

# Worthing Archaeological Society

Newsletter

April & May 2023

## WAS Field Unit

### Bignor Roman Villa Dig

We may possibly return to this in 2023

### Malthouse

July 10th – 28th to continue our 2022 dig in the SW corner of the field, and to investigate possible houses on the east side of Church Lane.

### Climping

Several visits so far this year looking at the wells, the Bronze Age cliffs and the graffiti from WW2.

### Finds Processing

Our Finds meetings next month will be held at the Slindon Shed on Thursdays 6th & 20th April and Thursdays 4th & 18th May from 9.30 a.m. to about 12.30 p.m. Activities will include sorting, marking and recording general finds from last year's Sompting dig and Bob will also be assessing and recording the flint.

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](mailto:ggmturner@aol.com)

### Field Unit Forum

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



## WAS Walks

### Saturday April 1st Sompting Leader: Connie

Meet at Allington Road, Bramber BN14 8QD Green, at 10am, walk to EPIC across the fields then walk back through Sompting village and drop in on the Malthouse. Possible pub visit across the road at the Downlands or Gardeners, if they are doing food by then

### Saturday April 22nd Nore Hill Walk Leader: Keith

Meet in Slindon Stableyard at 10am. It's bluebell time!

## Lecture Programme

**Re Parking at Worthing College.** In future all attendees for Evening Lectures will be required to sign in their car registration details on arrival in reception in order to ensure they do not receive a fine (up to £100)

### **Spring 2023 Lecture Date At Worthing College**

**April 11th** Jane Clark: Recent Finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Sussex. (See flyer at end)

### **Autumn 2023 Lecture dates In Worthing Library Lecture Theatre**

**October 10th Dr Judie English** Early European Jewellery: from the Palaeolithic to the end of the Roman period.

**November 14th Dr Mike Allen** Cerne Abbas – playing with giant ideas.

**December 12th John Mills**



**Surveying Course**

Now finished. Many thanks to Connie for her organisation



*First day*



*Practical experience*

**Day School**

At Worthing Museum on Saturday 13th May. 10am to 4pm.

**Barb McNee on Pottery – early Neolithic to Late Iron Age.**

(See flyer at end.)



*Middle Bronze Age pot*

**Study Days**

**24<sup>th</sup> June in Worthing Museum**

Keith Bolton and Gill Turner on post-excavation work.

**16<sup>th</sup> September at Slindon**

Bob Turner Plan and Section Drawing

**14<sup>th</sup> October in Worthing Museum**

Simon Stevens on Medieval Towns of Sussex

**18<sup>th</sup> November in Worthing Museum**

Desktop research by John Mills

**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.





## **February Lecture**

### **John Pull Memorial Lecture given by Dr Miles Russell**

#### **Holding Out for a Nero: new work on the Roman Imperial sculptures of Sussex**

Theresa introduced the Lecture and gave a brief biography of John Pull (about whom Miles has written a book), and Maggie (Rumble) introduced Miles to a large audience, most of whom know of him - a Sussex man. His main project, out of Bournemouth University, is investigating the Durotriges tribe of Dorset, but the Romans are also high on his list of interests.

There were a lot of bits of Roman statuary hidden away in Museums and Archives. Often, in the case of heads, they were detached from their body. (Some bits of statues, of course, date from later centuries) The majority of those found in Sussex do belong to Roman Britain. Studying them, we can see who the statues are of. Early Roman statues were very realistic – this was a new concept at the time. People were keen to have their images conserved – to give them a sense of identity, to show them as they were. They were in quest of perfection, idealised images – moving away from, for example, Greek stylised images. Governments wanted them to state ‘this is your leader’. Often damage to statues represented a change in popularity or significance.

