Tidemills Excavation Update
Chiddingly Wood Rocks Walk
Battle of Lewes Conference
The Regency in Sussex
Probing the Willingdon Levels
The ‘Near Lewes’ Hoard Appeal
Welcome to the August edition of Sussex Past & Present.

**Sussex Archaeological Collections – opting out scheme**

Those of you who attended any of our members’ discussion sessions at the start of the year, or the more recent AGM, will be aware that we undertook a major survey of members on the issues both of this Newsletter and Sussex Archaeological Collections. Although we were not able to get everyone’s views, we did send the survey out with renewed memberships to approximately 900 of you, and had a very impressive 39% response.

As a result of your feedback, we have decided to make the following change to the current position with regard to the Collections. Please do read this carefully so you can make a decision.

Currently, all members receive an annual copy of Sussex Archaeological Collections, and this is covered by your subscription. However, we understand that not all members wish to receive this publication. The volume is expensive to post and is printed to order, so reducing the number of unrequired copies will be beneficial to members and to the Society.

We are not proposing to stop printing the Collections, nor are we considering a subscription if you do opt out but the savings in print and distribution will be passed on to members if they wish. There will be no reduction to your membership reduction to your membership if they wish. There will be no reduction to your membership subscription if you do opt out but the savings in print and distribution costs will help the Society. You can of course choose to opt back in to receiving the Collections – it is not a one-time only choice – but as the publication is printed to order the cut-off date for your decision will be 1 October each year.

I will assume that anyone who does not contact me wishes to continue with the status quo, and you will therefore be sent a copy of the volume when it is published at the end of the year. If you do opt out, you will receive no future editions until you request otherwise. To inform your decision, we are hoping to have a list of contents available on line (or from me in hard copy if you cannot access the internet) by July each year. We also hope to have the entire volume online at our website in pdf format after publication for you to download, and public libraries and the Records Offices in East and West Sussex as well as our own Barbian House library have copies for reference.

Please note that the Sussex Past & Present newsletter is not included in this – we will continue to send the newsletter to all members three times a year.

I hope that this system will work smoothly, but we will of course review it early next year and may make changes if necessary. If this is the case, we will feature them in the April 2013 newsletter. Your comments are of course welcome!

**Saturday 16 June: Society AGM**

For those of you unable to attend the AGM, copies of the draft Minutes of the meeting can be found in the members’ area of the website (if you need the password, please contact me). Printed copies can be sent on request.

Lorna Gartsidge
Membership Secretary

**Saturday 22 September: Pitdrown conference**

There are still places available for this conference, which promises to be a fascinating look at a notorious scientific fraud. Leading experts on the history of the site and the personalities involved in the hoax will speak alongside specialists in the fraudulent tools, human remains and fossils found at the site. For the first time the intriguing relationship of the Society itself to the prime suspect, Charles Dawson, will be explored and the case against new suspects presented. The conference will also provide a chance to consider and celebrate the true nature of the early stone age record in Sussex from the internationally important site of Boxgrove to the unexplored potential of Sussex river valleys and rock shelters.

If you have misplaced your booking form enclosed with the April newsletter, you can book online at http://sussexpast/payment-conferences or via the Noticeboard in the centre pages of this newsletter.

**New Era for Society – Exciting developments at the Priory**

I have just taken over as the new Chair of Council at the June AGM. This is a great honour and responsibility. The one thing I am very aware of is the Society’s finances. The Society has a long way to go to achieve financial stability. My aim is to find ways of retaining and enhancing all our properties which provide the majority of our income. I believe the Society is well supported by members because of the properties. To lose any further properties is to downgrade the Society. The current aim is to enhance the experience to bring forward changes to encourage visitors to return and to attract new visitors.

Last year saw the reopening of Anne of Cleves House following renovations to roofs, windows and elevations. This June saw the re-launch of Michelham Priory with an opening ceremony of cutting the ribbon by Dame Vera Lynn (front cover). This followed great activity during the last year to update the property exhibits together with bringing the cafe facilities back into being run in house. The property now has a new Director in Janet Sinclair and Operations Manager John Mumbray together with other staff changes. The cafe under Catering Supervisor James Cocklin is already gaining a reputation for the place to visit. The other exciting change has been the fitting of glass doors inside the Great Barn entrance doors. This allows daylight to enter whilst keeping out the elements. The changes have largely been paid for by the generosity of the Friends of Michelham Priory.

