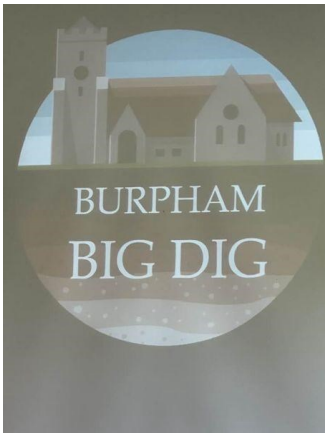
Worthing Archaeological Society

Newsletter August & September 2024

WAS Field Unit

Burpham Big Dig



This will be between 10th and 23rd August. Over 30 residents of Burpham and Wepham have offered their gardens for a 1m² test pit, and there are other areas being dug too.

Those taking part have had details.

WAS will be selling Andy Bell's books – cash only! Any monies raised will be split between the Aortic Centre Trust and the costs of the dig.

There will be an Open Day on August 17th in the Village Hall. 10am to 4pm. All are welcome.

Malthouse/Whitehouse

Very many thanks to Connie for all the organisation, and to Mike Tristram for his constant support.

From Connie:

'The WAS dig at Sompting took place between 15th July and 3rd August. As with last year, the focus was on the western edge of the Malthouse Fields, on the corner of Church Lane and West Street. The area is listed as The Whitehouse on the 1627 map of the area, so the goal has been to determine whether there was a building on the site and whether it could be dated to any period.

The weather was not always with is us so we had some heroic efforts as the team battled first the cold drizzle and later heat and humidity. To the credit of all we did not lose a day's digging because of the weather.



Figure 1- Drone image looking north

(courtesy of David Chuter)

This year we found the extent of the chalk/flint flooring which we dated to around the mid 16thC to late 17thC from pottery and clay pipe remains (of which there were many!). The clay pipes provided good dating evidence (our earliest one dated to 1580.) Equally abundant on this surface were the oyster shells which our diligent finds team carefully counted. Across the surface we found a number of post holes and post-pad support flints together with wall remains suggesting the outlines of the buildings.



The date range for finds astonished us with the earliest being an upper Palaeolithic flint and the last coin of the last day was a George VIth shilling (from the year of my birth!)

On the eastern edge of the excavation, we found building demolition and heaps of oyster shells and a midden pit. So perhaps this was the back wall and rubbish was tossed over it!

Abutting the wall footings excavated last year, we uncovered an area of substantial flint over a layer of burning which yielded many sherds of blackened vessels. Part of the finds processing exercise will be to see whether we have whole vessels.

We knew from last year that the chalk/flint floor had sunk and been repaired over a pit feature. This year, this was expanded to expose a half-section. Finds indicated the pit dated from the medieval period and was completely devoid of any clay pipe remains.



Malthouse/Whitehouse (contd)

One intriguing find from the base of the pit was this Caen stone block with a smooth bowl shape carved out of it. Was it a liturgical instrument used to hold holy water?



I'm sure everyone had their favourite find so perhaps for the next newsletter, people can let us know what most interested them.

And for those who would like to undertake a little research, John Mills suggested that the Dutch paintings of the 16th and 17th C might shed some light on how our building might have been used if it were a tavern. Certainly, Pieter de hooch's inn scenes and his work "*Card Players in a Sunlit Room*" give us a clue about the clay pipes on the floor.'

Finds Processing

Our next Finds meetings will be held at the Slindon Shed on Thursdays 5th & 19th September, 3rd and 17th October from 9.30a.m. to about 12.30 p.m.

Please remember to bring your own refreshments and come prepared to work outside by bringing extra clothing.

Numbers are still limited to 14, so contact Gill if you would like to be there: ggmturner@aol.com



Picture shows a June Session.

Museum Flint Project

Restarting Wednesdays September 25th, October 23rd from 10.30 to 1.30pm, then alternate Wednesday mornings.

WAS Social with flint knapping and BBQ

Saturday August 31st at the Slindon Shed. See end of Newsletter for details.

