder, Marian Frost. She was Worthing Corporation's Senior Official and had been the Public Librarian for 39 years. It was by her efforts that the Town possessed such a fine Library with several branches. She became Curator of the Museum & Art Gallery and personally secured many valuable collections for one and noteworthy exhibitions for the other. Her death was greatly regretted by a wide circle of friends.

**1936** The Society had 318 members, about 200 of them being women. £5 was subscribed out of funds towards the £1,400 required to restore timber work in Broadwater Church tower damaged by deathwatch beetles. Excavations were undertaken at the Harrow Hill flint mines directed by Mr. G. A. Holleyman and by March **1937** the bank balance had been depleted to £11.12s.6d.

**1937/8** The excavation of a Roman bathhouse on Highdown Hill was undertaken by the Society, together with members of the Brighton & Hove Arch. Soc. It cost £14, all raised by special donations but further work was impossible due to lack of funds following the work on Harrow Hill. The bathhouse needed a high barbed wire fence and a covering of wire netting to prevent vandalism and was eventually filled in again. (See S.A.C. Vol. 80)

The Society was also interested in saving the top of Highdown Hill from building speculators. A meeting was held at Highdown House at which representatives were present from the County Council, Worthing Town Council, Worthing Rural District Council. and Archaeological Society. The Secretary of the National Trust was also present.

It was arranged that the three Councils would make a joint application to buy the approximately 51 acres at £50 per acre and to share the caretaking at £60 per annum. The Councils concerned subsequently implemented this arrangement and in addition, one of the adjoining landowners,

Mrs. Somerset, agreed to reserve 14 acres as a private open space and Major Stern similarly agreed to reserve 12 ½ acres.

In **1938** Miss G.L. Dean was elected Treasurer and is still a serving member of our Committee. The first summer outing in that year was to the excavation of a Roman bathhouse at Angmering. Members of the Littlehampton Natural Science & Archaeological Society met the party and described the nature of the work. Tea was taken at Littlehampton. In the following February Miss Leslie Scott, who had been in charge of the excavations, gave a lantern lecture describing the work in detail. During the years **1938/9** cottages at Broadwater Square, Gloucester Place, Field Row, Paragon Cottages, Ashacre Lane and Limbrick Lane were demolished. The demolition of the ‘old’ Spaniard Inn in Portland Road resulted in the finding of four commemorative medals of Princess Charlotte, daughter of George I.

Expenditure during the year had included:

Filling in excavations (Highdown Bathhouse)	£ 8	14	6
Restoring an Ox Skull	1	1	0
Hospitality	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>£11</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>

**(War Time) 1939/40** The annual reports continued through the War but were considerably reduced and the quality of the paper declined. Owing to blackout difficulties, it was not possible to hold evening meetings at the Art Gallery but through the kindness of the Electricity & Waterworks Committee, afternoon meetings were held in the lecture room of the Electricity Showrooms in Chapel Road. A Neolithic axe was found in the Chesswood Farm allotments and the demolition took place of Bedford House, Marlborough Hotel and Grafton House. The iron mile plaque marking the 55<sup>th</sup> mile from London, which was built into a flint wall south of Broadwater Manor House, found a home at the Museum.

In **1940** summer outings were “interrupted due to the War” but winter meetings continued. No excavating was done but because there was so much military activity on several of the archaeological sites in the neighbourhood, “so far as it was possible, our Hon. Secretary kept in touch with the authorities and requested that finds of pottery, bones and other remains should be watched”. There is no record of what sort of a reply was forthcoming! However, in **1941** contact was made through the Ministry of Works, with military authorities having regard to damage to land of archaeological interest. The Land Agent & Valuer of the West Sussex Area promised to do all in his power to minimise such damage and report any archaeological finds in the area. Membership was down a little to 291 and the outings were strictly local. The present Membership Secretary remembers that at this time the local children were evacuated to the Midlands away from the threat of Hitler’s invasion.

**1942** saw most of the children back home and the threat of invasion had gone. The Society gave a donation of 5 guineas to the Prisoners of War Fund and held local meetings.