Michelham Priory has so much to offer with the house, gardens, cafe, re-sited children’s play area and the magnificent moat and gatehouse amongst other attractions. It should be one of the great attractions of Sussex. We are getting there!

To enhance the experience at Anne of Cleves House plans are afoot this year to provide cafe facilities in the place of the flat. Works are also planned at the Priest House and Marlpins. We always have problems to overcome and the recent flooding of the mosaic pavements at Fishbourne Roman Palace is our current preoccupation. A great vote of thanks is due to the Friends groups at all the properties that are funding the exciting changes. I have confidence that the Society will flourish with attention to enhancing the experience for all our members and visitors.

Being a surveyor my chief area of expertise is with the buildings, but I am aware of the contribution of the Collections, the Library and the education department all of which will receive as much attention during the next year. At the recent AGM four new Trustees were elected to the Council to add to our overall expertise and I extend a warm welcome to them as well as our new President Caroline Wells who I know will be a great asset in representing the Society. This year members’ forums have assisted your Council in redefining your expectations of the Society and more meetings are planned for this coming year. I would just like to end by saying I am open to suggestions or comments from our members!
Tidemills Allotment Gardens

“...according to the historic maps there’s nothing here!”

The main 2011 work concentrated on the old allotments. All the historic maps, including the Tithe map (Fig. 1a) show this area as open ground within the village. The ‘busiest’ map (the 1st edition OS of 1880) shows a small lean-to structure in the SW corner and several paths crossing the area (Fig. 1b) but the 1937 map shows nothing again (Fig. 1c).

A surface inspection soon identified an earthwork in the centre of the area thought to be a small air-raid (Anderson) shelter and a curious wall in the middle of the cart access track. Upon excavation the earthwork proved not to be an air-raid shelter but a rectangular pit, lined with corrugated iron sheeting and with a neat cement floor (Fig. 2). The floor had circular sockets around the edge for the upright revetting posts (rotted away) and there were tie-backs anchored under the surrounding bank that would have braced the tops of the posts. Complete with a wide shelf on its west side and a neat flight of tile and slate lined access steps it is a distinctive structure. A mortar pit was the obvious choice but one would not expect a cement floor as this would make the weapon jump upon firing so it may simply represent a ‘dummy’ machine gun post for practice attacks! We have yet to find a WW2 veteran who trained at the site – an interview that would be most enlightening!

The largest surprise came from a small trench excavated to assess the refuse levels in the allotment soil. The trench hit an unexpected brick structure that turned out to be a heated horticultural building of some size (Fig. 4). Two methods of heating were in evidence – the earlier using manure packed around the edge for the uprights and with a neat cement floor (Fig. 3). The wall in the cart access proved to be a structure for heating a cast-iron pot, once within a lean-to structure. Whether this was a military field kitchen or something used for preparing animal feed is uncertain. Careful study of all photographs shows a definite lean-to here but it never made it onto the maps.

The ‘busiest’ map (the 1st edition OS of 1880) shows a small lean-to structure in the SW corner and several paths crossing the area (Fig. 1b) but the 1937 map shows nothing again (Fig. 1c).

The Tidemills project is not only piecing together the story of this complex and highly unusual Sussex village, it is throwing out wider issues of late historical archaeology. It is becoming quite clear that a large proportion of structures came and went between photographs and even closely dated map editions. So when the map says there’s nothing there…!

Margary Grants 2012

The awards for this year are listed below. If you would like to contact any of the grant holders, please ask the Research Officer, Luke Barber, for information. His details are on the contact list in the centre pages of SP&P. The guidelines and application form for Margary Grants are available on our website or can be posted to you by Luke. The Research Committee awards the grants and monitors their progress. The grants are carefully supervised and receipts are expected for all claims.

- Worthing Archaeological Society - £880 awarded for C14 dating of the Bronze Age site at Brinsbury College campus.
- Pari White - £250 awarded towards the cost of colour reproduction in her publication of the stones used in the Fishbourne mosaics in Journal of Roman Studies.
- Sue Harrington - £359 awarded towards post-excavation costs writing up the Selmeston Anglo-Saxon cemetery.
- David Worsell - £500 awarded to cover the cost of x-raying the metalwork from the Bishopstone Anglo-Saxon cemetery.
- David Worsell (Culver Archaeological Project, Barcombe) - £1,200 awarded for the analysis of the Roman pottery assemblage.

