# Worthing Archaeological Society

## Newsletter October & November 2026

**WAS Field Unit**

**Malthouse/Whitehouse**

**Processing of 2024 Finds is nearly complete, 2025 all recorded, not yet** entered on computer. 2025 and 2026 bones have gone to the Bones Team. From the bottom of the well a clay pipe was found dating to 1770 which fits in with researched knowledge. Connie is aiming to get the Report done over the winter.



A view of the well at the Malthouse / Whitehouse

**Burpham Big Dig**

**The Exhibition in the Museum finishes on October 17th. Well worth a visit.**

The dig in Highfield, Burpham, in August this summer was very successful – we had over 70 Volunteers, including some Burpham Residents. A daily report on WAS Facebook showed the scale of the dig.

Early days at the dig:



Thanks for the photo David.

The Burpham Big Dig will feature on the front cover of Current Archaeology in October.

**Highdown Big Dig**

An amazing 2 weeks in 2025.

There will be an Exhibition of the dig in February, and, on March 6th, 'The Highdown Story' in the Richmond Room. It is hoped to return there in 2027.

**Finds Processing**

Our next Finds meetings will be held at the Slindon Shed on Thursdays 1st and 15th October and 5th and 19th November from 9.30 a.m. to about 12.30 p.m. Please remember to bring your own refreshments.

Contact Gill if you would like to be there, as numbers have to be limited: ggmturner@aol.com

**Flint Sessions in the Museum:**

Almost certainly later this Autumn.

**Field Unit Forum**

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 19th January, 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.

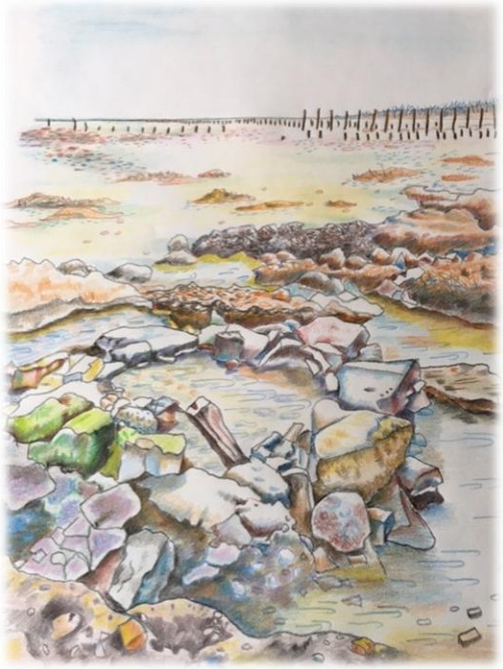
## Climping Walk – 21 st September

Despite a few setbacks - car park closures and not so low tide, we managed to have a very successful day, helped considerably by the beautiful weather.

Although we were unsuccessful with the well searching, we focussed instead on looking for finds around the cliff face above the tide line. As you can see from the picture we certainly found some, including a significant amount of medieval and early post medieval pottery, roof tile, flints, shell, glass, metal, bone and slag. Once recorded, I think we will only be retaining the pottery and any diagnostic pieces, but collectively they do tell a great story.



One of the elusive wells drawn by our own very talented artist Theresa.



We will be recording any finds by date rather than location as that is the one stable factor in a very changing environment, so please note the date if you are visiting the site and pass any finds on to me for recording!

For those of you that have the what3words app on your phone: **'trace,wicked,twice**, will give you roughly the centre of the area of search, and finds can mostly be discovered either embedded or close by to the small brown cliff face. A wider area of scope will be necessary if you are well searching. Alternatively, if you want to let me know when you are visiting, I'm happy to meet you down there if I'm free.

I am thinking of holding a pottery sorting morning/afternoon in the next couple of months to date all the pottery we have found over the year, if you are interested let me know.

Becki and I will be meeting on site in the next few weeks so we can discuss the prehistoric side of the site and the collection of flints, as it is definitely not my area of expertise, again if you are interested let Becki or me know.

Clare Richardson - clareandy2@sky.com





# 2026 WAS Lectures, Day Schools & Other events 1

- **Autumn 2026 Lectures**
  - In the Worthing Library Lecture Theatre, 7.30 to 9pm
    - See poster at on next page of newsletter for all the details

- **Save the date**
  - Friday 6th November 6.30 to 9.30
    - WAS Autumn Social. The Black Horse , Findon. More details to follow
      - Ticket price TBC I'll take cash in the evening please NO BACS. There will be a couple of quizzes plus skittles! We have 17 people so far but it would be nice to have more. Please email me if you want to come.
        - Parking is available on site or on the road.
          - Contact Donna.wiltshire@sky.com to book a place

- **Day Schools**
  - 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 of newsletter for all the details
  - Saturday 20th February 2027
    - Day School by Jeremy Clarke. Standing Buildings in the Weald. 10.00am -4.00pm, Worthing Museum

      - Contact Donna.wiltshire@sky.com to book a place. £25 for Members

***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 1

**COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY – CBA**

This is Archaeology – Lecture Series - free, but registration required.

