Worthing Archaeological Society

Newsletter June & July 2024



Andy Bell very sadly died on April 17th.
After a career in London teaching Maths, he did a degree in Archaeology at UCL and joined WAS in 2008.
He played an active part in digs including Blacksmiths' Corner, Angmering, Parham, Bignor Hill, Lower Farm and Malthouse. As a Member of WAS Committee, he took part in planning and introducing Lectures.
He was also our unofficial shop steward on digs, making sure we got to breaks on time!
He will be sadly missed.
Keith paid a tribute to Andy at his funeral.

John Pull Memorial Plaque Dedication

John Mills, Alex Vincent and Patricia attended the above ceremony on behalf of WAS. There was a good turn out with other societies being represented, together with family and dignatories.

The Dedication took place in the Education Room where a display of information on John Pull's work was laid out.

Speeches were given by Mrs Susan Belton, Worthing Society Chair; Archaeologist Dr Miles Russell; Tim Loughton MP and finally a short address was given by Amanda O'Carroll, granddaughter of John Pull.

Following the speeches, guests walked outside to the south wall of the Museum for the unveiling of The Blue Plaque by Jon Roser, his Worshipful the Mayor of Worthing.

After the unveiling, thanks were given by Mrs Belton, and guests were invited into the Education room of the Museum for light refreshments.

Altogether a very enjoyable and well-run occasion despite rain playing havoc with the photo opportunity during the unveiling.

Paricia



Here are Amanda, John's Granddaughter, with her son Trystan.
A photo report by Alex is at the end of the Newsletter.



WAS Field Unit





Sullington Warren

This was a very successful dig in that we had great weather (except for the last planning morning), lots of folk taking part, and a glorious spot to dig – sand! We found extensive wall foundations, possibly the structures shown up after University Students did resistivity there.

National Trust folk were there to support WAS. Thanks to them for toilets, bowser, and diggers.

A Report will be prepared in summary.

See A “special” report at the back of our newsletter from our guest archaeologist Rowan digging at Sullington Warren

Malthouse/Whitehouse

July 15th to August 3rd to continue our 2023 dig in the SW corner of the field, and to investigate possible houses on the east side of Church Lane.
If you are interested in joining in, please would you let Connie know: connieshirley1@aol.com
If you can give her days you are available, that would help. A calling notice will go out nearer the time.

Meanwhile the Research Group is finding lots of information about the area.

Climping

Will be visited when the tide is right...
Parking is now very difficult.

Burpham Big Dig

10th to 23rd August.
Full details nearer the time.
There will be an Open Day on August 17th in the Village Hall. All are welcome.

Finds Processing

Our next Finds meetings will be held at the Slindon Shed on Thursdays 6th and 20th June, and 4th July from 9.30a.m. to about 12.30 p.m.
The July date will be the last Finds meeting until September, as we will be starting our Sompting dig later followed by the Burpham Big Dig
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



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. Details and time to follow.

Autumn 2024 Lecture dates

In the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre.

- Tuesday October 8th: James Sainsbury on 'The Story of Hghdown 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 2nd July 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.

Visits

- Saturday July 6th : 10.30 am. WAS has been invited to visit Rocky Clump. BHAS dig (for many years) - Meeting up details to follow.
- Saturday July 13th : Open Day at Culver Farm dig 10.30 to 11.30. WAS Members will be welcome to visit then.

Save the date

- Saturday 12th October 2024: Sussex School of Archaeology and History—Living in Tudor and Stuart Sussex—c.1500 – 1700
- Mark Phillips' Lecture on the B24 See end of Newsletter
- April Petworth Walk See end of Newsletter
- Worthing Heritage Festival WAS will have a display in the Museum on Saturday June 15th between 10.30 and 3. If you are free, come and join us.



WALKING INTO HISTORY.

Archaeology walks for 2024. Alex Vincent.

- Jun 3. Binsted. Church and shrunken medieval village. M.
  Jun 10. Upper Beeding. Church, priory and shifted medieval village. L.
- Jun 17. Mill Hill, Erringham. Possible Neolithic long barrow and windmill. S.
- Jun 24. Hoe Court, Lancing. Neolithic road and settlement. L.
- Jul 1. Chantry Hill, Storrington. Chantry, Roman terraceway and settlements. L.
- Jul 8. Roundstone, East Preston. The story of the runaway millstone. M.
- Jul 15. Angmering. Site of St Nicholas Church. M.
- Jul 22. Barrow Acre, Ferring. Rife, Roman site and possible barrows. M.
- Jul 29. Cissbury Ring. Neolithic flint mines and Iron Age hillfort. L.
- Aug 5. Cutmill, Broadwater. Site of medieval watermill. M.