In October **1943** the President, Alderman G.B. Bennett, BA, chose for his Presidential address, the subject of 'Ancient Cities of North Africa', dealing particularly with those districts through which the victorious 8<sup>th</sup> Army had passed so recently.

West Tarring Church spire was struck by lightning in **1944** and we had 277 members and a bank balance of £65.14s.3d. **1945** showed an increase to £74.7s.0d.

'Worthing Gazette' November **1946**

"A reporter drew the attention of Miss Gerard, Curator of Worthing Museum, to the damage being done at Park Brow by army bulldozers who were "restoring" the South Downs to something like their former condition following the military de-requisition orders. The area, a little north of Cissbury, was described as a remarkable Celtic agricultural site. Miss Gerard stated that it would be investigated at once by representatives of WAS and that any action possible would be taken. "The greatest difficulty in dealing with the Army or any of the Government Departments", she went on "is to be able to contact anybody in authority before it is too late. So many people are inclined to dismiss anything to do with archaeology as the business of old fogeys."

In October **1946** a mechanical digger at Sompting in the Halewick Lane area turned up the remains of a bronze cauldron (now in Worthing Museum) containing 15 socketed bronze axe heads.

A 'Gazette' report in August described another excavation at the Angmering Roman bathhouse site. Evidence suggesting that an important Villa was once here prompted the Director, Dr. A.E. Wilson to suggest a really big excavation for the following year. According to the 'Sussex Daily News' of August **1947**, Dr. Wilson spent only a week during that month excavating at the Villa with other members of the Brighton & Hove Arch. Society. This was not mentioned in the reports of WAS for that year but cash in the bank was reduced owing to more excavations carried out on Highdown Hill following the removal of Wartime constructions. This was the continuation of work commenced in **1939** and interrupted by the War. Two smashed Saxon cinerary urns were found and the skeleton of a 6 month old Saxon baby buried with a single bead. This report can be found in S.A.C. LXXXI.

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual report in March **1949** gave little of interest for the proceeding year but the membership had risen to 405 and the cash in the bank was £43.17s.11d. 'Worthing Herald' reported that Mr. Pull had been working at Church Hill, Findon once more and this time had

found a hut site, a communal hearth and another mine shaft. They were described as belonging to the “Beaker Folk of the Later Stone Age”.

**1951** In August of this year an exhibit by WAS had a place in the large Festival of Britain ‘Arts in West Sussex’ Exhibition at the Chichester Arts Centre. Mr. Pull arranged our entry which consisted of specimens, diagrams and maps, tracing through the years the “Prehistoric Flint Industries in West Sussex”.

Mr. R.C. Sherriff, the dramatist was a speaker at the Society’s annual supper during the winter. He spoke as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and an amateur archaeological digger. “I hope it will never fall into the hands of the State”, he said, “I hope no dictator will come along and say ----- let’s dig up England”. He recalled the occasion when he had been working on a dig and took a piece of highly glazed brown pottery to Mr. Mortimer Wheeler, “I think it is early stone ginger” was Mr. Wheeler’s indulgent comment.

The highest number of members, standing at 439 was recorded in **1952**. Excavations on Church Hill, Findon, which had been continuing for several years under the direction of J.H. Pull, were concluded and a brief account appeared in the ‘Sussex County Magazine’ for January **1953**. Worthing Town Council required evidence of previous buildings on the John Selden’s cottage site. Members of the WAS dug trenches in the garden which revealed brickwork foundations but no conclusions could be reached as to their antiquity. It could have been what remained of a Medieval farm house called ‘Lacies’, in which Selden was born in 1589, and the cottage built later at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> C. from some of the material left from the previous house. A detailed report was prepared by Mr. Pull, the Society’s President for **1952**, for submission to the Worthing Town Council.