The ‘Looking for Nero’ project thought that he was under-represented in Britain, though he was the second Roman Emperor to rule Britain. He was fascinated by himself, there were statues of him everywhere – and on coins. His was a short reign and he is easily identified on statues on the Continent. The research involved laser scans of the heads that were known, for example the Fishbourne head, found in the 1960’s, one in Petworth House and one found at Bosham Manor (though this one has its head missing)



*Fishbourne head of ?Nero*

In the 1964 dig at Fishbourne, an Italian marble head of a boy was found – in small fragments. Why was it broken and why was it found in the foundations of the later palace? The statue has part of a laurel wreath – in the 1st Century AD., only members of the Imperial family could wear a laurel wreath. It is more than likely a statue of Nero – at 14 years old, the ‘future saviour of the Roman world.’

From the age of 13 he was to be the next Emperor. Fishbourne Palace was rebuilt after Nero, which may be why the statue was smashed up. Nero became an enemy of the state. Once he died he became a non-person and anger was wreaked on his statues.

The statue of a ‘Roman boy’ in our Museum has been scanned – it had 63 separate impacts – signs of someone’s displeasure. It might well have come from Chichester. Other statues have been found in store in London.

Before 1782 a large, boyish marble head was found at Bosham – and is now in the Novium. It has been scanned and it’s clearly a god, or someone turned into a god because it’s massive. It’s weathered, but has not been deliberately damaged – thought most likely to be Emperor Trajan, which is odd as he didn’t involve himself in Britain. It’s similar to one found in the harbour at Ostia, set up by Hadrian. Was Bosham a significant harbour in the 1st Century AD? (Miles would be happy to investigate under Bosham.....)

No other town in the UK has a concentration of Roman sculpture like Chichester. Each one can be likened to an Emperor.

Roman sculptures were painted, which made them very authentic. Many which have been found were scrubbed clean to show the marble.

It was a fascinating Lecture, it will be interesting to follow the ‘Holding out for a Nero’ Project as it scans more heads.





## **WAS AGM March 2023**

**This covers the period March 2022 to March 2023**

### **Chairman's Report**

As predicted at the last AGM, 2022 was a busy year for the society with a number of activities taking place both inside and out.

### **Lectures**

The 2022 lecture season has seen WAS return briefly to the Worthing Library lecture room and continued use of the venue at Worthing College.

Again, we have had a great set of speakers arranged by Theresa.

Con Ainsworth Memorial lecture from Simon Stevens on the Stiances project near Newick and John Pull lecture by Dr. Miles Russell. Other speakers have been James Brown from the NT, Judie English and Bob Turner.

If there is anyone you hear of (directly or indirectly) who is a good Speaker, then please let a committee member know.

### **Training and Study Days**

Many thanks to Donna Wiltshire for organising the Training and Study Days.

### **Training**

A very special thanks to Connie Shirley for organising and running the surveying training look to pass on the baton to the next generation of surveyors.

### **Study Days**

Very successful Study day held on 'Roman Sussex by David Rudling.

Saturday May 13th Prehistoric Pottery Study Day, with Barb McNee at Worthing Museum.

### **Members**

Committee members:

- Thanks to John Mills for continuing to be our President and for his advice, which is often sort and acted upon.
- Jacqui Lake and Brendan Wyatt have left the Committee – many thanks to them both for their long service.
- Alan Beazley was voted on to the Committee
- Currently, we have 11 Honorary members, 17 Life members and 109 Ordinary members
- Since the last AGM we have lost a number of long standing members, Stephen Vincent, Daphne Palmer, Esme Evans, Gerald Hennings and Lorna Cherry. (Keith paid tribute to all of them)

### **Journal**

Another excellent journal was produced under the editorship of Cheryl Hutchins and contains a number of interesting and informative articles.

### **Looking to the future**

It gives me great pleasure to announce that in recognition of their dedication and long service to the society, committee and field unit Gill Turner, Connie Shirley and Cheryl Hutchins have been made Life Vice Presidents along with current VP Roy Plummer.

Gill was a founding member of the field unit and has lead the finds team from its early days – we now have a group of dedicated people who have a great understanding of finds of all types and periods – a great reflection on Gill and her dedication.

Connie took part in the early excavations at Slindon and Blacksmiths Corner before taking on the surveyors mantle from Pete Skilton and is now training up the next generation of surveyors. Connie has also directed the excavations at Sompting (both at EPIC and the long-term project at the Malthouse).

