

April to August 2017

Items shown in burgundy are Society events and can be booked using the form at the end of this section.

April

Sat 29 SOCIETY SPRING CONFERENCE: The Changing Parish Church: from Saxon to Victorian c. 600-1900.

This event is now fully booked. To be added to the waiting list, please email members@sussexpast.co.uk or call 01273 405737 with details of how many places you want and a **daytime** contact number.

May

Mon 8 SOCIETY EVENT: The Little Churches of Chichester Walking Tour

Leader: Alan Green

The walled City of Chichester occupies an area of under a square mile which in pre-Reformation times was served by no fewer than nine parish churches and three chapels, as well as the cathedral! Six would survive beyond 1600, five becoming the famous 'Little Churches'. In this walk local historian Alan Green takes us on a tour of those churches including the 1812 proprietary chapel of St John.

Time: 10.30am-12.30pm.

Meet: By the toilets at Northgate car park, Chichester PO19 6AA

Cost: £10

Maximum no. 25

Thurs 11 The Holleyman Lecture 2017: Arthur and the Kings of Britain: archaeology and the 'lost voice' of prehistory by Dr Miles Russell. 7-9pm. Fulton Building Lecture Theatre A, University of Sussex.

A collaborative event between the Sussex School of Archaeology and the Sussex Archaeological Society. See **'What else is on'** page for further information.

June

Thurs 1 SOCIETY EVENT: Visit to Possingworth Park (Holy Cross Priory)*

Leader: Dr Sue Berry

In 1864 Louis Huth, a member of a German banking family, bought what is now known as Old Possingworth Manor and around 830 hectares of land in order to build 'one of the grandest mansions in the South of England'. The new mansion, Possingworth Park, built from 1866 at a cost of more than £60,000, was designed by the celebrated architect Sir Matthew Digby Wyatt in a Tudor-gothic style. The design was a highly ornate, neo-Gothic mansion built predominantly of red brick with York stone dressings and a slate roof in a U-shaped layout. The house is now a residential care home, but we will be able to visit the ground floor communal areas and the gardens.

Time: 10.30am-midday.

Meet: Holy Cross Priory care home, Cross-in-Hand, Heathfield TN21 0TS

Cost: £10 (includes a donation to the Priory)

Maximum no. 20

Sat 10 SOCIETY EVENT: Annual General Meeting

The Society's AGM will take place this year in the Rudkin Room, Fishbourne Roman Palace. Coffee

will be available from 10am and the AGM starts at 10.30am. All AGM papers will be uploaded to the members' area of the website in advance of the meeting (please contact members@sussexpast.co.uk if you need a reminder of the log in details) and hard copies will be available on the day.

Members may join staff and Trustees for a light lunch (sandwiches, ham & cheese platter, fruit & cake) following the meeting at a cost of £13, which must be booked in advance. There will also be an opportunity to view the conservation work on the mosaics with Rob Symmons, Fishbourne curator.

After lunch, Dr David Rudling FSA will give a talk in the Rudkin Room as follows:

A Tribute to Ivan Donald Margary, 1896-1976

It is now over 40 years since the death in 1976 of Ivan Donald Margary, yet our Society continues to benefit from the past involvement and patronage of this important gentleman and scholar (he was the leading expert on Roman roads in Britain). In this illustrated talk we will review Ivan Margary's life and some of the many major contributions that he made to archaeology, his local community, and beyond.

This event is free to members, but we do ask that you book so we have an idea of numbers.

Fri 16 SOCIETY EVENT: Visit to Borde Hill House and Gardens*

We will start with a guided tour of the house, a Grade II listed Elizabethan mansion, followed by a buffet lunch and then the Head Gardener will take us on a tour of the grounds with a special emphasis on the plant collectors of the early 20th century. The garden was created in the early 1900s with plants gathered by the great plant collectors from their travels to the Himalayas, China, Burma, Tasmania and the Andes.

Time: 11.30am – 2.30pm

Meet: Borde Hill Garden, Borde Hill Lane, Haywards Heath RH16 1XP

Cost: £35 (includes house & garden tours, lunch & a souvenir guidebook)

Maximum no. 25

Wed 21 SOCIETY EVENT: Visit to Standen House and Garden*

Completed in 1894, this Arts and Crafts house was the home of the Beales, a prominent non-conformist family from Birmingham. It was designed by Philip Webb as a modern home with electricity and central heating. Webb was a close friend and associate of William Morris, whose textiles and wallpapers feature prominently. The hillside garden was designed to complement the house. We will have a private tour of the house before it opens to the public, followed by a tour of the gardens.