Total awarded for 2012: £3,189

Luke Barber
Research Officer
**CHIDDINGLY ROCKS**

### Chiddingly Wood Rocks

Prehistoric occupation sites and a hermit’s hideaway

A report by Mike Allen, Andrew Maxted and Richard Carter (SP&P 115, August 2008) drew attention to the potential of the High Weald for evidence of Mesolithic activity, and Richard Carter led a Society walk here in June 2010. This popular event was repeated twice, most recently in February 2012. Chiddingly Wood Rocks are an outcrop of sandstone on the southern edge of the High Weald at West Hoathly, West Sussex, visited by kind permission of the landowner. The first site encountered was a rock shelter named Adulam’s Cave (perhaps from Cave of Adullam connected with biblical King David). The shelter was reputedly occupied by a hermit until early in the 20th century, and its chimney now houses a colony of bats. Although never excavated, flint tools were found there, and we noticed disturbance by animals and signs of recent fires under the rocky shelter. Richard suggested the ledge outside was a possible site of prehistoric activity, while above the shelter the escarpment rocks form part of the defences of Philpotts Camp, a promontory hillfort.

The work by Mike Allen and colleagues in 2007, auguring, environmental survey and test pitting proved the presence of in situ Mesolithic flint flakes. This was followed up in 2009 by an MA student of Sussex University, who excavated on the slope below the rocks to investigate stratigraphy and determine the sequence of occupation. Diagnostic flint tools such as Horsham points and leaf shaped arrowheads indicate hunting practice from the late Mesolithic and Neolithic, and early Neolithic pottery suggests a more sedentary lifestyle and the transition to farming. Many later period finds showed regular use of this area, but the excavation was inconclusive as few were in situ.

The rocks create interesting formations, such as ‘Great upon Little’, where graffiti have been dated back to the 14th century; and the escarpment offers views of the valley below, which in the Mesolithic could have been a hunting lookout, with little tree growth at that time. This spot featured in an episode of the TV series on hunter-gatherer diet, by Ray Mears and Prof Gordon Hillman. From here we explored the rocks to find Norraine cave where some examples of ‘Celtic-style’ patterns have been cut, probably modern. Proceeding through a wooded area the ditch and banks of Philpotts Camp became visible, dated to the Iron Age by excavation of the bank by C and E Curwen (though no further investigations were made). Walking back towards Adulam’s Cave Richard pointed out an enigmatic pattern of concentric rings cut on the surface of a vertical rock bordering the path. Similar patterns were found at Fontainebleau, near Paris, which may be prehistoric.

The walk ended by a relatively recent hammer pond, where Richard speculated Mesolithic people may first have dammed the water to form a ‘transitional habitat’, attracting birds and animals and providing a source of water. There is later evidence for its use in the Wealden iron industry. Part of this area can be accessed by public footpath along the edge of the hillfort, but most of the land is private. It was a wonderful walk and I’d like to thank Richard for sharing with us his deep knowledge and understanding of an area so rich in evidence of prehistoric occupation.

Sarah Hanna

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**Brighton History Database**

New research tool available on Society website

A by-product of the work currently being undertaken by Sue Berry to produce a new volume of the Victoria County History series, a searchable database: ‘Packham Index to Brighton and Hove in the Sussex Weekly Advertiser 1750 to 1806’ is now available via the Library page (see Library News, page 12) of our website. This will be useful to those who have an interest in the history of Brighton.

The database lists all the references to the twelve ancient parishes that are incorporated into the modern city of Brighton & Hove, which appeared in the surviving pages of the Sussex Weekly Advertiser during the period 1746 through to 1806, when the Brighton Herald began publication. It is listed by date of publication, page number, followed by a brief summary of the content of the item, and this includes all personal names, occupations and addresses. Searchers will be able to locate the full content of the items by viewing the microfilms held at most large libraries in the county – the Brighton History Centre has a copying service.

With one brief exception, the Advertiser was the only newspaper published in Sussex during the eighteenth century and whilst much of the early entries are in respect of advertisements placed by shop-keepers and notices of forthcoming auction sales, news reports appear with greater frequency from the beginning of the 1770’s, particularly during the season. Apart from locating references to such topics as smuggling, national celebrations, the theatre and the great and the good, searchers will also be able to discover news of the Cyprian Corps, the impressed Punch & Judy man, the antics of the Green Man and some dreadful poetry with, perhaps, the exception of ‘On the Girl who walks the Steine without Petticoats’ which deserves greater exposure.