Cheryl started her engagement with archaeology at the same time as me and has been part of the committee and field unit since the late 90's and is currently editor of the society's journal.



The AGM was followed by the March Lecture: presented by Amie Friend

Women in the Early Days of Archaeology

Amie's lecture fitted in aptly with the theme of International Women's Day which was 'Embrace Equity' this year. She spoke of a time when women did not have the same opportunity and could not pursue archaeology with the same social status as their male counterparts.

Amie explained that in the 19th Century and early 20th Century women for many reasons were discouraged from having scientific or technological academic interests including archaeology. Archaeology was beginning to be explored as an academic discipline following on from the studies of antiquities, although fieldwork was mostly undertaken by men in the military or wealthy individuals such as General Augustus Pitt Rivers and Sir William Flinders Petrie.



The involvement of women in fieldwork was discouraged through society pressure and the unwillingness of their male equivalents. Amie told us of the few women pioneers who were exceptions in the development of the profession of archaeology in the 19th and early 20th Century. These women were not acknowledged at the time as being 'on a level playing field' with the men that they worked alongside and were quite often not mentioned in archaeological reports and publications. Amie suggests that we have only heard of the women who were pioneers in archaeology because of their famous husbands, for example Maud Cunnington the wife of archaeologist Ben Cunnington, Tessa Verney Wheeler wife of Sir Mortimer Wheeler and Hilda Petrie wife of Sir Flinders Petrie.

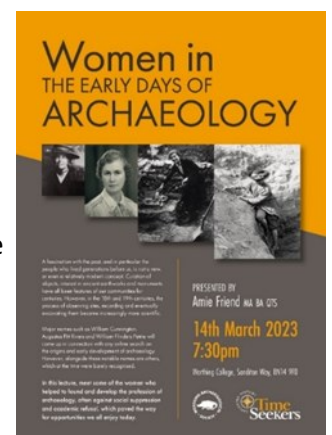
Here are details of some of the women Amie mentioned: Maud Edith Cunnington (1896 – 1951) is noted for working alongside her husband archaeologist Ben Cunnington on important excavation sites in Wiltshire including the first known causewayed enclosure, Knap Hill, West Kennet Long Barrow, Figsbury Ring the site of the Neolithic Woodhenge near Stonehenge. They also carried out excavations in the 1930's at The Sanctuary, a circle of stone and timber first discovered in the 18th Century. The Cunninghams bought both sites of Woodhenge and The Sanctuary and gave them to 'the nation' – they now make up the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites. Maud Cunningham in 1933 was the first woman elected president of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

Tessa Verney Wheeler 27 (1893 –1936) wife of Sir Mortimer Wheeler. Tessa Wheeler studied History at UCL and went on to join forces with her husband on many digs in England and Wales such as Caerleon, Verulamium and Maiden Castle. Tessa undertook to organise the excavations, manage the finances, and record the finds, whilst Mortimer interpreted the results. They both worked together on excavation techniques such as the grid system which allowed for a greater accuracy for observation and recording. She became the second woman to be made a fellow of the Society of Antiquities and after WW2 Tessa and Sir Mortimer Wheeler together set up the Institute of Archaeology in London.

Hilda Petrie (1871–1957) wife of Sir Flinders Petrie studied geology and did a facsimile drawing course at Kings College for Women. She was introduced to Flinders Petrie who needed to employ someone with accurate drawing skills on his Egyptian expedition. They were married the day before leaving for Egypt. Hilda became proficient at copying the hieroglyphics, and drawing small finds such as beads, scarabs and the profiles of pots often having to climb down into difficult and dangerous pits. She also assisted her husband in writing the reports and daily journals. Flinders Petrie often praised his wife's work in reports to the Egyptian Exploration Fund: "My wife was closely occupied with drawing nearly all of the season; especially on the tedious figuring of nearly 400 flints, and the exact facsimile copies of inscriptions." [

Amie concluded her lecture by talking about the writer Agatha Christie (1890-1976) who married the archaeologist Max Mallowan in 1930 and spent many months each year on digs in the Middle East. She gathered hands-on knowledge of archaeology and included this experience in books such Murder on the Orient Express, Death on the Nile and Appointment with Death. Agatha also helped out on site photographing the excavations, cleaning and recording find and restoring ceramics.