WAS Walks

- 7th September at 5.30pm — Henry will lead an evening walk around Petworth Town. Meet in the town car park
- 21st September — Guided walk around Medieval Lewes. Led by Simon Stevens. Meeting location details and time to follow
- 19th October at 10.30am — Henry will lead a walk around Petworth Park. Meet in the Town Car Park

Archaeology walks for 2024 with Alex Vincent.

- Oct 5th pm Binsted Church and shrunken medieval village. M. (medium walk)

A fee of £2 or £3 for petrol money to the drivers from the passengers is recommended. Please wear comfortable clothing and footwear. All are welcome. Any enquires my mobile number is 07753282714 or Email me alexeclipsing@gmail.com via Worthing Library.

Autumn 2024 Lectures

In the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre, 7.30 to 9pm:

- Tuesday October 8th — James Sainsbury on 'The Story of Highdown Hill.'
- Tuesday November 12th — Dr Geoffrey Mead on 'Coast at Work: continuity & change.'
- Tuesday December 10th — Dr Lawrence Shaw – Lead Historic Environment Advisor, Forestry England.

Theresa has produced our Lecture Programme in full – look for it at Lectures and on our website.

Field Unit Forum

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday October 15th from 7.30 – 9pm in St Botolph's Church rooms, in Heene. BN11 4LY. On the North side of the Church, entrance from Manor Road.



Day Schools

- 26th October: 10.00-4.00 Medieval Pottery presented by Luke Barber. Worthing Museum
- 23rd November: 10.00-4.00 Post Medieval Sussex presented by Simon Stevens. Worthing Museum.

Bursary – WAS has a Bursary which is set up to help Members attend events which they might find difficult to pay for. Please ask a Committee Member about this if it would help you.

Sussex School of Archaeology and History

- Saturday 12th October 2024 Living in Tudor and Stuart Sussex c.1500 – 1700

CBA SE

- Saturday 16th November Annual Conference in Memory of Malcolm Lyne
  - Details at end of Newsletter.

South East Regional Conference

- Saturday 30 November Kings Church, Brook St, Lewes 'People and Places'
  - Details at end of Newsletter.

WAS visit to Rocky Clump

On Saturday July 6th, a group of WAS folk went to the BHAS dig at Rocky Clump, Stanmer. John Funnell met us and gave us a fascinating tour of the area which is full of history – and a lot of Prehistory. BHAS first went to excavate there in 1951.... It is named after 2 large sarsen stones which are placed approximately at the focus of the site.

There are burials, postholes, ditches. BHAS is now digging in an area south of the Clump, finding Bronze Age pot, Medieval stone, dog burials.

It was such an interesting morning, very many thanks to John, and to BHAS.



(Photo Alex)

Binsted Strawberry Fayre

WAS had a stall at this lovely event.



Worthing Heritage Festival

WAS held a stall in the Museum during the Festival. The 11th Worthing Brownies came as part of their Archaeology Badge – and awarded one to WAS.





Other Societies / Groups

Friends of the South Downs — Based in Pulborough, the Society has a variety of walks and talks which might well be interesting.
Email: **enquiries@southdownssociety.org.uk**

Chichester District Archaeology Society (CDAS) have made their talks available free on their YouTube channel see: **www.CDAS.info**

Liss Archaeology, East Hampshire Community Archaeology — **www.lissarchaeology.uk**
Or email **lissarchaeology@gmail.com**

Worthing Heritage Alliance of which 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

Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society has a variety of events
see **landscape-events@hantsfieldclub.org.uk**

Butser Ancient Farm has launched ButserPlus: a way to enter the world of ButserAncient Farm online with professional video content. Details here:
www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/butser-plus

Sussex Past — **Sussex Archaeological Society**
https://sussexpast.co.uk

Wealden Buildings Study Group — **Wealden Buildings Study Group**
www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk

BHAS — **Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society** **http:/www.brightonarch.org.uk**
Back in the Unitarian Church New Road, Brighton- Start time 7-30 pm. The BHAS lectures will be **live** and not on Zoom.

young archaeologists' club

Brighton Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) is open to everyone aged 8-16 years. We get involved in all sorts of activities, including visiting and investigating archaeological sites and historic places, trying out traditional crafts, taking part in excavations, experimental archaeology and lots more. Brighton YAC is based at Brighton Museum , where we have access to the wonderful Elaine Evans Archaeology Gallery. Occasionally our sessions may be held at other venues depending on planned activities. The club usually meets once, a month on the last Saturday, from 10.30 am-12.30 pm.