Time: 10am - midday

Meet: Standen House, West Hoathly Rd, East Grinstead RH19 4NE

Cost: £18 (no reduction for NT members)

Maximum no. 30

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Wed 21 SOCIETY EVENT: Visit to The Priest House, West Hoathly

The Priest House, which is only a short drive from Standen House, is a charming 15th century farmhouse containing a large and varied collection of furniture and domestic by-gones, with a lovely cottage garden. The resident curator, Antony Smith, will take us around the house and garden, after which tea and cake will be served.

Time: 2pm-3.30pm

Meet: The Priest House, North Lane, West Hoathly, East Grinstead RH19 4PP

Cost: £4 (to cover refreshments). Non-members £9.

Maximum no. 30

These events can be booked separately, or you may book both for a combined price of £20 (£25 non-members)

July

Fri 21 SOCIETY EVENT: Visit to Great Dixter - the Lutyens connection*

Great Dixter is actually three houses, one originating from the mid-15th century, one from Benenden, built in the early 16th century and moved to the site in 1910, and the third Lutyens' original design, built to combine the buildings, completed in 1912. Most visitors see the medieval rooms of the original building, but we will also be given a specialist private tour of the Lutyens house. After a break for lunch (not included) we will have a tour of the gardens, which were also largely devised by Lutyens.

Time: 10.30am-2pm

Meet: Great Dixter, Northiam, Rye TN31 6PH

Cost: £30

Maximum no. 25

Fri 21 SOCIETY EVENT: Visit to Brickwall House (Frewen College)

This impressive Grade I listed timber-framed Jacobean house contains a 17th century drawing room with a superb plaster ceiling and many good portraits including works by Kneller, Lely and Vereist. It is surrounded by a wonderful Stuart garden created in around 1680. Today Brickwall House is owned by the Frewen Educational Trust which is kindly allowing us private access to view the house and grounds.

Time: 2.30pm-4.30pm (latest)

Meet: Frewen College Brickwall, Rye Road, Northiam, Rye TN31 6NL

Cost: £15

Maximum no. 35

Frewen College is only 5 minutes' drive from Great Dixter, and these events can be booked separately, or you may book both for a combined price of £42.

Sat 22 SOCIETY EVENT: Visit to Plumpton Roman Villa Excavation

A guided tour of this season's archaeological excavations with David Rudling on the site of the

villa's winged-corridor house. There will also be an opportunity to see some of the recovered artefacts.

Time: 11am-midday

Meet: Plumpton Roman villa site. Cars may be left in the large car park on the eastern side of the buildings at Plumpton College. Participants can then walk (10-15 minutes) along the trackway exiting from the top right-hand corner of the car park and head northwards towards the villa.

Cost: £6 (includes a donation to the project)

Maximum no. 25

August

Sun 13 SOCIETY EVENT: Tour of the Pett Level submerged forest

In August CITIZAN (the Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network) will be back at Pett Level with Dr Scott Timpany, a geoarchaeologist specialising in prehistoric submerged forests. The remains of the forest stretch for nearly 2km along the foreshore and current research suggests a mixed woodland dating to the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, in which mammals both small and large roamed. 20th century finds of flint tools in the area indicate human habitation contemporary with the forest; evidence of burning on some of the remains may suggest deliberate management of the forest. Come on this guided walk of the site to learn more about the forest and the methods being used to record it.

Time: 9.30am-10.30am

Meet: Pett Level, Hastings TN35 4EH

Cost: £5

Maximum no. 18

Saturday 21 October

SOCIETY AUTUMN CONFERENCE The Long Sunset: the Country House c. 1840-1940

Our speakers will explore how the country house and its setting changed in design and function between about 1840-1940. We will compare the grand houses of the Victorian and Edwardian period with the more intimate houses and gardens of the Arts and Crafts movement, look at the introduction of technical improvements such as electricity and central heating, and consider the impact of wealthy Americans on the country house of this period.

Time: 10am-5pm.