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**The Peter Brandon Sussex History & Sussex Archaeology Prize Competitions**

The Sussex Archaeological Society is to offer two annual prizes of £500 each for the essays judged best on the history and on the archaeology of Sussex. Essays may be submitted by individuals on any aspect of the local history or archaeology of Sussex. This may be a county-wide survey, an essay on a particular activity, method, community or group of people, and may feature all time periods up to the year 2000. The history prize is named in honour of Dr Peter Brandon (1927–2011). The winning entries may also be published in Sussex Archaeological Collections, subject to the usual editorial procedures, including external refereeing. All those with an interest in the local history and archaeology of Sussex may enter and there is no discrimination as to age, and students may apply. But all candidates should be members of the Sussex Archaeological Society. The essays must be unpublished and not submitted to any other competition or journal at the same time; written in English; and be 5,000–8,000 words in length (including footnotes but excluding tables and diagrams).

Further details on how to enter the competition may be obtained from the Research Officer, Sussex Archaeological Society (e-mail research@sussexpast.co.uk), who will also be pleased to respond to any queries about the eligibility of subject matter. Full details are also to be found in the research section of the Society website. The deadline for receiving entries is 30 January in any year, beginning 30 January 2013. All entries must be emailed on or before the deadline date; a decision will be made by the beginning of May, and the announcement of the prizewinner(s) will be made at the AGM of the Society.

It is the aim of the competition to stimulate research and writing on historical and archaeological topics in Sussex. In order to help the Society to continue to offer the prizes, we would also appeal to members to help by offering donations to the prize funds, either in memory of Peter Brandon, or to help in the production of further publications in history and archaeology. Again, please contact the Research Officer with any offers of assistance.
Battle of Lewes Conference
The beginnings of parliamentary democracy explored

Saturday 14th April was both a special and important day for the Society. The conference provided an opportunity to remind us all of the significance of the Battle of Lewes in our country’s history as we prepare for its 750th anniversary in 2014, especially the military and political dimensions.

Baroness Andrews said in her introduction, the speakers at this unique conference are working “at the very frontiers of what is known” about this subject.

In the morning Professor David Carpenter made a very welcome return to Lewes with a talk outlining not only what happened in the battle day was round off by battlefield archaeologist Tim Sutherland, who used the insights gained from his study of the mass graves at Towton to try to shed light on what happened to battlefield victims in Lewes. This was a conference where there was something for everyone.

It was noticeable during the afternoon session that there was no mass exodus of delegates as can happen at some events and the room was still packed. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the organisers for a well organised and meaningful event. Anyone who missed it or who would like to hear any of the talks again can enjoy the conference on audio via the Sussex Past website http://sussexpast.co.uk/battle-of-lewes-main/sas-conference-april-2012 or by accessing the Battle of Lewes Project via the homepage.

Conference delegates also had an opportunity to enjoy one of four guided tours of the battlefield on the following morning, each led by guides with a different perspective on the site including landscape management, battle strategy and the general history of the area. For those who had been lucky enough to get a ticket for the extraordinary Battle of Lewes Experience in 4D on the Saturday evening, a collaboration between Sussex Archaeological Society, Sussex Downs College and a very wide range of community organisations, this was truly a weekend to remember.

Mike Chartier & Edwina Livesey

The Regency in Sussex
A brief period that had a lasting influence

The Regency lasted just nine years, from 1811 when King George III was considered unable to rule and the Prince Regent ruled as proxy, until he became George IV in 1820. Historically, the Regency period now usually stretches from about 1800 until the end of the reign of William IV, in 1837. The period was one of great expansion and confidence followed by adversity which hit Sussex quite hard, beginning here in the late 1820s and lasting into the early 1840s. In Sussex, the first twenty years of prosperity was a time of significant changes to the landscape and economy. Investment flowed into coaching inns, houses, turnpikes, ports, canals and other enterprises.

Most of the resorts we know today were established although only Brighton grew rapidly, aided by the large number of soldiers periodically stationed in and around the resort until 1815 due to the fear of invasion by the French. Local military intelligence emphasised the risk of the bay in which Brighton was located being the best place to land soldiers due to the shallow waters. The Prince of Wales was unconcerned and continued to extend and refashion the Pavilion and its grounds until the early 1820s. The growth of other resorts such as Seaford and Hastings were also aided by soldiers being stationed there.

