



LEWES ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Affiliated to the Sussex Archaeological Society
and the Council for British Archaeology

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NEXT LAG LECTURE

Dr Mike Allen MClfA, FLS, FSA and President of LAG
Lewes to Wessex and Back Again – a New Archaeology of the Prehistoric Downs

(and how LAG helped re-write the text books)

Friday 12th April 2019 at 7.30pm

Lecture Room, Lewes Town Hall, Fisher Street Entrance

50 YEARS OF



50th Anniversary Programme of Talks and Walks

We will shortly be sending round a programme of talks and walks which has

been put together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of LAG.

The 50th anniversary programme will kick off with a special talk by LAG's Honorary

President Mike Allen. He joined LAG as a youngster and by virtue of this has a very special relationship with LAG. His talk – “Lewes to Wessex and back again – a new archaeology of the prehistoric Downs (and how LAG helped re-write the text books)” – will take place on Friday 12th April (the day after the anniversary date). Mike will look back to LAG’s early excavations and research and will reveal how this relates to more recent developments.



Over the summer there will be guided walks or visits to the Gundrada Chapel and the Priory; Mount Caburn; the Pells; a Gideon Mantell tour of Lewes; Plumpton Cross and the Battle of Lewes Battlefields. So, look out for the leaflet and book up fast as places are limited. Priority will go to members of LAG – this might be another incentive to join LAG!

The programme of talks will recommence in October with a talk by the former Chair of LAG and Ministry of Defence archaeologists, Martin Brown. In his talk in November, Joe Gazeley will give a new perspective on the Battle of Lewes.

In January 2020 David Rudling will speak about Romano-British settlements in the Ouse Valley. In February, Dan Swift from Archaeology South East will give LAG a special talk on monographs on the Lewes Library, Baxter’s and Lewes House

excavations of which he is the author and which are due to be published in 2020. In March John Bleach will give a timely talk on Malling.

The anniversary year will close with a talk by Paul Garwood on Stonehenge. Paul will talk about his recent work in the Stonehenge landscape which is recovering a plethora of new information from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age.

We hope that you will be able to join in our celebrations.

Fiona Marsden remembers working with LAG from 1973 to 1993

On coming to Lewes, as museum curator in February 1973, I was invited onto the LAG Committee. It was a man’s world, reminiscent of wartime command structures. Like the canny young subaltern he once had been John Houghton, the founder Chairman professed *no knowledge of archaeology whatsoever*, which helped him control two squabbling sergeant-like figures, Ted O’Shea and Richard Lewis. The rest of us were expected to serve without complaint and know our place, especially the women. Among the key figures, the efficient Hon. Sec. Vernon Horne, a dispensing chemist at Boots and an active Conservative like John, simply liked to get out at night. By discussing the constitution he could spin out meetings interminably, but when needed he could stand up to the three main players as they jostled for position. Jack Allen was a committed treasurer of several local societies. The mild mannered Monica Maloney, a capable local historian in her own right, was Minutes Secretary. Jean Planterose was the contact to whom Brigadier Hindley, the Assistant Secretary of the Sussex Archaeological Society, thankfully passed on anything to do with Lewes archaeology. John’s Town Council connections allowed us to meet in a small, windowless room that now forms

the rear of the Tourist Information Centre's display area. It quickly filled with pungent smoke from his trademark dark cheroots. Below in the damp basement, into which dirt drifted from broken pavement level skylights, LAG's fieldwork finds were already accumulating.

John was a good raconteur. As he told it, LAG originated because Jock Knight-Farr, a loud-voiced, dishevelled ex-County Council road mender with a near impenetrable East Anglian accent, was pestering him far too often in Meridian, the smart, modern interior design business and home-ware shop that John had established near the White Hart. John was involved in Lewes local history while Jock, though largely self-educated, had a passionate interest in archaeology as revealed in utilities trenches and building sites in the town. Never a man for committees, Jock soon started bringing his finds to the museum and Ted's house instead of the shop. Mrs. O'Shea, who did not share Ted's new retirement interest in archaeology when she had hoped they could spend more time together, dutifully served him tea. Later on the SAS librarians also grew protective of Jock.

