Worthing Archaeological Society

Newsletter June & July 2026

WAS Field Unit

Just a gentle reminder that you will need to be up-to-date with subs before you come on one of our digs!

Highdown Big Dig

It is planned to return there in 2027.

Malthouse/Whitehouse

10th to 25th July, to investigate the walls found at the West side of the site, the well, and also the pit found under the spoil heap!

Full details soon, sign up if you haven't yet.

Burpham Highfield

WAS is going to investigate this site in August 2026, probably starting 22nd. There is a possible Iron Age enclosure. Sign up if you haven't already.



Finds Processing

Our next Finds meetings will be held at the Slindon Shed on Thursdays 4th and 18th June and 2nd July from 9.30 a.m. to about 12.30 p.m.

Please remember to bring your own refreshments.

Please let Gill know if you plan to be there as numbers are still restricted. ggmturner@aol.com

Flint Sessions in the Museum.

Will not resume now until the Autumn.

Field Unit Forum

Our next meeting will be on June 16th, 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.

Petworth Metal-Detecting days

WAS Finds Team helped with the mainly metal Finds on 3 days in April. There were about 50 Detectorists out. Also both of our Finds Liaison Officers. It was a good few days.





Windows on the Pier

On Saturday May 2nd an event was held to mark the final window being revealed, and to celebrate the 16 years of this Project. WAS has 2 windows, one dedicated to John Pull, and one to Con Ainsworth, both created by Siobhan Jones.



2026 WAS Lectures, Day Schools & Other events 1

- **Wednesday 8th July**
  - WAS Tour of Bridge Farm, Barcombe Mills Road, Barcombe BN8 5RX - 10.30am - 12.30pm
  - We have been offered a private tour of Bridge Farm
  - This is a Romano-British settlement on the River Ouse, South of Barcombe Mills and 3.5K north of Lewes
  - Excavations have been ongoing on this site for 13 years and each year new discoveries are made. They have uncovered a previously unknown major road network and a significant Romano-British settlement which was active from the mid 1st century into the 5th century. In 2024 they found the bottom of a wood-lined well which we will hopefully get to see. The finds from the site are extensive and extraordinary and we will have the opportunity to view these after the tour.
  - If you would like to join us please let Donna Wiltshire know - donna.wiltshire@sky.com - the cost for the tour will be £10.00 per person on the day, which will help swell their coffers now that they are a registered charity.

- **Friday 6th November**
  - Save the date
    - WAS Autumn Social. The Black Horse , Findon. More details to follow.

- **Saturday June 6th, between 11am and 3pm**
  - Worthing Heritage Festival
  - As part of this, WAS will be holding a display in Worthing Museum
  - Anyone who can help, please let us know

- **Saturday November 21st**
  - We are delighted to say that John Shepherd will be running a Saturday Day School on Identifying Glass. This will be held at the newly refurbished Worthing Museum.
  - See Poster at back

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.*

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



2026 WAS Lectures, Day Schools & Other events 2





2026 Other Societies Events

BHAS Study Day

Event fees: £25 BHAS members; non-members: £30. (Except the October one - £25 for everyone) A need to book a place (and pay on the day) by emailing Jane Russell at: **russco40@hotmail.com**

Venue: Patcham Community Centre (Room 2), Ladies' Mile Road, Brighton BN1 8TA

- June 20th— Paul Garwood: The Neolithic of South-east Britain

- Saturday 31st October How to write an Archaeological Report with Simon Stevens from ASE, for.
    - It will be held at the Patcham Community Centre, Patcham, Brighton (just off the A27, main Brighton junction). It will be from 10 - 4pm and cost £25. More detailed information will follow at a later date.
    - Saturday 31st October How to write an Archaeological Report
    - with Simon Stevens from ASE, for. It will be held at the Patcham Community Centre, Patcham, Brighton (just off the A27, main Brighton junction). It will be from 10 - 4:30pm and cost £25
    - Please contact Jane Russell to book a place at any of the above at:- russco40@hotmail.com or for further details.



WALKING INTO HISTORY

Archaeology walks for 2026. A celebration year

Alex Vincent

This year marks 40 years since I went on Con Ainsworth's walks in 1986 and 30 years since I have run my walks in 1996. This year also marks 40 years since I've been a member of the Worthing Archaeological Society joining it on 11th March 1986.

Jun 1. Park Brow, Sompting. Multi-period site. L. Con in 1986*.
Jun 8. Islesham, Climping. Site of lost church and village. L.

Jun 15. Applesham. Lost village, salterns and raised beach. M. Con in 1986*

Jun 22. Rest and be Thankful, Southwick. Standing stone. M.

Jun 29. Clapham. Church and shrunken medieval village. M.

Jul 6. Cissbury. Neolithic flint mines and Iron Age Hillfort. L. Alex in 1996*.

Jul 13. Highdown. Recent discoveries on the hill. M.

Jul 20. Steyning. Site of ancient watermills. M.

Jul 27. Mount Carvey, Cissbury. Neolithic village and possible long barrow. L.

Aug 3. Angmering. Roman villa and bath house. M. Alex in 1996*.

If it is raining, we will go to a pub for a final gathering.



Con leading a walk to Angmering Roman villa and bath house.

* = Celebration walks. S = short walk, M = medium walk and L = long walk.

We meet temporally 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.

SUMMER SOLSTICE. On June 21 we celebrate the Summer Solstice at Highdown Hill. We meet at the Spotted Cow Pub in Angmering to join the Sompting Village Morris Dancers at 7 PM. If one prefers, you could go straight to Highdown and meet us there at about 8PM. Sunset is at 21.19 (9.19 PM).

We have a social get together on the first Monday in September. This will be on Sep 7 at The Hare and Hounds Pub, Worthing for a social gathering at 8 PM.

