Worthing Archaeological Society

Newsletter December 2024 & January 2025

WAS Field Unit

Burpham Big Dig

We will be returning to Forge Field in the Spring. The plan is to open two trenches over two or three long weekends. All subject to getting landowners permission.

Malthouse/Whitehouse

We are hoping to start looking at what we think is a well cut and well and some of the area in the SW corner on Fridays in the Spring.

Flint Sessions in the Museum.

Wednesdays 4th and 18th December, 15th and 29th January and 12th February, from 10.30 to 1.30.

Please let Gill know if you plan on coming—**ggmturner@aol.com**

Finds Processing in Slindon

Thursday 5th December at our usual time, and Christmas Get-together on December 19th. Then 9th and 23rd January and 6th and 20th February.

Please contact Gill if you are planning on joining us as there are still limitations on numbers—**ggmturner@aol.com**

WAS Walks

19th October Petworth Park - Postponed to 2025....

Autumn 2024 Lectures

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

- **Tuesday December 10th**
  - Dr Lawrence Shaw – Lead Historic Environment Advisor, Forestry England.
  - This lecture will touch on just some of the incredible archaeological and historical narratives that can be found within the Nation's Forest and how Forestry England has influenced these.— See poster at end of Newsletter.
- **Tuesday January 14th**
  - Sarah Green – Director of the Sussex School of Archaeology
  - Crete: Myth of the Minotour - Archaeology of the Minoans
  - This lecture will look at who were the Minoans and how did their civilisation, which has been described as the earliest of its kind in Europe, develop into a strong maritime entity which traded throughout the Aegean, notably on mainland Greece, and with Egypt, along with the archaeological evidence we have for the Aegean Bronze Age civilization on the island of Crete, which flourished from about 2600 to 1100 BC and was rediscovered at the beginning of the 20th century through the work of British archaeologist Arthur Evans.

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 January 28th 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 School

- **Saturday January 18th—10am – 4pm in the Museum.**
  - Luke Barber will talk about Early and Late-Medieval Pottery.
  - Tea and coffee will be available from 9.45 am. Parking can be found in the NCP Car Park next to the Connaught Theatre or in the multi-storey car park in Worthing High Street.
  - Costs for the day: Members £25.00, Non-Members £30.00

Please let me know if you would like to join us for this fascinating day of discovery ---- **donna.wiltshire@sky.com**

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.





Alan King

Very sadly Alan died suddenly on November 8th. We knew his heart wasn't good, but it's still a shock, especially as he was at the Finds Session the day before. He was a lovely man, with a quiet sense of humor, always smiling and friendly. He will be missed by us all, but especially by the Finds Team and the Whitehouse Research Group.

October Lecture

The Story of Highdown Hill Lecture by James Sainsbury



James began his Lecture by thanking WAS for all the work they did on the Burpham Big Dig in August.

His Lecture spanned the history of Highdown from the Stone Age to now – well, even up to July 2025.

Highdown Hill has a dominating and important position. It is a high chalk ridge with a raised beach and a 270º view. Early peoples were exploiting the Rife, which was navigable at least for flat-bottomed boats, until the Roman era.

Megalithic tools have been found, including stones from Wales and Cornwall.

There is no evidence now of Neolithic structures, they would have been on the southern slopes, now long lost. It's a prime location for Neolithic settlement. Thanks to Brian Drury a long barrow has been found in the bath-house field. It's the first funerary evidence of this period between the Arun and Adur. 'Langbury' could mean long barrow?

In the Bronze Age it was a hill enclosure, possibly an elite site from where they distributed their metal. A Founders' Hoard was found by Edwin Henty, and the Ferring Hoard – a ritual hoard – by the rife.

There are possible barrows south and west of the site.

A Halstatt bone fastener was found in the bath-house field – from the Early Iron Age – and in the interior of the fort there is evidence of butchery, and spindle whorls of Mid-Iron Age/Early Bronze Age. The site was probably abandoned by 50 B.C..

Lidar shows field systems and possible barrows. Finds from the 1980s include a gold quarter Belgic stater from 60 B.C. and a Roman silver coin of Verica. 300 pots were found inside the quarry.

Before the War, WAS dug on the Roman Bathhouse West of the hill-top. It is regularly hit by Night-hawkers, sadly. The finds from the bathouse are in the Museum. But where is the villa? South of the windmill?

There is a late 3rd century square structure inside the fort – could have been a base for a beacon? There are sherds of Roman pottery in the SE corner.

At the time of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery, could this have been a small fortlet filling in the gap between Pevensey and Portchester?

In the 5th Century there were incursions from Normandy.

In 1892 Edwin Henty, the Landowner, who could see the hill from Ferring, wanted to plant trees up there. He found human remains, glassware. Henty stopped the digging and started looking at the graves, with C.H. Read..