LAG was actually a product of the great era of Rescue archaeology. The post-war construction boom had increasingly destroyed evidence of historic urban environments when city centres, whether bombed or undamaged, were pulled down and redeveloped. Concerns about Lewes' past were already starting to mount. Official wartime thinking favoured significant demolition in the High Street and a new road running between the Castle and St. Michael's Church. Later, Phoenix Causeway was intended to link with a proposed by-pass slicing through the Paddock. County Hall emerged in the 1960s and the Friends of Lewes had been trying to safeguard the historic townscape for some years.

Museums in general were appointing more archaeologists. The need for good records, conservation and prompt publication of fieldwork was drummed into us on university courses, and it came as some surprise to find that these ideas were often controversial in the real working world. Unpublished excavations lay heavy on many consciences, or were shrugged off as a necessary evil. Tony Page, who came to Lewes as the Sussex Archaeological Society's first professional curator in 1970/1 set up a training trench for LAG in the Barbican House backyard, but family concerns soon diverted his attention. Richard Lewis, a graphic designer and another committee member George Burton, soon found their way onto extra mural classes at University College, London. The tutor was John Alexander whose reported pronouncements we were expected to revere, although they often seemed to have lost something in translation. Richard was appointed as LAG's Director of Excavations and insisted that only he was allowed to excavate in Lewes. When a watching brief was needed for a few small holes connected with repair work at Lewes Priory the SAS duly put Richard's name forward, but he took this as entitlement to dig wherever he pleased on the site. He had some support from the architect, the Mayor and others on Lewes Priory Trust's committee of which I was an ex-officio member. Querying the scale of this unauthorized work on a scheduled ancient monument did not go down well. Some years later, as criticism grew, I trudged unhappily to a Priory Trust committee meeting aware that I must be more forceful, but knowing that it would fall on deaf ears. Fortunately though English Heritage chose that moment to intervene. At the very start of the meeting the inspector declared there would be no more money for restoration work unless the excavations stopped. I spent many subsequent Sundays shovelling, as the qualified archaeologist among Lewes Priory Trust volunteers as we carried out compulsory backfilling.

Ted O'Shea meanwhile gained experience on excavations run by the ebullient Ken Barton, a medieval pottery expert and Director of Portsmouth City Museums. On Richard's insistence Ted could only do fieldwork outside Lewes, and with a different team of LAG volunteers. Professionally Ted was a director of Llewellyn's, a large local building firm, and his real strengths lay in industrial archaeology. He was a lead figure in the project to restore both Piddinghoe tile kiln and a medieval dovecote in Hove. Early in my time in Lewes, Ted summoned me from my office to tell me he was organizing a Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society meeting in Lewes. Apparently my predecessor Tony Page had let him down, he did not intend to let me let him down, and my role was to offer the SIAS tea in the museum. I meekly complied and actually learned quite a lot from their walk to see the early railway at Offham quarry in lovely spring weather. Pressure of museum work meant that Ted only sought my help when his usual team let him down, and on the whole I had a good working relationship with him. I spent one wet Saturday learning to split bricks at Piddinghoe, and did another sunny day's bricklaying near the top of the kiln. Brick terminology remains lodged in my mind.

As a student I had worked as supervisor on medieval excavations, and the Sussex Archaeological Society expected me to do a watching brief on flood lighting trenches at Lewes Castle, and to excavate the back yard at Anne of Cleves House before a knot garden was established. This was not playing by Richard Lewis' rules though one or two of his diggers broke ranks, including the schoolboy Mike Allen, and came to help on the excavation. Their digging technique was much more precise than I was used to on such sites, and my perception that the ground had been levelled up with fairly recent rubble which

we should remove quickly, was frequently contested. George Burton in particular kept getting left behind, perched on piles of stones he insisted were features. He stroked them delicately with a soft brush, while I picked and shovelled and others hardly knew whose side to take. I was justified in the end, but it was a fraught experience and I felt that George had been planted on me for a purpose.

Richard's patience was tested a great deal further by the creation of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit. It was set up by the Institute of Archaeology of London and staffed by the sort of young, university-educated archaeologists he disliked. Distinguished, established figures like Barry Cunliffe, Geoff Wainwright and Ken Barton served on the committee and gained useful oversight into what might be going wrong at local level across the county. A survey of Lewes was undertaken in 1974, rescue excavations in the town started in 1975, and Peter Drewett, the Unit's director, did a research excavation on the Neolithic causewayed enclosure on Offham Hill in 1976. Richard promptly declared that skeletons found on Malling Hill, which he had excavated a few years earlier, must be part of another causewayed enclosure just across the valley. He was furious when Professor Stuart Piggott wrote to suggest they were more likely to represent a Saxon execution pit, as Greg Chuter's more recent work on the site has established.