We will look forward to more well researched and inspiring talks from Amie in the future.







**WAS Walk led by Keith Bolton on Saturday March 18th  
Exploring the ancient monuments from Bignor Hill and the North Slindon Estate.**

We met at the signpost on top of Bignor Hill in our wet-weather gear and waterproof boots. Keith assured us that the view through the mist from car park overlooking north towards Bignor Roman Villa and south towards the sea was stunning. The sky cleared during our walk so we were able to see for ourselves how beautiful it was.

Early Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure Barkhale Camp was quite difficult to make out as most of the surrounding ditches and banks had been ploughed and damaged over the years. Keith explained that the monument was in a vulnerable condition because of farm vehicles and livestock – there is also a bridleway track that cuts through the middle. Keith described the enclosure as being an unfortified meeting or ceremonial site – the banks would have been white chalk and the surrounding area cleared of trees and scrub so that it could have been seen as you came over the ridge and would have made a statement in the landscape.



***These inquisitive sheep followed us across the enclosure and listened intently to Keith.***

There were a number of Bronze Age Barrows just outside of the enclosure respecting the earlier site. A short distance from the camp and hidden partly by trees and undergrowth in Barkhale Wood we came across a large domed feature known as the Moot Mound. We learnt that the Moot Mound was possibly a former Barrow that was re used in the Anglo Saxon period as a meeting place or court by the local parish chieftains to discuss disputes and dispense punishments. The Moot is at the boundary of the four parishes of Bignor, Bury, Houghton and Madehurst.



***Local chieftains discussing parish issues disguised as WAS archaeology folks.***

Following our many questions and theories at the mound we walked to other interesting ancient features in the landscape including a Covered Way, feasibly used for droving livestock from high summer pastures to lower pastures and a Cross Ridge Dyke on a boundary edge of the area. The earth work was impressively tall in places and could have been seen from quite a distance when it first built and glowing chalk white on the hill in the Bronze Age.

Theresa

From Keith: *The damage was mainly being done to the barrows near the car park and was resolved in the late 90s. Really enjoyed the walk. Glad we missed the bad weather. Now planning the blue bell walk at Nore Hill.*



### **WAS visit to Priory Park, Chichester**

Please can you let me know if you would be interested in visiting Priory Park in Chichester, a Roman site managed by Chichester District Archaeology Society. CDAS have agreed that we can have a private tour of their site for a couple of hours between 29th May and 2nd June when it is closed to the general public. If you are interested please can you let Donna know: donna.wiltshire@sky.com.

### **Open Day at the Culver Project**

Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup> [www.culverproject.co.uk](http://www.culverproject.co.uk)

### **WALKING INTO HISTORY.**

Archaeology walks for 2023 Alex Vincent.

- Jun 5. Binsted. Iron Age ditch and medieval kilns. M.
- Jun 12. Mill Hill, Shoreham. Site and remains of windmills. M.
- Jun 19. Wiston. Church and lost village. L.
- Jun 26. Patching Hill. Possible Neolithic flint mines, clay pits and barrow L.
- Jul 3. Lancing Ring. Roman temple and Iron Age shrine. L.
- Jul 10. Lychpole, Sompting. Medieval manor and farm. L.
- Jul 17. Pende, Lancing. Site of port lost to the sea. M.
- Jul 24. Bost Hill, Findon. Neolithic site and possible Roman road. M.
- Jul 31. Highdown. Possible site of Bronze Age barrows. 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. All are welcome. After the walks, we go to a pub for refreshment. The walks may be postponed, altered or cancelled if there are still restrictions due to the virus.

Any enquires my mobile number is 07753282714 or Email me [alexeclipsing@gmail.com](mailto:alexeclipsing@gmail.com) via Worthing Library.