Dr Sue Harrington has found Henty and Read's notes. Henty was digging until 1901 and found 40 cremations. Read says 'it was the burial place of Saxon Kings'. They missed a lot and their storage was very poor. They laid skeletons out for a week - no-one knew much about bones. They mostly kept male skulls, and many were re-interred.

In 1939 Wilson uncovered more grave cuts.

In 1988, after the hurricane, there was a rescue excavation. 2 swords were found. 10% of the graves had weapons. There were sword bosses, some retaining some fabric, and a Frankish throwing spear – very rare in Britain.



In grave 2 there was a rich female burial – skeleton in the Museum. She had 3 bronze gilt brooches, a bronze buckle. There was a 6th century pennanular brooch and a quoit brooch from the late 5th to early 6th Century. The Highdown goblet, on display in the Museum, was found in grave 49. It dates from 40 A.D. and was very possibly made in Antioch. The words 'use me and good health to you' are engraved on it, in Greek. The base is a different fit to the body – it may have been re-set. It is unique.

There was no report ever produced after the 1988 dig. It was a complicated dig, due to all the roots, etc.

In the 6th Century, the cemetery was at its peak – some of those buried must have been victims of the plague of Justinian. 170 inhumations and 30 cremations have been discovered, with child burials. A great deal has been lost from this site.

The Patching Hoard found North of Highdown, buried around 465 – 470 – may have been associated with Highdown.

The site was abandoned as a cemetery around 600 – 650.

In the 12th Century a windmill was recorded on the site.

Highdown became a tourist hotspot, with the attractions of the Sterns Gardens, a summer camp for Jewish children from the East End of London...

Highdown Revisited is a group who want to do the area justice. Sue Harrington, UCL, the Carola Headley Trust, Scott Chausee and ASE are all involved. There are possibly 5 un-touched graves. National Trust and English Heritage are involved in planning for a Rescue dig – partly because of the losses through night-hawking.

James Brown, of the N.T., has given permission for a 2-week dig in July 2025 during the Festival of Archaeology, involving the Museum, WAS, UCL and the National Trust.

Richard & Liz



November Lecture

The Coast At Work Sussex East To West - Dr Geoffrey Mead



Work in Sussex can be divided into three headings, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary.

Primary occupations relate to the geography and geology of the county. Kindle net fishing, tidal trapping on fish by means of nets suspended between poles, was a major source of employment at the bottom of the social spectrum.

Use of 'cobbles' for pot fishing, catching prawns, lobster and crabs was also a major source of income along the coast as far west as Selsey.

Away from the coast, timber production was the main employment.

Blue stone pebbles also provided an income for fit young people. Blue stone flint, as opposed to brown flint, was collected from beaches to supply the glass making and pottery glazing industry. Blue stone flint cobbles are much harder than brown flint and were transported to Runcorn for Stoke on Trent where it was ground to a powder for the china industry, and for industry in Lancashire.

Secondary employment was largely the construction of boats and ships, Shoreham being the main supplier of ships for the 100 years war with Hastings (String Town) supplying twine and ropes for nets and rigging.

Early in the 20th century film studios opened on the Shoreham Arm thanks to the sunshine and south facing beach. However several fires and its remote location eventually led to the industry's demise.

Tertiary employment was, notably, smuggling. Revenue men were recruited from distant locations to intercept high value goods from the Continent. One Revenue Sale advertised……

'For Personal Consumption'

10,000 gallons of Geneva.

1284 gallons of brandy.

123 gallons of rum.

720 lbs of pepper.

6lbs of tea.

88lbs of chocolate.

Many of these items were brought ashore at Cuckmere, Portslade and Shoreham.

Much tertiary employment was provided by the Napoleonic Wars with the construction of forts and redoubts. Once peace arrived tourism became a major employer with sea bathing, brewing, ice-cream production and hotel keeping.

Today Brighton, Eastbourne and Worthing are still the main areas of tourism.

Chris



October Study Day

Sussex Post-Roman to Late-Medieval Pottery Study Day with Luke Barber



Luke gave us a fascinating study of pottery, looking at fabrics, tempering, inclusions and decorative techniques throughout this period. This is a very brief summary!

He explained that being a Pottery Specialist is a very local thing. There is so much to learn about local methods, etc., that people generally know only about their own area.

In Saxon and Saxo-Norman times there was no industry in Sussex. Kilns were short-lived domestic bonfires and none have been found so far.

There is evidence that they existed, e.g. Potlands Farm

Early Anglo-Saxon from 350 – 650. Saxon settlers were coming in from 350. There is a disproportionate amount of Saxon pottery in Sussex because lots of graves/cemeteries have been dug.

Romano-Saxon pottery was wheel-turned, sand-tempered wares. Features included impressed dots. All was handmade, probably by professional Potters.

There were plain biconical jars, rims were simple inverted, and they had flat bases. This didn't really change until the 12th Century.