Ted and LAG generally welcomed the Field Unit, which helped organize well-attended classes in bone and pottery identification, and pottery drawing. Dai Freke and Gill Craddock joined the committee and using London contacts Gill established a successful lecture programme. The SAS asked to join in, and helped with projection equipment and publicity. By then John Houghton and Richard Lewis had left the committee, while Mike Allen's parents had joined and now hosted it in their house, under Ted's

Chairmanship. The tone of meetings became a great deal less tense.

Then arrangements for a joint excavation of a kiln at Ringmer, due to be co-directed by Ted O'Shea and Dai Freke went badly wrong. The farmer made the field available just as Dai's wife was due to have a baby. Ted had children of his own, but still felt pregnancy and childbirth were something women should get on with and not divert real men from their work. Besides, he had booked a holiday. James Hadfield was drafted in as SAFU's emergency director. He couldn't drive, lived on-site in a tiny tent, and was grateful for moral support from those he styled *The Green Men* at the nearby pub, though their light-hearted help on site was less welcome. There was very little LAG involvement but I spent a week's holiday and then a week of work afternoons at the kiln, and distributed pottery for LAG members at least to wash in the evenings. Dutifully brushing away at my own batch I was not pleased to find most of it barely worth bothering with. This was SAFU's revenge.

Where SAFU was prompt in publishing excavations, Ted and Richard belonged to the old school of amateurs (and some professionals), who enjoyed the intensity and outdoor camaraderie of digging, but could not face the long, solitary chore of publication. Both left it until they were too ill to cope, but over the years David Gregory, Mike Allen and Chris Butler have cleared most of the backlog. The sheer scale of the Priory excavations was more of a problem. When Richard died a colossal rescue effort was needed to clear the neglected finds from his flat, coal hole and garden shed. Poor Mrs. Lewis confessed to sleeping on a camp bed in the kitchen, the only finds' free sanctum. One very hot Saturday, the assistant County Council archaeologist Paul Smith, supported by a team of District Council grounds-men with a truck, shifted everything to Anne of Cleves House garage, cellar and covered cart

entrance, and when they were full, up two twisting flights of stairs to the Barbican House attics, much to the despair of the poor, exhausted grounds-men. It was scarcely better accommodation than Richard Lewis had provided, but by then all the spare archaeological storage facilities installed at the museum since 1973 was largely taken up with SAFU finds.

One of Ted and Richard's difficulties in writing up excavations was a lack of contact with finds specialists who could help with dating and interpretation, but also needed to be paid. Richard anyway did not like people to be better informed than he was. When Professor Zarnecki of the Courtauld Institute sent Freda Anderson to do an invaluable PhD on the Museum's carved Priory stonework he made her very unwelcome. His site records however, and his excavation techniques were good enough to allow Malcolm Lyne, a freelance professional, to get the site published. Since he had written up some neglected pre-war excavations at Pevensey Castle, English Heritage had confidence in his work and was able to gather together some left over funds at the end of the financial year, and pass the money over to the SAS to administer. SAFU's Mark Gardiner acted as editor, and the District Council, who owned the site and were ultimately responsible, used their in-house publishing facilities to produce the report. I had left the SAS before it was finished, but chance meetings in Safeways with the District Council officer involved, continued to embroil me in some of the difficulties. New curatorial arrangements at the museum similarly did not extend to providing a representative on the LAG committee, or taking much interest in archaeology generally. Finds storage remains an issue in the archaeological world at large and solutions are still being sought. Many LAG finds from the 1970s still lack a permanent home and are temporarily in the County Archaeologist's care. It is

probably just as well that LAG no longer excavates, but the current committee sometimes grows wistful at the idea that LAG once had contested elections. It was Richard Lewis trying to stage a coup.

Even so LAG's early years were not necessarily very different from those of many comparable groups, with similar casts of rugged individualists. Digging seems to attract them.

Fiona Marsden

AGM News

The AGM took place on Friday 15th March.

