

Sussex Archaeology Forum

Meeting 2nd May 2023, Lewes

Minutes

1. Apologies received from David Millam, J Sainsbury, John Mills, Caroline Wells, Maria, Liz Lane, Daryl Holter, Jan Oldham, John Skelton, Rachel Salter, David Rudling, Stewart Angell & Rose Hooker
2. Minutes from previous meeting don't exist. Stand in minute taker stepped up graciously but won't be available in this capacity for future meetings. Any takers...?
3. **Group reports-** Highlights (refer to society websites for more details).
 - ESCC – new Planning Archaeologist & HER role being advertised. Interviewing in early June.
 - BHCC – Various walks planned for the summer.
 - CBA Sussex – Next conference in Lewes comprising talks from local units. Conference in Surrey 21st May 'Death and Burial in Roman Period'. Conference on 18th November.
 - Martin Bell – working on publishing Bishopstone Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Stuart Needham excavating Neolithic and Bronze Age sites at Main Down and Forty Acre Lane Harting 2.5km west of Harting Beacon.
 - Sussex Arch. Soc. – next volume of SAC at printers, ETA for distribution c. 1 month. SAS Conference 4th November at Sussex University 'celebrating 175 years of heritage'. Keynote speaker is Mike Pitts, other contributors include Sue Hamilton, Richard Bradley, Miles Russel, Harriet Tate.
 - HAARG – nothing to report.
 - Horsham & Dist. Arch. Soc. – upcoming talks of various topics. Hoping to excavate at Alfoldean next year.
 - Worthing Arch. Soc. – Prehistoric pottery seminar/session in May. Beginners cours in archaeology in June. Other events on illustration planned for quarter 4.
 - Luke Barber – nothing to report.
 - Sussex FLO – talk on 15th May on 'near Lewes hoard'.
 - LAG – recent lecture series now complete but more to come in winter. Stakeholder in the Blue Heart Project. Shinewater open day on 16th May.
4. **Highlights**
 - ASE – refer to extensive summaries for details. Happy to be contacted if anyone has particular queries.
 - BHAS – refer to summaries. Rocky Clump ongoing, final year(?) expanding area to west over large features (sink hole?). Last year identified Late Iron Age and Roman artefacts, postholes for a ?granary. Hoping to undertake mag survey on higher ground to north.
 - Martin Bell – see above.
 - HAARG – excavating a Bronze Age site. Undertaken mag survey on land north of Hastings (20m ring ditch, Bronze Age pot, carbon14 date awaited). Collard urn fragments, but only 2 days into fieldwork so more expected.
 - Horsham – Alfoldean excavation with some Roman findings. Assisted David Staveley on excavating a bit of Farne Street.

- Worthing – Excavating at malt house – medieval-post-medieval. Ongoing salvage work at Climping Beach which is suffering significant erosion following EA's removal of sea defences and illicit (and authorised) metal detecting. Evidence for BA & IA occupation site. Excavating at Lancing Prep School in Summer. Hoping to get permission to work on Patching Barrow. Worthing Museum working on cataloguing John Paul archive. Enquired about having a future discussion of Sussex Research Agenda. Room suggested referring to SERF in first instance.
- Luke Barber – recording icehouse at property in Bodiam close to Alms Houses. Survey previously undertaken by Gwen Jones (not on HER?)
- Sussex FLO – Busy, but treasure backlog now managed. Now has a 1 day per week assistant. Treasure Act amendment expected to come into force in August 2023 with additional clause that broadens definition of treasure. Emergency excavation protocol now established with James Kenny first port of call in West Sussex and Luke Barber in East Sussex. Process to be briefly formalised and circulated so that awareness can be raised on various websites (e.g. ESCC, SAS & Local society, & museums).
- ESCC – Development control workloads remain very high. Lack of Wealden Local Plan resulting in increased number of speculative major applications.

5. AOB

- HAARG raised query over rewilding Winchelsea. Nathalie Cohen is not directly involved. As the area is largely designated as a SM it is expected that Historic England are engaged and necessary permissions (e.g. SMC) are being sought. Not a planning issue so does not fall under ESCC to provide formal advice.
- Matt Pope – concerns raised over mechanically extracting flint from fields for purpose of obtaining building material. SDNPA regard this as quarrying and intervened on land between Adur & Arun (rich in flint mines. SAS to inspect site and submit comments to SDNPA Chris Greatorex also mentioned similar activity noted at Jevington. Martin Bell noted that removal of flints accelerates colluviation process. Also earthworks and buried archaeology at threat of impact. All to be aware and raise query with LPA to establish planning requirements.
- Advocacy - SAS will/have undertake/n for development sites at Whitehak, Rampion 2 and flint gathering. Others encouraged to do similar to raise concerns/awareness with LPAs. BHAS already do this.
- CBA South-East – aiming to be more active in advocacy. Reminder to all regarding availability of grants.
- BHAS – 2021 field notebook now being printed. 2022 is in 1st draft, with plans being drawn up.
- Chris G – queried where tribute publication to Peter Drewett is. David Rudling and Mike Allen were leading on this.

6. Next meeting – likely to be virtual in October. Date/time/venue TBC.