Meet: King's Church, Brooks Road,
Lewes BN7 2BY

Cost: £50 (students £25)

Maximum no. 180

*Events marked * in the programme of events will be of particular interest to those attending this conference*

Contact Details and Booking Form

Sussex Archaeological Society Keeping in Touch

Contact Numbers

Society Headquarters, Bull House	01273 486260
Membership Secretary (10am-3pm, Tues-Fri)	01273 405737
Lewes Admin & Marketing	01273 486260
Research Officer	01273 405733
Anne of Cleves House Museum	01273 474610
Barbican House/Lewes Castle	01273 486290
Bookshop & Reception	01273 486290
Education	01273 405734
Library	01273 405738
Museums Officer	01273 405735
Fishbourne Roman Palace	
General Admin & Marketing	01243 789829
School Bookings & Reception Desk	01243 785859
Marlipins Museum	01273 462994
Michelham Priory	01323 844224
The Priest House	01342 810479

Email Addresses (all @sussexpast.co.uk)

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Edwin Wood (Finds Liaison Officer)	flo@

Booking Form

Name:.....

Address:.....

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Tel: Member No:

Email Address

Monday 8 May

Chichester Churches Walking Tour (£10)

Thursday 1 June

Possingworth Park Visit (£10).....

Saturday 10 June

Society Annual General Meeting* (FREE).....

Lunch (£13).....

Ivan Margary Talk (FREE).....

Friday 16 June

Borde Hill House & Gardens Visit (£35).....

Wednesday 21 June

Standen House & Garden Visit (£18).....

Priest House & Garden Visit (£4/£9).....

Combined Ticket (£20/£25).....

Friday 21 July

Great Dixter House & Garden Tour (£30).....

Brickwall House & Garden Tour (£15).....

Combined Ticket (£42)

Saturday 22 July

Plumpton Roman Villa Excavation Visit (£6).....

Sunday 13 August

Pett Level Submerged Forest Tour (£5).....

Saturday 21 October

The Long Sunset: the Country House c. 1840-1940

Society Autumn Conference (£50/£25).....

All events except any marked with a () are open to non-members. Enter number of tickets required in box. Confirmation will be sent by email if you enter your email address above; otherwise please include a sae with your booking form. If you wish to check availability before booking, please call 01273 405737 (Tues-Fri). Bookings will not be confirmed until payment is received. Many events may also be booked online.*

Return to: Membership Secretary, Bull House, 92 High Street, Lewes, BN7 1XH with payment and sae. Cheques should be made payable to Sussex Past.

What else is on?

APRIL

Sat 1 **BHASLHF Talk:** 'Space and Status: how the Medieval house was used' by Judie English. 2.30pm, Ventnor Hall, Central United Reformed Church, 102 Blatchington Road, Hove BN3 3YF. Non-members welcome £3.

Mon 10 **LHG Talk:** 'The Harrison Weir Collection' by John Smithson. 7pm for 7.30pm. Kings Church Building, Brooks Road, Lewes, BN7 2BY. Non-members welcome £3.

Tues 11 **WAS Lecture:** 'Two Ancient Cities: Archaeology at Butrint and Gjirokastra in Albania' by Oliver Gilkes. Once the most isolated and poorest country in Europe, Albania's archaeological heritage is as rich as any in the Mediterranean. Oliver Gilkes has worked there for 22 years at two World Heritage Sites, the ancient city of Butrint, a multiperiod site famed for its fine mosaics, picturesquely sited overlooking the Ionian Sea and the island of Corfu; and its dramatically different neighbour the austere stone city of Gjirokastra. Epirotes, Romans, Byzantines and Ottomans mingle in a stunning landscape of mountains and sea shores. 7.30pm. Lecture Theatre, Worthing Library, Richmond Road, BN11 1HD. Non-members welcome £4. Further information: www.worthingarch.co.uk or email contact@worthingarch.co.uk.

Fri 21 **BHAS Lecture:** 'Archaeology of the South Downs National Park' by John Manley. Lecture re-scheduled from 13 January. The South Downs National Park extends from Eastbourne in East Sussex to Winchester in Hampshire. This considerable area contains so many different sites, ranging from the Neolithic period to more recent military conflicts. 7.30pm. Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton. Non-members welcome, £3.