The following officers and committee members were appointed –

Hon President: Mike Allen
Chair: Paula Stanyer
Vice Chair: Anne Locke
Hon Secretary: Wendy Muriel
Hon Treasure: Brian Phillips

Committee: Sabrina Harcourt-Smith, Fiona Marsden, David Gregory, and Chris Greatorex.

Sheila O'Sullivan was appointed as the Independent Examiner of Accounts.

Brian reported that the Group was in a good financial position with a healthy bank balance.

Colin Child

I am sorry to report the death of Colin Child. I knew Colin when I was a child when he would take me and my sister and his daughter Camilla to Brighton football matches at the Goldstone Ground. When I moved back to Lewes in 2006, I was pleased to meet Colin again at a committee meeting of LAG. Colin was the independent examiner of LAG's accounts for many years. He also had a

keen interest in archaeology and history and would ask penetrating questions at LAG talks. He was an enthusiastic supporter of LAG and wanted to see LAG flourish. We are sorry that he is not here to join in LAG's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Here is a tribute given by his daughters Isobel and Camilla.

George Colin Child, always called Colin, was born on 27th May 1929 in Bridlington in Yorkshire, to George and Eileen Child.

His father's job as a bank manager and inspector of banks took them around the country. From Bridlington, the family moved to Trowbridge in Wiltshire, and then to Prestwood in Buckinghamshire. Then in the summer of 1939, the family moved to Tenterden in Kent. Colin and his sister learned that war had broken out in church from the Minister, who said a prayer, and then suggested they all go home. Later that day, they heard guns roaring on the coast, just twenty miles away. The Battle of Britain in 1940 precipitated Colin and his sister Ros's departure for Lancashire. After a year, the children returned to Tenterden, but the town lay on the main bombing route into Britain, and Colin had attended three secondary schools in as many years, so his parents decided that he should board at Kingswood School, which evacuated to Uppingham School in the tiny county of Rutland.

Colin had a real talent for languages and he spent his national service in Vienna and in the Austrian Alps in the early 50s. This was one of the most memorable and enjoyable periods of his life. He could use his German, go to the opera, which he loved, and ski.

Back in Britain, he did his LLB as an external student at the University of London. He was articled to the Town Clerk of Finchley, and thus began his long career in public service. His first

proper job took him to Oxford, where one day, he spotted Dinah and sat opposite her in the public library. Dinah became his wife of 53 years.

His work life was very important and defined him for many years. In 1960, he went from Oxford to Brighton to become prosecuting solicitor and there also his eldest daughter Isobel was born. He went to Kent County Council in 1963 and there his second child Camilla was born. Then in 1966, he came to Lewes as Deputy County Clerk, later County Secretary, and stayed until his retirement.

Colin was involved in the defence of the Downs from 1966 onwards, and was a great advocate and campaigner for the South Downs National Park. He was highly committed to the work of the South Downs Society.

Colin had a passion and scholarly interest in both maps and names. He delighted in being able to tell people a bit about the derivation of their family names – one person told us the other day that as a result of his information her family had gone up in their own estimation! – and also something about the towns they lived in. He would go to great efforts to find out information for people and also for his own research. He loved going to the conferences.

He was very pleased to have had at least three articles published in recent years in the Sussex Archaeological Society's publication, Sussex Past and Present. His last, just last year, was about heraldic designs and the genesis of the coats of arms in Sussex. In this, he told the story of the introduction of the wave into the East Sussex coat of arms and also how it became the logo of East Sussex County Council at its inception in 1974. The wave was his suggestion and he was always delighted that it was both introduced and has been retained. He was also fond of

the Sussex Martlet which is represented in the coat of arms, and rather cross that the Duchess of Sussex has not included one in her design.

At different times, he was an active member of the Friends of Lewes, on the national committee of the European Movement, a member of the South East England Tourist Board, and in retirement was an enthusiastic member of U3A and Lewes Archaeological Group. In 1978, he was President of the Sussex Law Society and he didn't miss a Presidents' dinner until this year.

He suffered from a variety of accidents and illnesses in the last two years of his life. He remained active, interested, inquiring and hopeful to the last day of his life. He stayed in his home looking across the valley at the view of Firle Beacon and Mount Caburn. He lived until he died, and that is a lesson to us all.