The Council gave permission for an excavation to open up and clear out one of the flint mines outside the south eastern entrance to Cissbury Ring. The National Trust refused permission for work to be done inside the Ring. This upset the Society’s members due to the fact that WAS was one of the prime movers in obtaining Cissbury Ring for the Trust and in raising a lot of the money for the purchase. ‘West Sussex Gazette’ in an article entitled ‘The Secrets of Cissbury’ tells of a chalk block carved to the shape of a human head with a suggestion of a Hitler moustache, which was presented to the authorities as having been dug up at Cissbury. It is true that it was dug up at Cissbury but it was also carved and buried there by a soldier with time on his hands during the last War!

The subscription was raised to 7s.6d. in **1953** due to the increased cost of printing, stationery and postage. The work was started at Cissbury directed by Mr. Pull and at the end of May, Mr. John Lucas found the bones of a human foot at the entrance to one of the galleries opening off the bottom of the mine shaft. The whole skeleton was recovered and thought to be a miner trapped by a chalk fall. Great care had to be taken because the chalk was still very crumbly and in

danger of another fall. The accident was dated at approximately 2,000 BC by the finding of a leaf-shaped arrow head at the 10ft. level in the shaft. No other arrow head had been found at that depth in a British mine. It transpired later that the skeleton was that of a young woman about 20 years old, holding the remains of a burnt out torch in her hand. A small carved ivory fish was found nearby and drawings of ox and deer heads were on an inner rock face. These excavations were carried on into **1954** and Mr. Pull stated that there were 350 known shafts at Cissbury.

Although the summer weather in this year was poor, the outings had approximately 100 people on each trip, most of these days being fine.

Mr. G.P. Burstow and Mr. G.A. Holleyman directed an excavation at Muntham Court, Findon. Two ox skulls were found indicating that the site was probably that of an early British temple. The site was stripped down to solid chalk and resulted in the finding of three early Iron Age hut sites and one of Romano-British date. About £50 was spent on the work and equipment was borrowed from Brighton College (Junior School).

In August **1955**, the remaining portions of the large circular hut site of Roman date was cleared. Features and finds suggested that this was some kind of Romano-Celtic Temple. The most popular object was a small bronze pig with tusks, found with a small clay model of a human leg. There were also several brooches with pins. One was in the shape of a small fish, bright with ancient enamel colours. An iron knife, a bronze knife, a bone pin, a possible stylus, a bit of a saw, the ferrule of a stick and what seemed to be the frail remains of a pair of tweezers all appeared. Three worn coins of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D. were sent for identification to the British Museum. The pottery sherds included Samian and Castor ware. Further areas of the early Iron Age site were examined and a very large number of post holes were cleared, measured and photographed. The work was done with the assistance of nearly forty volunteers, including several school boys and girls. £57.6s.3d. was spent on the dig. About 25 of the workers camped near the site.

The guest speaker at the first winter meeting was Dr. Kathleen Kenyon, CBE, FSA who spoke about her experiences in Jericho, where a search was being made for the beginnings of civilisation.

In December, Mr. W.F. Grimes, CBE, MA, FSA, FMA, Director of the London Museum, lectured on 'Recent Discoveries in London'. Mr. Grimes was in charge of the excavation at Walbrook which led to the discovery of the Temple devoted to the worship of Mithras.

**1956** saw the demolition of the John Selden cottage. Membership of the Society dropped to 428 and owing to difficulties encountered due to weather conditions, work at the Cissbury flint mines, which had been continuing at weekends, was abandoned and the excavation filled in.

Work was continued at Muntham and thanks were expressed to Col. Ulrich Thynne for making the camping party comfortable. Evidence was found of a palisade in the N.E. corner of the site and a good series of early I.A. pottery came to light. Another £48 was spent on excavating.

Among the finds this year were a bronze key in a good state of preservation (Romano-British); 2 bronze brooches (R.B.) an iron door latch and a door hinge (R.B. or I.A.); a loom weight (I.A.) and a broken mace head used as a hammer stone.

The Junior Section of the Society was formed as a direct result of the interest shown by youngsters at Muntham. The subscription was 2s.6d. Unfortunately the work on this interesting site had to stop in **1957** when Col. Thynne died.