If you'd like to get involved please get in touch with the team: contact: Odile Rouard

email: **brightonyac@gmail.com**

Horsham and District Archaeology Group
horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk or 01903 872309



Worthing Archaeological Society



Please can you refresh your memories by reviewing this document, which can be found on the Society's website under Documents / Policy / Privacy Notice.

If any of your contact details have changed since you completed your WAS Membership Application Form, please advise the Membership Secretary, Liz Lane.

Many thanks Donna

If you are already on Facebook and would like to join our closed WAS Facebook group, just ask to join on the Worthing Archaeological Society page

Easy Fundraising

If you shop online, do consider using Easyfundraising to make donations to WAS. Retailers give part of every amount spent to WAS, if you nominate us as your charity **https://new.easyfundraising.org.uk**

Photo Archive

WAS is developing an archive of photos, accessible via the website. Past digs are already well covered, but if you have photos you can share, please send them to Theresa and Richard on **theresa_in_brighton@yahoo.co.uk**
If they are not recent ones, 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.

WAS Archive

Connie is currently Curator of our Archive. We have a good collection of Sussex Archaeological Collections, starting from

And finally a reminder

Subs for 2024 were due on January 1st - £25 for ordinary members, £10 for full-time students. . Feel free to pay by standing order or BACs (details on request)

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**

Please note that at the AGM it was agreed to increase subs to £30 from January 1st 2025. Please update your standing orders / direct debits if you pay that way.

The Worthing Archaeological Society is a registered Charity (291431)
Please note: our email address is: **worthingarchaeological@gmail.com**

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

Worthing Archaeological Society

Summer Social

Saturday 31st August

At the WAS shed, National Trust Estate Yard, Slindon BN18 0RG.

Please come along and join us & there's plenty of parking.

The day will start at 11.30 am with Bob Turner demonstrating flint knapping and then, if you want, it's your turn to give it a try!

Bob will supply safety glasses, knapping tools and knee pads but please remember flint is very sharp so it's important to wear appropriate clothing and shoes to avoid cuts. For anyone that wishes to try their hand at flint knapping at our get together please take note of the following for safety precautions:



- Everyone is welcome to try for a bit of fun and so even if your participation is short lived please wear suitable shoes that cover the foot and have reasonable strong soles
- Ladies should wear trousers as it is difficult to knap in a skirt and no one should wear shorts
- Eye covering will be provided If you wish a glove for your left hand (right if you're left handed) could be useful as everyone should stay safe as flint is very sharp edged
- I only have a limited amount of flint so if you can have a quick trip to the beach and bring 2 or 3 nodules or more it would be appreciated. Ensure the flint is a black as possible and avoid picking up tabular flint which has parallel sides and looks like a thick sandwich
- All knapping tools and knee pads will be provided
- I have a certain amount of hammer stones but if you are looking for flint to knap and see any pebbles that are as spherical as possible this would help



We will light the BBQ at 12.00 noon - bring along whatever you'd like to cook, eat and drink.

There will be plenty of cover to shelter under if needed but we are absolutely positive that the weather will be amazing!!

We will set up a tea, coffee and milk station in the WAS shed for you to brew up but as we don't have any facilities for washing-up, please bring your own mugs and cutlery. It's sounding very like a scout jamboree!

If you are planning on coming & so we have an idea of numbers , please send a note to:

Donna.wiltshire@sky.com

Many thanks and see you there.