Isobel and Camilla Child



New LAG Facebook group

If you are on Facebook, do join our new group at www.facebook.com/groups/lewesarchaeology which Anne Locke has set up – she will put news from our and other organisations there and you can add your

own posts and comments. It's a 'closed group' so you'll need to request to join, but Anne is usually very quick to approve. Members, friends and people involved in other groups – anyone with an interest in local archaeology – are all welcome. Her email address is anne.locke@talktalk.net.

Recent archaeological work at Sussex Police and East Sussex Fire and Rescue headquarters in Lewes

In the autumn of 2016, Archaeology Services Lewes (ASL) conducted a Historic Building Record for the Sussex Police and Fire Headquarters in Church Lane, South Malling, Lewes, East Sussex.

This impressive, former country house appears to be a classic Georgian building but has earlier, hidden features which date to the early – mid 17th century. The final report is available through the Historic Environment Record (HER) and we lead guided walks through the house, as part of the National Heritage Open Days, in September every year.

An archaeological watching brief was also conducted between December 2017 and February 2018, at the new reception building. One trench proved to be of significant interest, with three Middle Palaeolithic flints recovered from a periglacial feature, recorded at a depth between 1.6–2.3m below ground level. Precise dating of these artefacts has proved difficult, despite a pollen assessment being undertaken by Reading University, in the hopes that it could establish a cold stage indicator for the soils and whether they pre-date or post-date the Holocene period. Sadly, the nature of the deposit led to poor preservation of any pollen that was present.

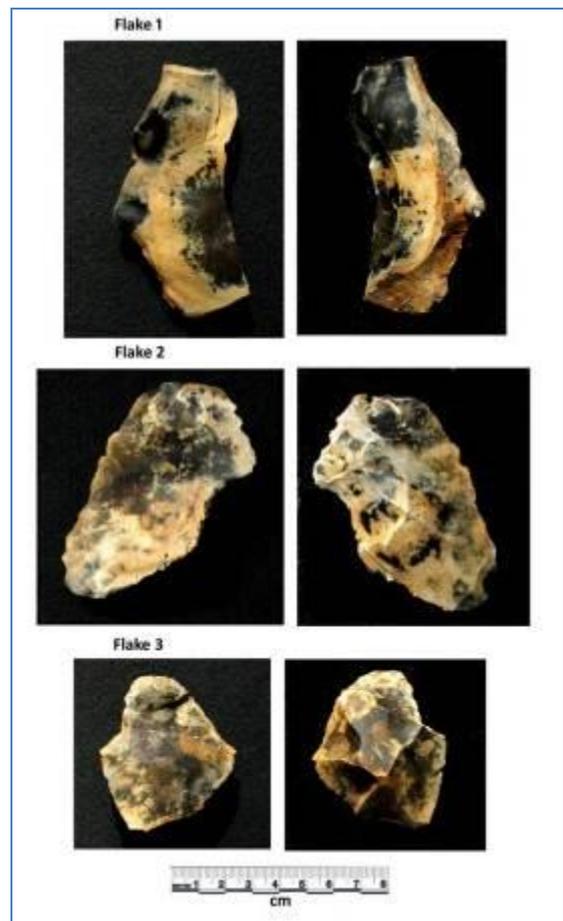


Fig. 1. The three Palaeolithic flakes recovered from the excavations.

In terms of regional context, the recovery of Palaeolithic debitage is significant. In East Sussex, only a small number of Palaeolithic artefacts have been recovered from a geological context in the post-war period and these are the first to be found in over a decade (**Woodcock, A. 1981**. The Lower and Middle Palaeolithic Periods in Sussex. British Archaeological Reports, British Series **94**, 418). A full report on the artefacts has been undertaken by Dr Matt Pope from UCL and will be published in the Sussex Archaeological Collections. The full excavation report is also available through the HER.

Lisa Fisher, Archaeology Services Lewes
info@aslewes.co.uk

Two forthcoming articles in the Sussex Archaeological Collections

I have submitted two articles for publication in the Sussex Archaeological Collections (SAC). The first, 'A medieval pottery assemblage from Lower Barn Farmhouse, Ringmer', will appear in the forthcoming volume of SAC (Vol. 156, 2018). The second should be published the following year (Vol. 157, 2019), unfortunately due to the size of the article, this had to be deferred. It should have been included in Vol. 156, 'A late-medieval house at 26 and 27 Cliffe High Street, Lewes, East Sussex: the documentary and archaeological evidence', by David Gregory with David and Barbara Martin, and Christopher Whittick.