- 7 October 2026
  - This is Archaeology: Revealing What Would Rather Be Forgotten. Challenges and Opportunities of Dark Heritage Prospection
    - This presentation will introduce the concept of Dark Heritage Prospection, outline why existing frameworks within archaeology and forensics might not be, on their own, sufficient for studying intentionally hidden or politically charged heritage

- 4 November 2026
  - This is Archaeology - Early Career Showcase 2026: Voices from the future of Archaeology
    - With Early Careers Panel (TBC)

- 9 December 2026
  - This is Archaeology: Learning from a burned landscape: How the 2025 Fylingdales wildfire will change our understanding of moorland archaeology.
    - An online talk with Miles Johnson
- info@archaeologyuk.org

**CBA SE and Sussex Archaeology and History**

- Saturday 3rd October 2026, 10am-5pm
  - The Ivan Donald Margary Legacy: a Memorial Conference (50 years after Ivan's death) to celebrate Ivan's life, work and ongoing legacies (an example being Fishbourne Roman Palace). Margary was a national expert on Roman roads, especially in the Weald/South-East.
    - Venue: Kings Church, Lewes and Online by Zoom (and to be recorded only for all registered participants)
- www.sussexarchaeology.org

**Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society**

The lectures will take place at the Unitarian Church New Road, Brighton. Lectures start at 7.30pm. Free to BHAS members, £5 for non-members.

- October 9
  - James Bromwich Commemorating the Dead: Roman monuments in SW France

- November 13th
  - Miles Russell Caratacus

- December 11th – AGM / Lecture / Social
  - Janet Pennington Shepherd Frere and his connections to Lancing College
- Details from: http://www.brightonarch.org.uk



# 2026 Other Societies Events 2

### Study Day

- Saturday 31st October
    - How to write an Archaeological Report with Simon Stevens from ASE.
        - 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.
            - Writing up an archaeological site can by a daunting prospect, but drawing together the various elements of the site record can also be extremely satisfying and rewarding. This day-school is aimed squarely at those who find themselves staring blankly at stacks of context sheets wondering where to start. The day-school aims to reduce the terror and provide a few pointers.
                - Please contact Jane Russell to book a place at the above at:- russco40@hotmail.com or for further details.

### Sussex Archaeology and History

- Wednesday 14 October 2026, 7.30pm
    - *'Was Battle Abbey really founded "on the very spot" where Harold fell?'*
        - Speakers: Dr Rebecca Welshman (University of Liverpool) and Simon Coleman (West Dean College)
            - *This lecture takes place on the 960th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings.*

- Wednesday 11 November 2026, 7.30pm
    - The Sally Christian Lecture 2026
        - *'The Lives and Deaths of Old Buildings'*
            - Speaker: Dr Michael Shapland, FSA (University College London)
- Monday 14 December 2026, 7.30pm
    - 'Archaeology, Research and Landscape Revival in Winchelsea'
        - Speaker: Nathalie Cohen (National Trust)

- For more information and to book: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1260935565219

### Chichester District Archaeology Society

Talks in the cinema of the New Park Centre, New Park Road, Chichester. Refreshments are available in the bar after the meeting, when there is a chance to chat. We welcome non-members at the lectures, which start at 7.30 pm and usually finish about 9 pm. An entry fee of £5 is payable by non-members at the door.

- 28th Oct: Martyn Allen, Oxford Archaeology – Post-excavation of the discoveries at the Westhampnett Rolls Royce factory excavations
- 25th Nov: Helena Griffiths and Andy Bliss - Prehistoric hunters of the High Weald
- www.CDAS.info



## Other Societies / Groups

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**

**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 Archaeological Society**

**https://sussexpast.co.uk**

**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**

**www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk**

**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

The Sussex School of Archaeology and History

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**

**WAS Archive**

Connie is currently Curator of our Archive. We have a good collection of Sussex Archaeological Collections, starting from the very first. Please feel free to use them for your research.

**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.

**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**

Worthing Archaeological Society

## Tuesday 13 October 2026

### Worthing Library Lecture Theatre

### Lecture 7.30pm – 9pm

### Dr Reb Ellis-Haken

Research Assistant, University of Gothenburg, Honorary Research Associate University of York

# Porcines in the Late Iron Age art of Sussex (c. 100BC-AD100)



Since the 1980's a number of figurines portraying porcines have been found in the Sussex region, all apparently dating from the late Iron Age or early Roman periods. With the increase in metal detecting, this pattern has continued. Yet the question remains: why are porcines so popular or important to the local population during this politically and artistically complicated period? Are we looking at a fashion choice, an object type of ritual significance, or the repeated portrayal of a totem associated with local identity? Based on results a PhD thesis completed in 2022 and new finds, this talk aims to answer these very questions and contextualise these finds at both a national and local level.



**All visitors are welcome, entry £4.**
**Members free**
**worthingarchaeological.org**

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.