After 1815, with peace abroad, a building boom began in Sussex. Many buildings were either refaced or newly built in a style which we often describe as Regency. One of the biggest projects in Sussex was Regency Square in Brighton (1818) which was developed by a Londoner to the designs of an architect called Mackie and not Amon Henry Wilds as is often published.

New projects were also begun in Worthing where Amon Henry Wilds began a development of linked and detached villas called Park Crescent. The recession which started in the late 1820s made life difficult for both Thomas Read Kemp of Kemp Town (Brighton) and for Wilds at Park Crescent but both miraculously avoided bankruptcy, although older studies of Kemp state that he was bankrupted.

Prosperity helped to boost the expansion of Hastings, first with a mixture of modest squares and then the more ambitious Pelham Terrace development on land owned by the Pelham family of Stammer.

In most of the inland ancient market towns, such as Horsham, many houses were refaced as a consequence of their prosperity and new ones built. The impact on Lewes can be seen by looking down from the Castle at the back of the houses with their later eighteenth and early nineteenth facades. Chichester also has a rich heritage from the period and, as with many of our towns and villages, the challenge is to decide which new facades and buildings date from earlier times and which are from the flourishing Regency period.

If readers are interested in learning how to recognise these features, see the Regency Society website, listed in the Noticeboard section or contact Lorna Gartside, the Membership Secretary, and we can organise some walks to explore this topic further.

Sue Berry
Probing the Willingdon Levels ...and Shinewater from afar

As a response to a development proposal for a superstore at Arkwright Road, Eastbourne a programme of archaeological investigation was required by the county council and borough council. The area is currently an industrial estate built in the early 1980s on a raft of 1m of imported chalk and lies on the edge of the Willingdon Levels. Earlier significant discoveries of well preserved Neolithic to Roman waterlogged artefacts, structures, platforms and trackways and palaeo-environmental evidence considered to be nationally important, have highlighted the archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of the peat and alluvial deposits in this area. The presence of extensive waterlogged deposits are rare in south east England and the potential for pollen referencing not only local wetlands, but also the vegetation of the chalk which is essentially devoid of pollen was clearly important.

Previous palaeo-geographic research in the Willingdon Levels indicate a relatively uniform Holocene sedimentary sequence comprising, in summary, made ground over alluvium over a thin peaty and variably peat horizon over thick alluvial deposits (Fig. 1).

Boreholes

Fieldwork started on 4th May 2011. Four boreholes were driven through the deposits using a tracked percussion borehole rig and team specially hired for the job (Fig. 2). Cores of the undisturbed sediment were retrieved in plastic sleeves to a depth of up to 6m. The cores were removed to AEA offices, cut open and the 6m sediment profiles described and subsampled. Beneath the chalk raft was over 1m of grey alluvium (Upper Alluvium) which sealed a complex of peats, fine silt inwash and humic silts (Willingdon Peats) which themselves had developed on at least 3m of further greyish blue to greenhish blue silty clays (Lower Alluvium). This encapsulated the typical Willingdon Sequence with the peats relating to the Late Bronze Age and the Shinewater Platform (Fig. 3). A full suite of some 217 subsamples were taken for analysis and identification of pollen, diatoms, waterlogged plants and snails, radiocarbon dating and artefact recovery. Most of them (98 samples) focussed on the best sequence (borehole C). Assessment of these showed good preservation of all of these palaeo-environmental remains except snails and provided a basic palaeo-environmental framework as the basis for excavation.

Sequence depicting changes from marine conditions to freshwater marsh, later engulfed in tidal waters before being cut off by the sand and shingle bar that extended along the Crumbles. A large suite of samples were taken and are currently being analysed, including three radiocarbon datings. Analysis includes geoarchaeology (M Allen), pollen (R Scaife), waterlogged and charred plant remains (A Clapham), charcoal (J Whittaker). The results will provide the best study of this sequence and would provide a ‘platform’ for reviewing and interpreting development of the Holocene Willingdon Levels, and place the internationally important (but unpublished) Bronze Age archaeological site of Shinewater, about 1km away, into its landscape context. Already micro-charcoal in samples from the Willingdon Peat allude to this activity. The palaeo-environmental reconstruction of the changing and developing Willingdon Levels will allow us to indicate the significance of this wetland landscape and its resources and opportunities for prehistoric communities.