The first article concerns the Lewes Archaeological Group's (LAG) finds archive which was moved to new premises in Hailsham. During 2017 the finds were re-bagged, and re-boxed, and I took this opportunity to analyse the pottery that had been recovered by C. E. Knight-Farr in 1979, at Lower Barn Farmhouse. The pottery assemblage showed that the intention of the potters was to produce a hard-fired vessel by using a reduced-firing kiln, and subsequently to cause the vitrification of the clay matrix.

The second article is the result of a watching brief I undertook in 1987, on two houses that were being renovated. Both houses were being stripped down to reveal many of the original features. However, the historical structure of the building was very complex, and I have to admit I had a lot of trouble making any sense of the building's development. Recently, I have managed to persuade David and Barbara Martin to look at the recording work that I had undertaken in 1987. Because of their expertise, they unravelled all the points that had caused me a lot of difficulties in making a correct interpretation of the building's development. One aspect I was not aware of, was the fact that Cliffe High Street was

widened between 1829 and 1830. The building was considerably altered, losing about two metres of its frontage. Christopher Whittick found out this fact as well being able to piece together much of the occupancy at No's 26 & 27 Cliffe High Street, and put the buildings into the context of the Cliffe community. As I have explained this should be published in SAC Vol. 157, 2019.

David Gregory

Drone View of Lewes Priory

The Lewes Priory Trust recently commissioned a drone survey of Lewes Priory hoping that the dry summer weather would show new underground features. The results have been the subject of a report by Andy Gammon and Luke Barber. The Trust will be meeting shortly with members of the Lewes Priory Research Group to discuss the implications. We will let you know in the autumn newsletter what the report said, but in the meantime here is a photo from the draft report.

1. Drone shot of whole site



The Sussex Historic Graffiti Project

In partnership with the Diocese of Chichester, Heritage Eastbourne (part of

Eastbourne Borough Council) are coordinating a county wide survey of historic graffiti within churches and secular buildings. This survey is being carried out to high archaeological standards by a team of volunteers and all results will be archived and made publicly available on the Heritage Eastbourne website. We hope very much that this survey will add to the corpus of work being undergone throughout the country into this fascinating subject and help us interpret and understand it to some degree.

People have been creating graffiti of many different types and leaving it on the fabric of our historic buildings for centuries. This ranges from protective or *apotropaic* symbols, designed to confuse, ensnare or repulse malignant forces, to what we term the *I Woz Ere* sort which are mostly names or initials, via calls for saintly intercession to the recording of important events or commemorations and many, many other varieties.

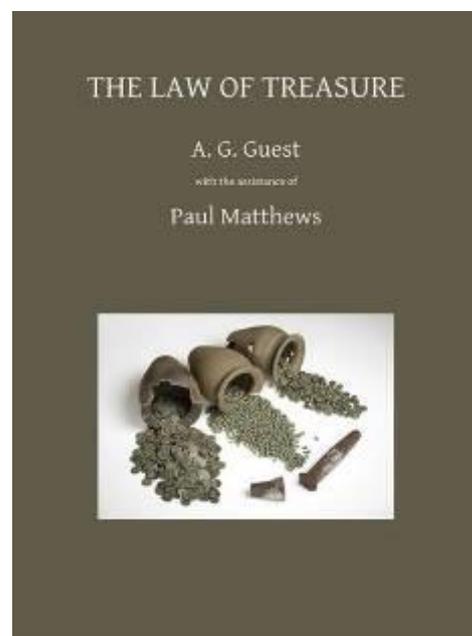
For the past 12 months we have been honing our skills and pooling resources to do so at St Mary's Church in Eastbourne. St Mary's has a wonderful array of graffiti dating from at least the C14th (but probably earlier) right up until the 1980's (which is not quite so pretty but still merits recording). The whole process of looking at the fabric of the church in such detail has also led us to a far better understanding of the building itself, has literally re-written the guidebook and even changed our view on how the town of Eastbourne developed in its' early years.