SOUTHEAST ENGLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Saturday 30 November 2024 in Kings Church, Brooks Road, Lewes, BN7 2BY

Conference Organiser: anthony.brook27@btinternet.com

'People and Places'

9.00 **Doors open and Registration**

10.10 **Welcome and Announcements**

Programme

10.15-11.00 Lynn Cornwell (Hastings Archaeological Research Group)

'In Pursuit of the Classis Britannica: New Sites in the High Weald'

11.00-11.30 **Coffee and Biscuits**

11.30-12.15 Brian Short (University of Sussex)

'Walking and Writing on the Sussex Weald and Downs: the Legacy of Dr Peter Brandon'

12.15-1.00 Geoffrey Mead (University of Sussex)

'Viscounts and Chicken Stubbers: Community Variation between the Downs and the High Weald'

1.00-2.00 **Lunch**

2.00-2.45 Mike Benton (University of Bristol)

'Changing Ideas of Dinosaurs since William Buckland (1824) and Gideon Mantell (1825)'

2.45-3.30 Ken Brooks (Hastings and District Geological Society)

'Teilhard de Chardin: Priest, Philosopher and Fossil-Hunter in the Hastings Area in early 20th Century'

3.30-4.00 **Tea and Biscuits**

4.00-4.45 Darren Clarke (The Charleston Trust)

'The Highly-influential Bloomsbury Group at Charleston Farmhouse in the Sussex Downs'

To Register for SERC24, please forward your Name, Address, Tel. No. and email to the Conference Organiser (anthony.brook27@btinternet.com); and also forward the Conference Fee of £35 per person, by Direct Bank Transfer, including your name as the reference, to Anthony Brook

Sort Code 40-47-25 Account No. 41791532

Conference Fee for Full-time students is still only £25!

The Conference Fee includes the Conference publication, coffee/tea, and packed lunch. Please indicate any dietary requirements.

Thank you for registering for SERC24 Anthony Brook (Conference Organiser)

CBA SE Annual conference

Saturday 16 November, 10am-5pm, Kings Church, Lewes, East Sussex.

This year's annual conference will be a memorial event in honour of Dr Malcolm Lyne who sadly died last November. Malcolm was a leading Roman pottery specialist, but also had other research interests and skills. He will be sadly missed.

The Memorial Conference, which will reflect Malcolm's research work and interests, will be run by the Sussex School of Archaeology and History in association with CBA SE.

There will also be an online zoom option. Tickets are priced £25 for the in-person conference fee, £20 for CBA-SE members, Sussex School USAS lecture series subscribers, and full-time students; online viewing will be £15. The link for tickets is now available on Eventbrite—https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/931983336247

Confirmed speakers and their lecture titles/topics include:

- Dr Steve Willis (University of Kent): 'Malcolm's Life and Contribution: a Vignette';
- Anna Doherty (Archaeology South-East) who will speak about Malcolm's Roman pottery research work in he South-East;
- Chris Butler (CBAS): 'The Hassocks Roman and Saxon Cemetery and the Wickham Barn Roman Pottery Kilns';
- Lilian Ladle (Bournemouth University): 'The South-East Dorset Black Burnished Ware Industry – Malcolm's Legacy';
- Thomas Martin: 'Roman [pottery] forms in Saxon fabrics';
- Dr Philip Smither (Portable Antiquities Scheme: PAS): ''Rutupine Reviver':
- Malcolm Lyne's impact on the Richborough Archive';
- Professor Mike Fulford (University of Reading): 'Malcolm's Excavations at Pevensey Castle 1936 to 1964';
- Dr Sam Moorhead (PAS): 'Finds of Carausian and Allectan coins from the Saxon Shore';
- Dr Anthony Durham: 'Roman and Early Saxon Place Names around the Solent';
- Arthur Franklin (Lewes Priory Trust): 'Malcolm and Lewes Priory';
- Kevin Trott (Wessex Archaeology): 'Excavating Malcolm's Archives'