Fri 21 **LAG Lecture:** 'Bridge Farm, near Barcombe' by Rob Wallace. 7.30pm. Lecture Room, Lewes Town Hall, Fisher Street, Lewes. Non-members welcome £4/£3. Free entry for 18 years or under.

Tues 25 **ELHS Talk:** AGM followed by 'Eastbourne's Shoreline' a 20 min DVD, by Brian Waters. 7pm. All Souls Church Hall, Wellesley Road, Eastbourne, BN21 3RJ. Non-members welcome £2.

Wed 26 **CDAS Talk:** 'The Forest of Arundel and the Fitzalan Earls' Deer Park at Downley, Singleton, West Sussex' by Mark Roberts. 7.30pm. New Park Centre, New Park Road, Chichester, PO19 7XY. Non-members welcome £3.

MAY

Sat 6 **Workers' Education Association Day School:** 'Sussex Composers'. A musical tour from Eastbourne to West Sussex - including a short visit to Chichester - with Frank Bridge, John Ireland, Arnold Bax, Havergal Brian and others. The tutor is Robert Carrington, who is also a composer and performer. 2-5pm, St. Thomas's Church Hall, Cliffe High Street, Lewes BN7 2AH. Fee £15.00. Book online at www.wea.org.uk/southern, or send a cheque, payable to WEA, to 7 Priory Crescent, Lewes BN7 1HP, enclosing a SAE for confirmation. Enquiries 01273 477447.

Mon 8 **LHG Talk:** 'Lowther's Lambs and the Boar's Head' by

Chris Kempshall. Further details: see above.

Thurs 11 **The Holleyman Lecture 2017: Arthur and the Kings of Britain: archaeology and the 'lost voice' of prehistory** by Dr Miles Russell.

One of the earliest attempts to chronicle the prehistory of Britain came in Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae* (A History of the Kings of Britain), compiled in the 12th century. This book described how the Britons were descended from Trojan refugees, who battled against giants, Scythians and later Saxons, and how Stonehenge was built from stones shipped from Ireland (using magic). It was also the first major work to discuss the life of King Arthur (becoming a Medieval best-seller in the process) and also Lear and Cymbeline, both later immortalised by Shakespeare, as well as less-well known monarchs Brutus, Cole and Bladud. It also contained dragons. Understandably, in the cold light of day, Geoffrey's text has either been ignored or cast as a work of make-believe; an unreliable piece of medieval propaganda and national mythmaking. A detailed re-examination of the text, however, has shown that key elements originate from a very specific part of late 1st century BC Britain, when Iron Age tribes were making first contact with Rome. When understood in context, the *Historia* not only provides a record of the distant past as seen from the perspective of the ancient Britons themselves, but also helps to explain the origins, identity and significance of later characters such as Arthur, Ambrosius Aurelianus and Aelle, first King of Sussex and how the foundation stories of the first Saxon kingdoms were fabricated in the 9th century by people in need of heroes to celebrate.

Entrance by ticket purchased in advance, £8 for members of the Sussex School of Archaeology, the University of Sussex or the Sussex Archaeological Society, others £10. The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception and sale/book signing of Dr Russell's new book on the topic of this lecture.

Fortickets please contact: www.sussexarchaeology.org; email: info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk; or phone 01323 811785.

JUNE

Mon 12 **LHG Talk:** 'Reel Lewes' by Ruth Thomson. Further details: see above.

Tues 27 **ELHS Talk:** 'Memories of the Titanic and John Wesley Woodward' by David Clark. 2pm. Further details: see above.

JULY

Mon 10 **LHG Talk:** 'Tom Paine in Lewes' by Mary Burke. Further details: see above.

Key to Abbreviations

BHAS	— Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society
BHASLHF	— BHAS Local History Forum
CDAS	— Chichester & District Archaeological Society
ELHS	— Eastbourne Local History Society
LAG	— Lewes Archaeological Group
LHG	— Lewes History Group
WAS	— Worthing Archaeological Society

Any group or society who would like their events listed on this page should submit details to the editor no later than the copy deadline date for the next issue given on the back cover.

Events will be included on a first come first served basis and is dependent on the available space.

These events are listed in good faith but as they are not organised by the Sussex Archaeological Society please check with the organiser before deciding to attend.