Dr. E.C. Curwen was our President for 2 years, starting in **1959**. The October lecture was given by Dr. Kathleen Kenyon, CBE who brought up to date the results of 7 seasons of excavations in Jericho.

During the year some of the members helped at the Museum's excavations on the Ringmer Road Council Estate. This revealed part of a coastal plain field system of Roman date – the first of its kind in Sussex and also evidence of Iron Age occupation.

Three sites near the town centre produced Roman pottery: Ambrose Place, Wykeham Road and Chapel Road (the Museum extension). There was also some from Marine Crescent and Singleton Crescent, Goring. The latter site also produced Prehistoric pottery.

In **1960** the Society was shocked at the loss of a very active member and past President, when Mr. John Pull was tragically shot by a raider whilst carrying out his security duty at a local bank. It was decided that each winter an outstanding lecture would be arranged to be known as 'The John Pull Lecture'.

During the year a Roman occupational site was identified in Chapel Road close to St. Paul's Church and the foundations of a possible Roman building in Wykeham Road. A Late Neolithic axe head was found in Goring. Near Findon a well, 75ft. deep, suddenly appeared in a field which was in the middle of a possible Roman site.

In **1961** Mr. K.J. Barton, a Committee Member and the Assistant Curator at the Museum, undertook an excavation in Tarring Village. Seven trial trenches were dug, 3 of which produced levels of archaeological importance, the most important being the discovery of a building under the orchard in the Vicarage garden. At the time of the report, half of it had been uncovered and had a date range of 13<sup>th</sup> C. to c. 1515. It had been rebuilt and altered and once used for smelting lead, possibly for ornaments.

Membership in **1962** stood at 402 but no record of activities were available.

Mr. Ken Barton resigned from the Committee upon his appointment as Keeper of the County Museum, Hartlebury Castle in **1963** and Mr. Con Ainsworth joined the WAS.

Museum staff and members of the Society watched well over 30 building sites and public work carried out in the streets of Worthing and District. Seven of them produced interesting results, both in finds and in a curious change in the periods of sites discovered. Until the beginning of **1963** most of the sites found in Worthing had been Roman or earlier but this year the majority were Medieval.

**Brighton Road** - Early in the year trenches dug for water mains exposed a series of 5 ditches and a habitation area between Farncombe Road and Selden Road. These produced 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Roman pottery. Also at the junction with Navarino Road, a habitation area produced similar pottery.

**Tarring Recreation Ground** – Here there was Medieval pottery with a scattering of Roman material.

**Marlborough Road, West Worthing** – A habitation level was exposed in the side of a service trench - a long layer of daub and charcoal. There was no dateable material but the layer had every appearance of being Prehistoric.

**St. Paul's Church** – When the foundations were dug for the new Church Hall, the Roman features found in Chapel Road in **1960/61** were extended further westwards, almost reaching the west end of the Church, and producing more sherds of Roman pottery.

**Junction of The Boulevard and Littlehampton Road** – While the new roundabout was being built, 100 yards of Medieval ditch and possibly a second, were found. There were also a large number of Medieval pits containing quantities of contemporary pottery.

**Offington Hall** – Subsequent to the demolition of this building, service trenches were dug for the new estate. There was a large quantity of Medieval pottery but more important was the Post-Medieval pottery, the first to be found in the Worthing District, made in this Country, Germany, France, Holland, Normandy, Spain and Flanders. This highlights the extent of trading during the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

**Goring Way near Jupp's Barn** – 14<sup>th</sup> C. material – pottery and occupational debris.

**Goring Methodist Church** - During the course of building a new Church Hall, Medieval pottery was found in the footings. The Minister gave permission for an excavation which revealed the

complete foundations of a Medieval house and portions of 2 others. The pottery was dated as 14<sup>th</sup> C.

In **1964** members cooperated with members of the Brighton & Hove Arch. Society under the directorship of Mr. Eric Holden in uncovering a Saxon weaving shed at Erringham near Shoreham. The finds included more than 60 loom weights and a mid 8<sup>th</sup> C. bronze brooch of a Dutch type.