Results

Already important results have come to light. The Willingdon Levels were originally drained by a river debouching to the east of Eastbourne, prior to the formation of Langney Point and the Crumbles. The Lower Alluvium formed under estuarine conditions. Humic silts, silty clay inwash and peat (Willingdon Peat) formed as a result of regression and lowered relative sea-levels during the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. Salt marsh and brackish conditions prevailed locally and freshwater fen carr developed. A silt inwash lens is similar to that at Shinewater prior to the construction of the Platform. The peat complex was sealed by the Upper Alluvium as a result of marine transgression. Present conditions and drainage were established following the development of the Crumbles shingle bar and Langney Point.

Analysis of the Willingdon Peats has given a provisional identification of two very rare aquatic species by one of our leading archaeobotanists, Dr Alan Clapham. Their discovery here in the Bronze Age peats is potentially the first archaeological record of both in the UK. These identifications await confirmation but include Hampshire purslane (Ludwigia palustris); an insignificant looking but very rare plant which today is only found in Epping Forest and the New Forest, although it is previously known to have existed in Sussex. It is an aquatic or semi-aquatic perennial herb which grows in muddy to tidally flooded areas. Not content with just one new find, the samples from Arkwright Road have probably yielded another UK first; water-purslane (Lythrum portula). A small prostrate annual herb, it lives in marshes, moist ground and apparently is common next to trackways... though I doubt modern ecologists include hurdle trackways among the marsh, the like of which may have existed on Willingdon Levels in the Bronze Age.

We intend to publish the full results in a national journal (Journal of Quaternary Science or The Holocene) and a summary and its archaeological significance in Sussex Archaeological Collections.

Michael J. Allen
Allen Environmental Archaeology

This work was funded by Morgan Davis Wherry (Eastbourne) Ltd., and Dyer Group (Cheltenham) Ltd.
Library News

Colour photocopying now available!

In the December 2011 Newsletter we announced that library volunteer Gill Lindsay would be in the Library on the 2nd Saturday of each month to help any Members who needed assistance. As the take-up has been minimal, this will be discontinued after the second Saturday in July (14th July).

I am aware that some Members are having problems finding the Library on the new Sussex Past website (www.sussexpast.co.uk). From the Home page, click on Research. Library is then listed on the left hand side. Other links, including the link to the online catalogue, are to be found on the Library page. We are still looking for a donor to support the catalogue, both now and in the future, please contact me or Tristan if you can help.

We now have a new photocopier which makes colour copies as well as black & white. The charge will be £3.00 for two; £4.00 for three or more. Orders to bookshop@sussexpast.co.uk or phone 01273 482990, or call in to Barbican House.

I list below some recent additions to the Library (all 2011):

**Bookshop**

The bookshop recently acquired some very decent second-hand archaeology and related books, and, instead of the usual offer of a new book/s at discounted prices, I thought to give an airing to a few of them. All are hardbacks with dust wrappers, in excellent condition.

- **Cunliffe, Barry, Hengistbury Head.** Paul Elek. 1978. £5.50
  - de Bédoyère, Guy. Roman villas and the countryside. Batsford / EH. 1993. £7.50
  - Hingley, Richard. Rural settlement in Roman Britain. Seaby. 1989. £10.00
  - Pearson, Michael P.. Bronze Age Britain. Batsford / EH. 1993. £7.50
  - Short, Brian. England’s landscape: the south East. Collins / EH. 2008. £15.00
  - Sharp, Mick & Peter Fowler. Images of prehistory. C.U.P. 1990. £10.00
  - Short, Brian. England’s landscape: the south East. Collins / EH. 2008. £15.00
  - Postage: £2.00 for single book; £3.00 for two; £4.00 for three or more. Orders to bookshop@sussexpast.co.uk, or phone 01273 482990, or call in to Barbican House.

And now for something slightly different:


(If you want these posted, let me know and I’ll investigate – but it will be quite a few pounds).