Middle-Saxon 650 – 850. There was a rise of grass-tempering. Quality was still poor, using alluvial flint temper, no sand. All hand-made, very localised and domestic. There were some imported wares, for instance from East Anglia, which were made on a slow wheel, (i.e. turned by hand) using proper kilns.

Late Saxon 850 – 1066. Domestic pottery was all alluvial flint-tempered, using finer flint and better fired. Still using a slow wheel, but better constructed, controlled kilns.

Burpham has a very good assemblage from Sussex for the late Saxon Period.

There are still imports from East Anglia, but some from France and the Rhineland are beginning to reach Sussex.

Saxo-Norman – Early Medieval 1066 – 1225. There was no major change in ceramics, the Norman invasion changed the top layer of society, not the rest of the population. There is a scatter of Norman imports – for consumption by the Norman elite.

Local wares continued with alluvial flint, firing got better, there was some chalk-tempering. Quartz tempering was increasing and gradually the use of sand replaced flint as tempering.

This was because the wheel was used, flint wrecks hands!

In the Weald, by the 12th and 13th Centuries, shell tempering was used. There was also an increase in oxidised wares – orange and red colours. Imports were increasing

High Medieval 1225 – 1375. This was the peak of Medieval pottery in the quantity and quality of sites. For example there are 3 known sites in Chichester, producing flinty wares. Also sites at Binsted, Ringmer, Street, Rye, Winchelsea.

There was a greater variety of pots – cooking pots with more developed rims, storage jars, bowls, pipkins, frying pans.....and lots of jugs.

Imports were now Dutch, German, Flemish, Rouen, Saintonge.

By the 14th Century there were only sandy wares.

Transitional 1375 – 1525/50. The Black Death in the mid 14th Century changed society.

In Sussex a lot of sites were abandoned after the Black Death. Peasants gained as there were fewer of them, so they were in demand. There was an increase in firing temperatures so pots were better.

By the 15th Century the population started to increase again and smaller sites come into being.

Jugs, wide strap handles, deep bowls, painted ware, bunghole pitchers, white slip etc. were being produced. There was a much wider range of forms, new techniques were coming in. It was getting more common to have houses with chimneys, rather than open hearths, so fewer cooking vessels were made. Dishes were for tableware. Tudor green came in from Surrey by 1425 – 1550. Imports included Dutch redware, Spanish lustre wares.

By the 16th Century glazing could be on the inside of vessels, so they could take liquids properly. Dripping trays were made because meat was roasted on spits. Tin glazes were being used – they could be decorated. Stonewares came in from the 14th and 15th Centuries – they were impervious to water.

Raeren pottery became more common – see below.



November Study Day

Simon Steven's Study Day on Post-Medieval Archaeology



Simon started by saying that Post-Medieval Archaeology is the Cinderella of Archaeology. He put up a photo of sweet wrappers dug up recently and asked us if they are Archaeology.

As Archaeology can be described as 'the Study of the Past through Material Remains', the answer has to be 'yes'.

Post-Medieval Archaeology is visible to us all.

Post-Medieval has more than one starting point, but Simon described it as post-1550 – after the Dissolution of the Monasteries. It is uniquely vulnerable, post-Med buildings are under constant threat. A building is a 3D representation of the history of a site.

A major change since 1550 is transportation – roads, railways, canals...

Simon described Crawley as a thriving town before, in the 1500s, blast furnaces came. Bloomeries vanished and the town died. The area below ground reflects this.

He showed a photo of the Weald – a Post-Medieval landscape created through the iron industry.

An example is Buxted Park – a home was built, the village moved, gardens created.

The centre of towns is often fossilised, but the outskirts are developed.

Simon also talked about the Heritage Industry. A good example being the Bluebell Railway – reconstructed, very successfully, for leisure and education – a working Museum.

Also Amberley Chalk Pits – a great Museum. In situ buildings are preserved and others moved in. Our Post-Medieval past preserved.

Buildings such as Martello towers, will, if left, deteriorate.

He talked about Priddy's Hard, in Gosport, a scheduled Ancient Monument which has been developed, though, as the Developer went bust, there is no record of what was done.

Most Archaeology is now done in advance of Development. Ropetackle, at Shoreham, was a case like this. There were finds from former pubs, houses, for example clay pipes and some high value items.

Simon also mentioned his Stiances Project. It is tangible, Post-Med, lots of finds.

There are a lot of issues involved in any Archaeology involving human remains, moral dilemmas. Also health problems – for example a body in a sealed lead coffin – if opened, any diseases will explode out. So how to re-bury? Also some of these sites can tell stories of individuals. Research is text-aided, and we do have a Planning framework for all of this.

He showed a re-painted advert in York. The original – nearly identical – was very faded, but is it right to re-do it. Is it conservation or intervention? This is another difficult area.