### **Wednesday 19th April 23, 7.30pm - University of Sussex Archaeological Society - The Holleyman Archaeology Lecture THE SUSSEX LANDSCAPE IN THE MESOLITHIC AND NEOLITHIC Speaker: Professor Martin Bell (University of Reading)**

The landscape of Mesolithic and Neolithic Sussex (11,500- 6000 years ago) especially the South Downs will be reviewed using evidence from land snails, pollen, charcoals and animal bones.

The South Downs evidence will be contrasted with other areas of chalk in Wessex and Stonehenge where more open conditions may have obtained in the Neolithic. The extent of former closed woodland, and the origins of the species rich chalk downland turf are relevant to current debates on nature conservation, rewilding and forest development.

**To book via eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/566731026757>**

### **Friday 14th April –Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society presents The Classis Britannica Speaker Lynn Cornwall (A member of the Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group) Venue the Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton – Start time 7-30 pm.**

The Classis Britannica was the Roman navy, just how did they become involved in the Roman iron industry in the Weald?

### **West Sussex Record Office is having a free online talk, Celebrating the Coronation.**

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/history-and-heritage/west-sussex-record-office/whats-on-at-the-record-office/> for details.





## 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](mailto:enquiries@southdownssociety.org.uk)



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



[www.lissarchaeology.uk](http://www.lissarchaeology.uk)  
Or email [lissarchaeology@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.worthingheritagealliance.org.uk)



**Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society** has a variety of events  
see [landscape-events@hantsfieldclub.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/butser-plus)



**Sussex Archaeological Society**  
<https://sussexpast.co.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.



**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](mailto:brightonyac@gmail.com)



**Horsham and District Archaeology Group**  
[horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk) or 01903 872309



**Wealden Buildings Study Group**  
[www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk](http://www.wealdenbuildings.org.uk)





# Worthing rchaeological Society

## UK GDPR: UK General Data Protection Regulation

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](mailto: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 2023 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](http://www.worthingarchaeological.org)

The Worthing Archaeological Society is a registered Charity (291431)

Please note: our email address is: [worthingarchaeological@gmail.com](mailto:worthingarchaeological@gmail.com)

Items for next News sheet please to  
Liz, as above, or  
[liz.13lane@gmail.com](mailto:liz.13lane@gmail.com)



## Study Day

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 10am – 4pm

# Prehistoric Pottery

**Barbara McNee**



Pottery is one of the most ubiquitous cultural materials recovered in archaeology. It is key to understanding the chronology and interpretation of burial and settlement sites, and offers much information about technology and society.

This Study Day will allow us the opportunity to handle and discuss a wide range of prehistoric pots, talk about their general manufacture, fabric etc. and go through the various stages involved in recording and illustration.

By the end of the day we will have an understanding of:

- the general concept of pottery forms and how these change throughout prehistory
- the classification systems used to record data
- how to identify and describe fabrics
- how to describe form types
- how to write a professional pottery report

**Education Room, Worthing Museum & Gallery, Chapel Rd, Worthing  
BN11 1HP**

**£25 for WAS Members, £30 for non-Members**



Sign up at: [worthingarchaeological.org/events](http://worthingarchaeological.org/events)



# Worthing Archaeological Society

Lecture Programme for 2023

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm – 9pm**

Worthing College - Sanditon Way, Worthing BN14 9FD

**Jane Clark - Finds Liaison Officer – Sussex**

**Recording our Past:** Recent finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Sussex



**PORTABLE  
ANTIQUITIES  
SCHEME**

**w w w . f i n d s . o r g . u k**

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is run by the British Museum and Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales to encourage the recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales.

Every year many thousands of archaeological objects are discovered, many of these by metal detector users, but also by people whilst out walking, gardening or going about their daily work. Finds recorded with the Scheme help advance knowledge of the history and archaeology of England and Wales.

**Come and meet our Finds Liaison Officer, Jane Clark, and to hear about the important work the Portable Antiquities scheme undertakes in Sussex.**

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