We are grateful to the following for their donations to the Library:

**Brookes, Stuart ed.** Studies in Early Anglo-Saxon Art and Archaeology

**Castleden, Rodney** On Blatchington Hill: history of a downland village

**Green, Alan H J** Cattle, Corn and Crawfish: 900 years of Chichester’s Market

**Pennington, Janet** Chantrybury Ring: the story of a Sussex landmark

**Stringer, Chris** The Origin of Our Species

**Withers, P** Lions, Ships & Angels: the Galata guide to coin weights found in Britain

**Esme Evans**
**Hon. Librarian**

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**NEAR LEWES HOARD**

**The ‘Near Lewes’ Hoard**

Society launches appeal to acquire treasures for Barbican House

In last December’s edition of SP&P I mentioned the exciting discovery of the ‘Near Lewes’ Middle Bronze Age hoard (c.1400-1250 BC). From the moment of discovery by metal detectorist David Lange, the hoard has fascinated archaeologists and the community at-large. Thanks to support from the Society, Research Officer Luke Barber, ESCC Archaeologists Greg Chuter and Casper Johnson and I were able to excavate the area surrounding the hoard, to better understand why such an incredible assemblage would be buried in the Sussex landscape. Following its declaration as Treasure, it was displayed for a time at the British Museum as part of the first exhibit dedicated to the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

When discovered, the hoard’s earthenware vessel was full of more than 50 objects, many of which had been skillfully made as items of adornment. Although some of the objects such as the bronze palstaves (a type of axehead) are well known types from Southern England during this period, other items are of great local importance such as the ‘Sussex Loop’ bracelets which are only found within the vicinity of Brighton. The integration of local or regionally-produced items with rare and exotic objects like amber beads from the Baltic, gold decorative discs normally confined to France and special ‘tutuli’ type mounts produced in Germany suggests that this hoard held special importance for the individuals associated with its burial. It may also help us to illuminate further prehistoric trade relationships between local people and those from the Continent.

As evidenced within this find, Middle Bronze Age people seem to have worn a wide range of dress ornamentation, some produced locally and some from afar and it must have been a period of creativity and increased interaction between different peoples. The photograph above shows a sample of some of the more complete items in the assemblage. Often these pieces were purposefully broken before placing them in vessels, suggesting that they were not intended to be re-used after burial. In this hoard there are multiple versions of the same types, including four torcs, five ‘Sussex Loop’ bracelets, four gold discs, eight finger rings and a large assortment of other types of decorative mounts and pins. Bronze Age specialist Ben Roberts remarked, “In this sense, the ‘near Lewes’ hoard can be regarded as the most spectacular and overtly continental manifestation of a distinct region of Middle Bronze Age ‘ornament horizon’ hoards…” (PAAS Specialist Reports 2011:792, p13). The ‘Near Lewes’ hoard was also highlighted in the ITV series ‘Britain’s Secret Treasures’ to coincide with the Festival of British Archaeology from 16 - 22 July. It has been noted as one of the most important recent discoveries in association with the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

The Society is now seeking to acquire this incredible hoard and will be applying to a number of national grant awarding bodies for funding. As a condition of support for the purchase the grant bodies will require that a percentage of the cost is met through local fundraising. The cost of the hoard is estimated at £15,500, a value determined by the Treasure Valuation Committee.

The Society not only needs to raise funds towards the purchase but also for conservation and exhibition costs.

The Society is therefore asking Members to support the purchase of this collection and would be grateful for donations, small and large, to the acquisition fund so that we may display this wonderful collection at Barbican House Museum. Please contact Emma O’Connor, Museums Officer and Stephanie Smith, Finds Liaison Officer for further information.

**Stephanie Smith & Emma O’Connor**
CHRIS HARE

WORTHING UNDER ATTACK

BOOK REVIEWS

Worthing Under Attack: Eye Witness History of Worthing during the 1930s and 40s

As much oral history relating to the Depression appeared in the previous volume, Chris concentrates on the writings of the columnists of the Worthing Journal. This had a largely middle-class readership, who would appreciate, for example, that a group of “itinerant cacophonists” (i.e. musicians) might be better engaged making up new roads.

Worthing had a branch of the National Unemployed Workers Movement, which came into conflict with Worthing Council of Social Service (now Guild Care) over proposals for a social centre, and was then accused of being a communist influence. Those archaeologists from the Worthing papers and beyond will be interested to read the comments by a member of the NUWM and chairman of the Worthing Trades Council - named Con Ainsworth!