The study of graffiti can also give us unique insights into the lives of our distant ancestors, not just their names but also their prayers, beliefs and superstitions. The marks they left behind can help us understand a little of their everyday human experience in the past that is so hard to find in history books or the documents they left behind. It seems incongruous that although historic graffiti

is so widespread and abundant in our historic churches and much of it seems to have been an accepted part of church 'decoration' there is virtually no mention of the act of leaving your mark until a few people starting getting interested in it in the C19th.

Now we have a sound recording methodology we are looking to expand the survey and to do so we would also like to grow our volunteer base, without whom the project would not be possible. No specialist skills are needed for this, just a keen eye for detail, patience and a willingness to learn. If you are interested in getting involved, or just want some more information about the project please email us at localhistory@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk, phone 01323 415242 and also have a look at our Facebook page *Sussex Historic Graffiti Project*.

Jonathan Seaman, Heritage Manager



For many hundreds of years, the Law of Treasure was the common law of treasure trove. Today it is essentially based on the Treasure Act 1996. Although the Act is a great improvement on the common law it is nevertheless not always rational and the meaning of some

of its provisions is sometimes obscure. This book aims to provide a reliable guide to the Law of Treasure in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and also to explain the role played by legal institutions, such as the Coroner, in that process.

This book explains what objects are considered to be treasure by the law, it explains the legal restrictions on searching for artefacts, the duty to report finds of treasure and the structure of the valuation process and rewards.

Professor Tony Guest is emeritus Professor of Law at King's College, London. Judge Paul Matthews is a specialist Civil Circuit Judge (Chancery) and who was formerly HM Senior Coroner for the City of London.



The new Elaine Evans Archaeology Gallery at the Brighton Museum is now open. It is open Tuesdays to Sundays 10am to 5pm.

Summer Excavations

Bridge Farm

Bridge Farm, Barcombe is the site of a Romano-British settlement which has been excavated over the last several years. The dates of 2019 dig are **3rd June to 12th July**. Dig fees are: £25 for 7 days, £40 for 14 days and £60 for the whole dig. Alternatively if camping then the fee is £50 per week is inclusive of dig,

use of showers, toilets, kitchen, laundry etc.



A 2 week comprehensive, under-graduate level, training course (including camping) is available from 3rd to 14th June at £500 per person. Full details will be on the Culver website which is undergoing a redesign and should be back on line from March, alternatively email david@culverproject.co.uk. (CAP)

See www.culverproject.co.uk for more details or email excavations@culverproject.co.uk.

Rocky Clump

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society will resume it's excavations at Rocky Clump, Stanmer from 6th April. Excavations take place on Wednesdays and at the weekends. The excavations will concentrate on the eastern and southern areas of the site with the aim of determining what activities were carried out in a complex series of features. For more information please see www.brightonarch.org.uk

These excavations are of a Late Iron Age/early Romano-British enclosure. The enclosure is defined by ditches, some of which are over 2 metres wide and almost 1.5 metres in depth. Last year's excavations uncovered the north/east and south edges of the enclosure and possibly its entranceway. Five separate ditches have been revealed, along with pits and a vast number of post and stake

holes. The finds include six Roman coins, with an exceptional Sestersius and Barbarous Radiate and a copper alloy bangle. There have also been large finds of animal bone and pottery. One of the highlights has been the discovery of a baby burial in the upper east/west ditch.

Plumpton Roman Villa

There will be no field work this year.



Sally Christian Grants to support young archaeologists

Grants are available to individuals starting out in archaeology as either amateurs or students which would include sixth formers or undergraduates to assist with the costs of various types of training, both practical and academic and to enable such individuals to gain experience in archaeological fieldwork and other forms of research in East and West Sussex. Grants are available for: short training courses (normally lasting from one to five days long, but sometimes longer). Further details regarding applications are available from the Research Officer, Luke Barber, of the Sussex Archaeological Society (research@sussexpast.co.uk), to whom all applications should be submitted.

Talks and events

BHAS Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society
ENHAS Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeological Society
FOAC Friends of Anne of Cleves House
LHG Lewes History Group
LAG Lewes Archaeological Group
SAS Sussex Archaeological Society
SSA Sussex School of Archaeology
USAS University of Sussex Archaeological Society
WAS Worthing Archaeological Society
WBSG Wealden Buildings Study Group

APRIL

Mon 8th April – LHG – Historical Fiction: what comes first research or imagination? with Beverley Elphick. 7pm Kings Church, Brooks Road, Lewes. £3/1.