S = short walk, M = medium walk and L = long walk.

We meet temporarily this year at the Waitrose Car Park in the High Street, Worthing, on Monday evenings at 6.45 for 7 PM. Route maps on how to get there will be given on the day. 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. After the walks, we go to a pub for refreshment.

Any enquires my mobile number is 07753282714 or Email me **alexeclipsing@gmail.com** via Worthing Library.

Chichester District Archaeology Society

Saturday 22nd June (10.00)

Walking Tour of Roman
(and Medieval) Chichester – Part 1
Led by James Kenny, Archaeology Officer, Chichester District Council
Meeting point: in front of the Council Chamber, North Street, Chichester
Fee: members £7.50; non-members £12.50
Details and booking from: **activities@cdas.info**

Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society

Has a variety of events
See landscape-events@hantsfieldclub.org.uk

Saturday 6th July (9.30-17.00)

Weald & Downland Museum – The Houses of the Weald from
Medieval to Early Modern
This course will look at houses in the Weald as homes in which families lived and worked. The
tutors are Barbara and David Martin. Visits to some of the houses in the museum will be included.
Fee: £75
Details and booking from: **https://www.wealddown.co.uk/events/medieval-to-early-modern-Houses**



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

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

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.



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

A “special” report from our guest archaeologist Rowan digging at Sullington Warren

These are archaeological finds from The Warren, Sullington, West Sussex. They are a broken brick and a terracotta roof tile.

The tile is from the roof because it was a farm building and it would not have had a tile floor. I think it would have had a dirt floor or cobbles but we didn’t find any cobbles so it was probably just dirt.

The brick has been charred more on one side as there is a slight difference in colour. It’s hand made because there is no ‘frog’ - which is a dimple for mortar to go in.

Handmade bricks were made locally before the Industrial Revolution, in the 18th Century.

We measured the brick so we can find out what period the brick was from. We could only measure one side because the face of the brick was broken on the others. It measured two inches. This was the smallest measurement because all the other sides were broken but were larger. We measured in inches because this was the measurement they used when we think it was made.

We checked using a website and this said that there were thicknesses of bricks from each era. A two inch thick brick was the size of bricks made in the 15th Century. But we found that it could be from up to the 17th century because bricks couldn’t be made accurately at the time.

One is pictured with a banana because that’s what Keith told me he uses as a measure to compare.













Mark Phillips on 'The Men, the Mission, the Recovery: The search for the B24 and its MIAs

Arundel historian, and local councillor, Mark Phillips gave an interesting, and occasionally emotional, talk on the latest excavation of a crashed WW2 American B24 bomber at Park Farm, Arundel. This excavation, which was carried out in two phases (the first in 2019 and the second in 2021) had two, occasionally conflicting, objectives – the recovery of the bodies of the missing crew and the recovery of the remains of the aircraft. The American Veterans Archaeological Recovery Team (AVAR), working under the guidance of the American Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) was primarily focused on recovering the bodies of the Missing in Action (MIA) airmen.



Military Historian Mark Khan was more focused on processing the remains of the aircraft. The excavation team also included British veterans (from Operation Nightingale), a team from the University of York, and local archaeologists, including the farmer John Sellers (who was 12 at the time when he witnessed the crash) and his family.

AVAR and Operation Nightingale have similar objectives in providing a vehicle for military veterans to support the recovery of wounded, injured and sick military personnel and veterans, including those suffering from PTSD, and some of you will recall the lecture by Richard Osgood in 2020 on Operation Nightingale. This was also not the first excavation of the site as in 1974 the Wealden Aviation Archaeology Group had excavated the site, extracting significant portions of the aircraft, but there does not appear to have been any write-up and the location of the artefacts is unknown.

On Thursday 22 June 1944, an American B24 Consolidated Liberator of the USSAF 489 Bomber Group – nicknamed 'Johnny Reb' – crashed upon its return to the UK, following severe battle damage to the plane during its mission to bomb the airfield at St-Cyr, SW of Paris. Although 7 of the 10 man crew managed to escape from the aircraft, the pilot, 2nd Lieutenant William Bailey Montgomery, co-pilot, Flight Officer John J. Crowther, and the flight engineer, TSgt John Holoka, went down with the plane. At the time of the crash some human remains were recovered by Land Girls working on the farm and identified as FO Crowther. These were repatriated to the US at the time. The remains of the aircraft that were easily recoverable were also removed from the site by the authorities.