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East Sussex Church Monuments 1530-1830

SUSSEX Record Society volume 93 is a catalogue of 1409 monuments dating from the period 1530 to 1830, compiled by Professor Nigel Llewellyn and a team of research assistants and volunteers.

The volume includes colour photographs of 200 of the listed monuments. An accompanying database available through the Sussex Record Society website provides high-resolution images of most of the monuments listed in the catalogue.

The volume and database represent a significant resource for anyone interested in funerary monuments. As Llewellyn points out, such monuments have been a neglected category. Few are considered to have enough architectural or sculptural merit to be of interest to historians of art and design and, until recently, they mainly attracted attention from genealogists and local historians.

The introduction explains the origins of the project and offers an overview of the geographical, demographic, social and economic contexts of the monuments.

The monuments themselves became increasingly emotive. A flamboyant example of this is the freestanding monument at Withyham to Thomas Rackavick, son of Richard, Earl of Dorset, who died in 1675 aged 13, which includes life-sized effigies of the child (looking, it has to be said, remarkably well) and his grief-stricken parents.

Making Lewes History Model - the model makers remember

This book comes from the culmination of two projects funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund - the Time for History Project sponsored by Guild Care, and the on-going research project All Our Yesterdays based at West Sussex Record Office. The first project led to the publication of Through the Hard Times and the Good in 2009, and this book includes further extracts from oral history interviews and benefits from the second project involving the indexing by volunteers of periodicals and newspapers held at Worthing Library, in particular the Worthing Journal (1932-1940), which contained “hard-hitting and satirical columns” which bring the town to life.

The cover immediately suggests the physical wartime attacks, being a painting of the December 1940 bombing of the area around the Town Hall. However, the first part of the book deals with the 1930s, when the town was under attack from the twin threats of the Great Depression and political extremism.

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THIS year’s Heritage Open Days will take place on the 6th-9th September and details of all events are available on the English Heritage website at www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory. All the properties taking part in Heritage Open Days are of architectural, cultural, historic or social interest.

Heritage Open Days is not just about opening buildings. Guided tours and all kinds of activities to bring local history and culture to life are also organised. Admission to properties and participation in activities are free during the Heritage Open Days opening period. Properties that normally open free of charge either open an additional part of the property or arrange a special activity.

Marlipins Museum is organising a family quiz and treasure trail around Shoreham that will begin and end at the museum. It will be based on local knowledge and history and there are prizes to be won!

WHEN antiquarian and historian Leland Lewis Duncan of the Kent Archaeological Society died in 1923 his lifetime’s work, including handwritten lists and transcriptions of Wills of Kent residents and landowners who lived in medieval and Tudor times, was deposited in the society’s library at Maidstone Museum.

For 80 years local and family historians could inspect this invaluable resource only by visiting the library. Now, a team of volunteers - Margaret Broomfield, Dawn Weeks, Zena Bamping and Pat Tritton – is completing the task of transcribing Duncan’s records for the society’s website, from which they can be downloaded free of charge.

Duncan’s records were written in 61 exercise books and bound quarto books, most of which survive. Their 2,188 entries were originally indexed by parish by the Vicar of East Peckham in 1934.

The records are now on a database which has two indexes. One enables the surnames of testators to found and is convenient for family historians. The other, for the benefit of local historians, lists the areas, parishes or dioceses in which the testators lived or owned land. The areas include boroughs which were once part of Kent but are now within Greater London.

Links alongside the entries allow any of the Wills that have been transcribed to be viewed ‘with one click’. To access the Wills visit the Research section at www.kentarchaeology.org.uk

WHILST we are increasingly using our website for making information available to members, we remain aware that not everyone uses the internet. If there is any information online that you cannot access, please do contact the Membership Secretary to ask for a printed copy.

CONTRARY to what was reported in the previous issue of SP&P, the Battle of Lewes Embroidery has not relocated to Anne of Cleves House for the summer months this year. Therefore, if you wish to view the progress of this community project please go to the Temporary Exhibitions Gallery at Barbican House Museum.

THE first book in this exciting new series, published by the Sussex Archaeological Society, is now on sale at £8.99. The Archaeology of the South Downs National Park: an Introduction is by John Manley, an expert writing for a wide general public. It features a wealth of colour illustrations, diagrams etc. - much practical information, but also a memorable evocation of ‘pastness’. Volumes on ‘Wildlife’ and ‘Landscape/Geology’ are at an advanced stage of preparation.

More information in the next issue!