Fri 9th April – WAS – Medieval Building Stones in Parish Churches of the Worthing Area with Roger Cordiner and Anthony Brook. 7.30pm Lecture Theatre, Worthing Library.

Fri 12th April – LAG – Lewes to Wessex and Back Again – a New Archaeology of the Prehistoric Downs (and how LAG helped re-write the text books) with Dr Mike Allen President of LAG. 7.30pm Lecture Theatre, Lewes Town Hall, Fisher Street Entrance. £4/3/2/Free (for under 25s).

Weds 24th April – The Ancient World: Coins and History with David Rudling. Six week course. Whiteway Centre, Rottingdean. 10.30- 12.30pm. £42. Book with courseorganiser@rwc.org.uk.

Friday 26th April – ENHAS - Searching for Classis Britannica. with Lyn Cornwell who will talk about recent research by the Hastings and Area Archaeological Group. 7.30 pm. Members free, visitors £2.50

MAY

Thursday 2nd May – Open day at Barbican House Library. Everyone welcome – including non SAS members.

Saturday 4th May – SSA Symposium. Kings Church, Lewes. Speakers include George Analey, Jon Baczkowski; David Calow, Kevin and Lynn Cornwell, Jack Cranfield, Jaime Kaminski, Paolo Ponce, Mark Roberts, David Rudling and Jo Seaman and All day. £35. info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk; or visit www.sussexarchaeology.org

Monday 13th May – LHG – Edward Reeves (photographer): development of a business and technology with Tom Reeves. 7pm Kings Church, Brooks Road, Lewes. £3/1.

Friday 17th May – LAG Walk – The Gundrada Chapel and the Priory led by Marcus Taylor and Graham Mayhew. 7.00pm. To sign up contact paulawodcohen@yahoo.co.uk or 07814 463 259. Free.

JUNE

Sat 8th June – SSA – The Roman Army in Northern Britain with David Rudling. Whiteway Centre, Rottingdean. 10am to 12.30pm. £12. Book in advance courseorganiser@rwc.org.uk.

Monday 10th June – LHG – Floreat Lewys: the chequered history of Lewes Old Grammar School with David Arscott. 7pm Kings Church, Brooks Road, Lewes. £3/1.

Friday 21 June LAG walk – Summer Solstice walk from Lewes to Mount Caburn.

Tour to visit Roman Sites in the North of Britain - Friday 14th to 21st June including visits to Hadrian and Antonine walls, Lindisfarne and the National Museum of Scotland. Tour leader is David Rudling. From £1349. For more information contact enquiries@baxterhoare.com and ask about Hadrian's Wall Tour or phone 020 7404 5492

JULY

Sunday 7th July – BHAS – Summer Trip to Salisbury. £30/35. To book contact margaretcarey27@yahoo.co.uk

Fri 19th July – LAG walk – The Pells Watercourses led by Brian Phillips and Fiona Marsden. 7pm. To sign up contact paulawodcohen@yahoo.co.uk or 07814 463 259. Free.

AUGUST

Sunday 11th August – BHAS – Summer Trip to Chatham Dockyard. £30/35. To book contact margaretcarey27@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday 11th August – Lewes Battlefield walk with John Freedman. 2 – 4.30pm. £5 donation. To enrol tel 07957 829 997.

Friday 16th August - LAG walk - Gideon Mantell tour of Lewes led by Debby Matthews. To sign up contact paulawodcohen@yahoo.co.uk or 07814 463 259. Free.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1st September - LAG walk – the Plumpton Cross led by Brian Phillips and Fiona Marsden. To sign up contact paulawodcohen@yahoo.co.uk or 07814 463 259. Free.

Sunday 1st September – BHAS – Summer Trip to the Mary Rose (provisional). Pay own travel costs. Entry to museum c£13.50. To book contact margaretcarey27@yahoo.co.uk

OCTOBER

Friday 4th October – LAG talk – Henges and Hand Grenades: New Discoveries from Salisbury Plain with Martin Brown. 7.30pm Lecture Theatre, Lewes Town Hall, Fisher Street Entrance. £4/3/2/Free (for under 25s).

The LAG newsletter comes out twice a year in the spring and autumn. The autumn deadline is the end of September and the spring deadline is the end of April. Contributions to Paula at paulawodcohen@yahoo.co.uk please.