The major undertaking of the year was a rescue excavation sponsored by the Ministry of Public works & Buildings and Worthing Museum. The widening of the A283 near Pulborough was in the proximity of a Roman bathhouse uncovered by Mr. S.E. Winbolt in **1937** and **1939**. This new dig, along a ¾ mile stretch of the new road, revealed evidence to the north and south of the bathhouse. Numerous rubbish pits, kilns and buildings testified to a busy and thriving community in the area from the 1<sup>st</sup> to late 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD.

At Binsted work was commenced on the first Medieval kiln site to be excavated in West Sussex. The 2 kilns had produced West Sussex ware, domestic wares, tiles and chimney pots in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Under the direction of Mr. C.J. Ainsworth, the work took place twice a week throughout the year from Easter onwards.

Worthing Museum Correspondents (Mr. C. J. Ainsworth among others) reinforced the Chelsea Speliological Society at the Findon well, which was now at a depth of 155ft. with no sign of the bottom. Finds included pottery of Samian forms: Curle 15 and Dragendorff 36; 2 pottery stamps and several coins of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The BBC made a short broadcast from the present bottom of the well.

During the winter programme of **1965/66** Mrs. Margaret Rule (now associated with recovery of the Tudor ship 'Mary Rose') spoke to the Society about the excavation at Fishbourne Roman Villa, of which she was the Director.

The Ministry of Works asked the Museum to undertake a rescue excavation at the Maison Dieu at Arundel, prior to the construction of an access road to the Post Office.

In Castle Road, Worthing a bronze two-piece mould for a socketed axe of the Bronze Age was found by a workman digging a trench.

In the **1966/67** report tells us that Worthing Museum diggers were busy in Railway Approach. Major Roper, a past President of the Society, reported the finding of lignite 10ft. below the surface. Romano-British pottery made its appearance in rubbish pits due east of Goring Library.

A talk in January **1967** was given by Dr. Ratcliffe-Densham about 3 of his recent digs: a barrow at Chanctonbury and 2 I.A. sites, one on Harrow Hill and the other on Amberley Mount. A skeleton which he found buried in the Chanctonbury barrow was that of a woman about 30 years old and believed to belong to the Bronze Age.

When Chanctonbury Rural District Council in **1967**, proposed to level St. Cuthman's Field, south of St. Andrew's Church, Steyning, the Ministry of Public Buildings & Works sponsored an investigation of the area. Occupation debris included Romano-British pottery and roof tiles, bronze tweezers, a coin of Edgar (959-975 AD), 12<sup>th</sup> C. stamped pottery and late West Sussex ware. The line of a "twitten" appearing to be Medieval ran east/south east reaching the old bank of the River Adur, just north of Bramber Castle and at a point just opposite the Sele Priory site.

During **1968/9** assistance was given on the I.A. and Romano-British site on Mill Hill in the path of the new Shoreham bypass. In Worthing further evidence of the Romano-British system, running under the Central Library, was recovered by Maj. Roper, from narrow trenches dug for a new traffic light system. Irrigation trenches at the lower end of Steep Bottom on Worthing Golf Links revealed human bones. Examination of the site disclosed the reburial of possibly 3 adults together with Roman pot sherds, 4ft. deep in the bank, which was 17ft. west of the SW corner of the 7<sup>th</sup> green. 25 yards further west, were 2 Roman cremations buried 2 ft. deep and 5ft. apart, with their associated grave goods.

During that year, a gas main was laid between Washington and Arundel. Members of the Society, Museum Correspondents and local archaeological classes observed the trench, which had been carefully arranged to avoid any known important sites. No major new sites were found but a number of minor features were noted, drawn and recorded where necessary.

On the North Col of Harrow Hill, the skeletons of a Roman farmer and his wife were found beside an I.A. hut in the top of an early ditch which ran across the bottom of their yard. Fine excavating by Mr. John Fryer disclosed that the old man had been buried with his boots on.