ARCHAEOLOGY WALK MEAL. We have a yearly get together for a meal in the autumn. This will be at The George V Toby Carvery, Goring Road, Worthing on Monday October 26 at 6.30PM. We also celebrate the Winter Solstice at the Railway Hotel opposite Worthing station on December 21 at 8 PM.

Any enquires my mobile number is 07753282714 or Email me alexeclipsing@gmail.com



Chanctonbury Ring



Cissbury Ring



Highdown



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

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.

The University of Sussex Archaeological Society

USAS

The Sussex School of Archaeology and History

admin@sussexarchaeology.co.uk

Photo by DAVID ILIFF. License: CC BY-SA 3.0

Hosting a number of events throughout the year

www.sussexarchaeology.org

Email – admin@sussexarchaeology.co.uk

Directors: Dr David Rudling and Sarah Green



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 2026 are due - £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**

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

April 2026 Lecture—Dr Sue Harrington FSA on "Fifth and sixth century burial grounds along the Sussex coast"

All who were involved in last year's "Highdown Big Dig" will remember Sue's expert advice on Saxon graves, and knowledgeable summary on site, in wind and rain, of previous excavations of the Saxon cemetery at Highdown from the 1890s to 1988, which she has now published: Excavations at Highdown, West Sussex - BAR Publishing.

Now Sue contrasted Early Saxon West and East Sussex (excluding Portable Antiquities Scheme finds (mostly metal-detected), e.g. West - 19 known settlements, East – 2; West – 32 cemeteries, East – 47; and most interesting of all, West - 700 objects in burials, East – 1900. Was this difference in numbers a reflection of the distribution of sites or of archaeological activity?

Were the Sussex cemeteries of uniform type? Sue led us through key cemeteries of early Saxon Sussex from west to east – in West Sussex, Apple Down in the Chilgrove valley, on the Downs south-west of Midhurst; Highdown, near the coast of West Sussex; in East Sussex, Rookery Hill (Bishopstone), Beddingham and the fascinatingly named Earwig Corner, at South Malling in the lower Ouse valley; Selmeston, on the Lower Greensand; Eastbourne, especially the excavations on the old Eastbourne College of Arts and Technology (E-CAT) site, and in Rattle Road, west of Pevensey.

At Apple Down there were 124 inhumations and 67 cremations, with a date range from the 5th to the 7th century; but Sue considered that some of the 7th-century burials may in fact be earlier in date. Most of the burials were orientated north-south, and there were notable "non-Saxon" finds, such as a Jutlandic bow brooch and a Frankish buckle. Overall, this seems to have been a very mixed community in burial rite, grave orientation and grave goods.

Although an inland site, it was not an isolated one, as once thought, and had views (on a clear day) as far as the Isle of Wight and Eastbourne (the intervisibility of Early Saxon sites – important in considering territoriality) was one of Sue's themes.

Highdown, once, perhaps, almost accessible from the sea if the nearby Ferring Rife was a navigable inlet, had 200 burials, both inhumations and cremations; amongst the grave goods were Rhenish glass vessels, a Kentish brooch, Frankish brooches and buckle. The grave goods did not suggest one single community.

Entering East Sussex, the Rookery Hillsite had about 120 burials including six cremations. Besides Kentish and Frankish grave goods, there were "hybrid" Roman/ Germanic ones; some Roman artefacts had been re-purposed by drilling new mounting holes. Did the Bishopstone community have a military past?

26 inhumations are recorded from Earwig Corner, probably once a much bigger cemetery, with a Late Roman bracelet and a cruciform brooch, probably Kentish. At Selmeston there were many burials with swords, which Sue noted increased in frequency in cemeteries, the further eastwards one travelled.



On the ECAT site there were 255 burials including only two cremations and 592 objects from graves, with a preponderance of north-south burials. By contrast, at Rattle Road site was a large cremation cemetery, with urned and unurned burials, and with almost half the graves (40) having secondary deposits of pyre debris within them.

As a whole, the Early Saxon cemeteries of West and East Sussex are similar in that the grave goods suggest that they were all looking across the English Channel to the North Sea littoral for their cultural links, not northwards or eastwards, showing a “cultural continuum.” Some Kentish and Saxon finds are known across the Channel: did our cemeteries contain the graves of incomers and outgoers?

However, within and between our Saxon cemeteries, there was no uniformity in grave orientation, rite, and quantity and variety of grave goods, often within cemeteries as well as between cemeteries. So perhaps on any one site we should not always assume that we are looking at a single community buried there, but rather at a transect of a society composed of many elements, with a very fluid structure.

Future DNA analysis may be able to begin teasing out individual families, people with origins beyond the English Channel and those of Romano-British descent, offering a fascinating prospect of new research.

John Mills



Worthing Archaeological Society

Day School

Presented by John Shepherd

The History of Glass

Saturday 21st November, 2026—10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Worthing Museum

Please come along and join us at this long awaited Day School on Saturday 21st November, where John Shepherd will walk us through the history of glass.

“Today glass is all around us. We use it for so many purposes but this is not a recent phenomenon. There was a time when glass was very expensive, used only by the elite, but with the introduction of glass-blowing around the end of the first century BC this all changed. For most of history since then glass vessels and windows became commonplace.

This day school will present this amazing history, focusing upon the earliest use of glass in the Roman and medieval periods. Some glass from later periods will be examined too as there will be an emphasis on what the glass specialist is looking for when determining the age of a vessel from a mere fragment of glass. Hopefully this will be an opportunity to hone one’s glass ID skills.

Please bring along any glass that you might wish to have identified – archaeological fragments or complete”.

Please contact **Donna.wiltshire@sky.com** if you would like to attend.

Members £25.00, Non-members £30.00.