Simon's Lecture gave us a lot of food for thought, thanks, Simon.

Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society

- Friday December 13th at 7-00 pm

The BHAS Annual General Meeting will be held on . followed by a Lecture - 'Salt of the Earth: the salt industry of the Adur Valley' by our President Dr Janet Pennington – This will be followed by a social in the hall, and the Golden Sussex Loop Award.

Venue: Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton.

Fee: Non-members £3

Fee: Non-members £3

- Friday January 10th

Orkney (via Zoom)

Details from: **http://www.brightonarch.org.uk/6.htm**

- Wednesday 22nd January 2025:

USAS ONLINE LECTURE
Heathfield Down: An Alternative Location for the Battlefield of Hastings,1066
Speakers: Dr Rebecca Welshman and Simon Coleman



Other Societies / Groups

Friends of the SOUTH DOWNS SOUTH DOWNS SOCIETY

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

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**

BUTSER ANCIENT FARM

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

Horsham and District Archaeology Group

horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk or 01903 872309

SUSSEX PAST

Sussex Archaeological Society

https://sussexpast.co.uk

WEALDEN BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

Wealden Buildings Study Group

www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk

BHAS Founded 1906

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 2025 are due on January 1st - £30 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

Lecture Programme for 2024:

Dr Lawrence Shaw

Archaeologist, Lead Historic Environment Advisor Forestry England

Rooted in History, Branching into the Future: The Story of the Nation's Forests.



The nation's forests are home to some of the best archaeological sites, historic buildings and designed landscapes found in England. Evidence of how humans have shaped these places can be found frozen in time, hidden beneath the tree canopy. The unique nature of forestry, when compared to other land uses, means that our historic record has the potential to be preserved to a much higher degree, with tens of thousands of known sites, and more than 850 protected monuments, buildings and parks and gardens found throughout our forests. How the Forestry Commission developed, how we acquired land and how this has been managed over the last one hundred years, means that Forestry England now oversees a palimpsest of landscape histories, ranging from the Palaeolithic through to the Second World War, as well as our own histories. This lecture will touch on just some of the incredible archaeological and historical narratives that can be found within the Nation's Forest and how Forestry England has influenced these.

December 10th 2024

Worthing Library Lecture Theatre 7.30pm – 9pm



All visitors are welcome, entry £4. Members free

worthingarchaeological.org

Worthing Archaeological Society

Worthing Archaeological Society Day School

Early and Late Post-Medieval Pottery

Presented by Luke Barber



Tin-glazed earthenware, late 17th or early 18th century



German stoneware (Bellarmine from the 1600s);

This Day School on Post-Medieval pottery will pick up from where we left off after our Day School of 26th October 2024 entitled 'Saxon and Medieval Pottery in Sussex'.

Luke will do a recap of Late Medieval pottery from the 15th to early 16th centuries. He will then look at early and late post-medieval wares and forms spanning the 16th to early 20th centuries. This period sees the rise of industrially produced wares of the18th century when Britain actually started to export wares to the Continent. As well as slides Luke will show us reference sherds and there will be time for practical sorting sessions.



Kingston-type ware jug

Saturday 18th January, 2025
10.00 am - 4.30 pm
Worthing Museum



Late medieval Tudor Green ware jug

Tea and coffee will be available from 9.45 am. Parking can be found in the NCP Car Park next to the Connaught Theatre or in the multi-storey car park in Worthing High Street.

Costs for the day: Members £25.00, Non-Members £30.00

Please let me know if you would like to join us for this fascinating day of discovery ---- donna.wiltshire@sky.com

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Worthing Archaeological Society

Lecture Programme for 2025

Sarah Green

Sarah is a joint director of the Sussex School of Archaeology and History, the 'Keeper of the Keys' of Bramber Castle, a co-founder of the University of Sussex Archaeology Society and a Practitioner of the Chartered Institute for Archaeology.

Crete: Myth of the Minatour - Archaeology of the Minoans



Theseus and the Minotaur



Knossos North Portico

Crete is best known in Greek Mythology as the home of King Minos, his wife Pasiphae, their daughters Ariadne and Phaedra and Pasiphae's child, the Minotaur. According to the myth, the half-bull, half-man was housed in a labyrinth and killed by the hero Theseus. But who were the Minoans and how did their civilisation, which has been described as the earliest of its kind in Europe, develop into a strong maritime entity which traded throughout the Aegean, notably on mainland Greece, and with Egypt?

This lecture will look at the archaeological evidence we have for the Aegean Bronze Age civilization on the island of Crete, which flourished from about 2600 to 1100 BC and was rediscovered at the beginning of the 20th century through the work of British archaeologist Arthur Evans.

January 14th 2025

Worthing Library Lecture Theatre 7.30pm – 9pm

All visitors are welcome, entry £4. Members free



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