The depth in the Findon Well had now reached 225ft. During the year, oats together with spelt and barley had been found among the charred corn brought up. The pottery was still of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> C. AD.

In **1970** the Ministry of Public Buildings & Works asked the Museum to relocate the site of a Roman Temple north of Lower Street, Pulborough. Finds included fragments of painted wall plaster. Coin and ceramic evidence confirmed the late 4<sup>th</sup> C. date of the main destruction of the Temple. The finding of masses of concrete flooring deliberately dumped into pits and ditches, together with wall masonry of Pulborough stone roofing tiles suggests deliberate destruction.

During the following year the dredging of the Rive Stor at Lickfold revealed the foundations of the Roman Bathhouse, together with pottery of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> C. AD.

A section near the top of the Findon well disclosed some of the spoil heap from the original digging of the well.

Below this was the old buried land surface containing potsherds from the I.A. and the Roman period, none of which appeared to date from later than 1<sup>st</sup> C. AD. The well therefore was dug during or shortly after 1<sup>st</sup> C. AD and filled in during 4<sup>th</sup> C. AD. Aerial photographs showed a large rectangular enclosure and probable buildings on the slope west of the well. Quantities of Roman pottery, quern, building materials, animal bones and an As of Hadrian were collected by Mr. Allcorn and Dr. Ratcliffe-Densham from the recently ploughed area.

At New Monks Farm, ploughing produced evidence of residual salt working mounds, which are characteristic of salt working in the Adur Valley in Medieval times. The industry is mentioned in 'Doomsday' as taking place on the Lancing area. An excavation produced sherds of Porchester ware, this being the first time that any had been recognised east of the Chichester area. Dr. Cunliffe had previously defined and dated this pottery type as spanning the 10<sup>th</sup> C. AD

Coinciding with decimalisation in **1972**, the annual subscription increased to 75p. In the next year the annual dinner was abandoned due to lack of support and the first wine and cheese evening successfully introduced.

Pipe laying at Ham Manor, Angmering revealed late I.A. and Roman occupation. Road widening and realignment at Hammerpot brought Mesolithic, Beaker and Medieval periods to notice. Most of the investigations were carried out by the newly formed Arun-Adur Archaeological Rescue Group.

Under the control of London University's Institute of Archaeology, a new Field Unit was formed for West Sussex. This marked a new era in the archaeological work of the County.

Local teams and students from the London Institute, together with the new Unit, under the direction of Owen Bedwin, carried out a major excavation on the site of East Angmering Parish Church in **1974**. The remains of a series of church structures extending into the Saxon period were recovered.

Inflation caused coach fares and entrance fees to double by **1975**. It also affected the number of members who stayed in the Society and this dropped to 200 by March **1976**. Local Government changes had meant that a charge was to be made for the use of the Art Gallery. The Society considered that due to their long association since 1922, there were reasonable grounds for the continued free use for meetings and the Leisure & Amenities Committee agreed.

In May **1976** the first John Pull Memorial Lecture was held in the Library Lecture Theatre.

The subscription was raised to £1 in **1977** and the Committee appointed several Assistant Secretaries to help the General Secretary in the management of meetings. The publication of the Newsletters, edited by Mr. Ian Martin, was welcomed. £25 was given towards the replacement of trees at the Singleton Museum which had suffered from the drought and disease in **1976**. A letter sent to the Chief Executive of the Town Council expressed concern and disquiet on behalf of the WAS on hearing of the intention to demolish Beach House.

Two excavations took place in **1978**. The first was in Tarring to examine the foundations of the 17<sup>th</sup> C. Market House. Two building phases were identified, the earlier having flint foundations and a rammed chalk floor. An 18<sup>th</sup> C. cottage was built above this, also on a flint foundation. Pottery dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> C. onwards was found, also a silver halfpenny of Henry VIII and a 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> C. Nuremburg token (found by the current Membership Secretary).