The 2019 & 2021 excavations were professionally done, although there were some interesting variations from normal practice. Firstly the team had to be given Explosive Recognition Training and there was still a quantity of live ammunition, etc, to be excavated. The 4 initial trenches eventually became one single large trench and as bits of the aircraft had buried themselves up to 4m deep in the clay, the trench became that deep. There was no shoring, but the clay did allow the team to get away with that, even if the H&S Executive might not… One of the 4 Browning Machine Guns was also recovered and had to be made safe by a gunsmith. Other artefacts included a .45 Calibre Colt pistol, the ring of 2Lt Montgomery and a dog tag of TSgt Holoka.



Picture of the memorial taken from Sussex World.

Mark Phillips on 'The Men, the Mission, the Recovery: The search for the B24 and its MIAs cont'd

A memorial stone was erected on site and a service of remembrance was held, with the team being joined by other veterans, including a British WW2 serviceman, and a Flypast by a Spitfire was arranged. Eight members of the family of the pilot also travelled from Charleston, South Carolina, to see the site on Park Farm where their ancestor had crashed. The whole dig was interspersed with emotional occasions when various human remains were found. One veteran excavator found a foot towards the end of one day and camped overnight by the trench to "keep him company". TSgt Holoka was repatriated and given a full military funeral on 1/5/23 and 2Lt Montgomery on 13/9/23.



Picture of the spoil sieves – from Mark Phillips



Aerial site photo from Mark Phillips.

For further information on the bomber, its crash and the excavation, the following websites may be of interest:
https://www.keymilitary.com/article/rough-day

https://americanveteransarchaeology.org/avar_project/b-24-recovery/

https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/In-The-News/Article/2694276/the-hunt-for-johnny-reb-american-veterans-dig-up-wreckage-of-ww2-b-24-liberator/

https://www.lakenheath.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2700349/no-man-left-behind-volunteers-and-veterans-recover-fallen-service-members/

https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/retro/the-arundel-bomber-pilot-lieutenant-william-montgomerys-remains-identified-after-recovery-mission-and-family-say-it-means-the-world-4066383

Robin Courtney Bennett

Account of the Petworth Park walk in April

Henry Wakeford kindly agreed to give WAS members a guided walk around Petworth Park, so on Saturday 27th April a group met at the Petworth town car park. It was a bit on the chilly side but we were dressed for it!



As the Farmer's Market was set up in the square we were lucky enough to be able to view their wares as we weaved our way through the pretty streets to a side entrance to the estate.

We started the walk with Henry leading us through an underground tunnel explaining that it had been built so that the cattle could be moved from the fields to the sheds without disturbing the view for the inhabitants of the house.

We couldn't have had a more knowledgeable guide. Henry told us that he was born and grew up on the estate, as did his father, who worked and repaired all the metalwork on the estate and his grandfather, who was a farmer.



We walked over the beautiful lawns at the back of the house (which at one time had been the front) marvelling at the gardens that had been designed by Capability Brown in the 18th century.

We saw the area where they had excavated the 'Lost' North Wing, walked over the sweeping lawns, stopping to hear of other excavations where they had been looking for the stables

We passed the Upper Pond and walked over to the far edges of the estate, passed the cricket and football pitches, near to the village of Tillington, much of which had been grabbed by the estate when they had built the wall to surround the property.

The House had had large opulent stables that housed race horses, as at one time horse racing was a big event at the Park. It is said that because of the raucous behaviour of the soldiers riding in the races, the Earl stopped all racing on the estate and Goodwood House took over the event!



Although the stables no longer exist, we did see a recently refurbished 'Stallion/Mare House', (one of three that are still standing on the estate), where the mares were taken to foal.

We passed the area where soldiers had camped during WWI before heading off to the Front, saw a herd of deer in the distance and ended our walk at an excavation that had taken place on Lawn Hill. Henry showed us photos of their finds - one being a beautiful tiny French ring. Many of the group had been members of this excavation and happily recounted their memories. Later this year there are plans to excavate this area again as they now have permission to dig in an area that was previously denied to them. It will be exciting to hear what they find!

Thank you Henry, we all had such a great walk through the Park and heard lots of stories of how life had been lived over the years.

Donna Wiltshire

John Henry Pull Blue Plaque unveiling at Worthing Museum.
16.5.24. Alex Vincent.


















The unveiling of the John Henry Pull Blue Plaque went well despite the rain. Sue Belton gave a welcome address. Miles Russell, Tim Loughton and Amanda O'Carroll gave a short address. The Mayor of Worthing unveiled the plaque. The Mayor and Amanda O'Carroll cut the cake. It was a most enjoyable day.