The second dig was at the site of the new Technical College on the corner of Titnore Lane and Littlehampton Road. This revealed a Roman Villa of 2<sup>nd</sup> C., 2 kilns and a midden. 2<sup>nd</sup> C. pottery was in evidence, including Samian of Dragendorff 37. It is hoped to watch this site and possibly do more excavating as the College is extended into the adjacent fields.

Winter meetings were moved to the Library Lecture Theatre, which proved to be very successful after a few teething troubles.

Owing to overall expenses, the subscription was raised to £2 in April **1980**.

Dutton Foreshaw's Garage next to the Connaught Theatre was demolished but the purchasers of the land declined to allow Museum representatives on to the site for the purpose of investigation.

Some of our members assisted Dr. Bedwin in excavating at the Lancing Romano-British Temple site. Dr. Bedwin states that "whatever the chronological date of the Lancing shrine, it would seem to belong to the pre-Roman tradition".

**1981** – A hoard of approximately 100 pieces of bronze metalwork, containing a very large number of spear-heads was found at Bramber. Eight of them were unusual broad-bladed barbed spear-heads indicative of a late metal working tradition called 'Broadward Complex' 900-700 BC and not found before in Sussex.

The Friends of Salvington Mill invited the Society to have a display at their Open Day festivities. A display excavation resulted in the finding of a pair of pliers lost the previous year by one of the Mill restorers and logged in their record book.

Now here we are in **1982** with 60 years of W.A.S. behind us. We have been privileged to have had many distinguished members and friends and, I hope, to have contributed to the archaeological history of the area in no small way. The future of the Worthing Archaeological Society lies in your hands. Long may it last.

This summary was compiled from the Annual Reports, scrap books and Newsletters of the Society. The compiler accepts no responsibility for inaccuracies.

**PRESIDENTS**  
**1922-1983**

1922	Lt. Col. E. W. Margesson, CMG
1923	Dr. H. Milbank Smith
1924	C. H. Goodman
1925	A. D. Mckenzie
1926	Ald. A. Nichols
1927	F. W. Migeod, FRGS, FRAI
1928	Cllr. C. B. Cook
1929	Rev. G.D. C. Wheeler, MA
1930	Sir Arthur Smith Woodward, FRS
1931	E. Cecil Curwen
1932	S. E. Winbolt, MA
1933	Ald. G.B. Bennett
1934	Dr. C. W. Elson, MRCS, LRCP
1935	Miss M. Frost, FLA
1936	W. T. Smithies
1937	Lt. Col. J. W. Springhall, OBE, DCM
1938	F. W. Migeod, FRGS, FRAI
1939	E. C. Martin, BSc, AIC, FGS
1940	Capt. A. C. Roper
1941	C. A. Morris, ATD
1942	C. W. Fox
1943	Ald. G. B. Bennett, BA
1944	S. H. R. Ghey
1945	Ald. E. R. Willoughby, JP
1946)	Dr. A. H. Thomas, FSA, FRHist.Soc.
1947)	
1948)	
1949	Dr. A. E. Wilson, FSA, FRHist.Soc.
1950)	Miss E. Gerard
1951)	
1952	J. H. Pull
1953	Mrs. A. C. Roper
1954	S. S. Frere, MA, FSA
1955)	G. A. Holleyman, FSA
1956)	
1957)	E. F. Salisbury
1958)	

1959) Dr. E. Cecil Curwen, OBE, FSA  
1960)  
1961) G. P. Burstow, BA, FSA  
1962)  
1963) Lt. Col. F. W. G. Dines, OSt.J  
1964)  
1965) Miss G. Dean  
1966)  
1967) Dr. G. W. Winsor, BSc, DK, FRIC  
1968)  
1969) J. C. W. Ludlow, MA, FGS  
1970)  
1971) C. J. Ainsworth  
1972)  
1973) Dr. H. B. A. Ratcliffe-Densham  
1974) L. M. Bickerton, FLA, FMA  
1975)  
1976) Dr. Peter Brandon  
1977)  
1978) Dr. G. W. Winsor, BSc, DK, FRIC  
1979)  
1980)  
1981) A. Barr-Hamilton  
1982)