



LEWES ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

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

No. 160



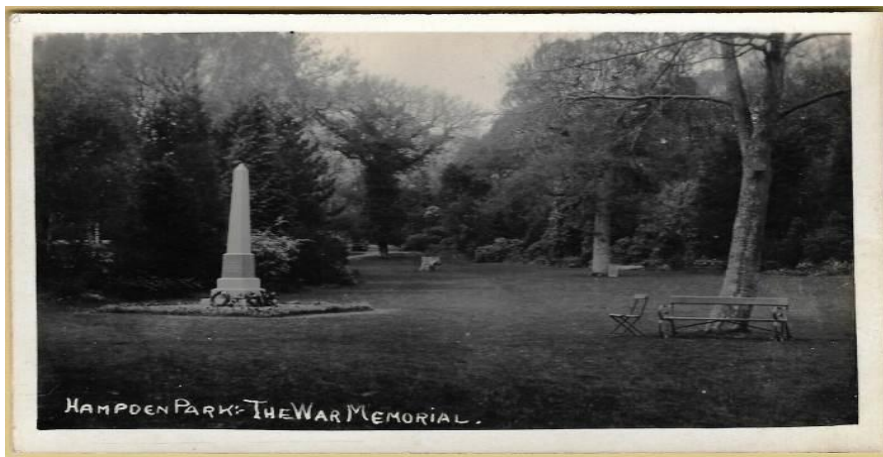
NEXT LAG LECTURE

John Bleach

Malling, Lewes: An Anglo Saxon Estate, a Christian Centre
And Medieval Parish

Friday 16th October 2020 at 7.30pm

Lecture Room, Lewes Town Hall, Fisher Street Entrance



The Hampden Park War Memorial

The celebration of VE Day evokes the whole concept of 'Commemoration' and the diverse ways in which it can be

expressed. It is a broad concept, but our thoughts turn at once to memorials, built to last as perpetual and visible tributes to those who have served their country.

Throughout the United Kingdom stand many thousands of memorials. They may commemorate the fallen from wars and conflicts, victims of disasters, heroes, famous figures and Royalty

Renowned War Memorials include the Cenotaph in Whitehall, the R.A.F. Bomber Command Memorial by Green Park, the Royal Artillery Memorial at Hyde Park Corner, the Animals in War Monument and the fine Royal Tank Regiment Memorial Statue in Whitehall. Cities, towns and villages throughout the land are proud of their War Memorials and gather round them every year on Remembrance Sunday. If a small village does not have one, there will be a plaque or a wall-monument in the church.

East Sussex residents may not be aware that the first War Memorial to be built in their county was in Hampden Park, near Eastbourne. On January 10th, 1920, the handsome stone monument which stands near the Lake and the Tea Chalet, was unveiled by Rupert Gwynne of Folkington. Gwynne was Conservative Member of Parliament for Eastbourne from 1910 until his death from illness in 1924. On January 29th, 2020, this fine Memorial was re-dedicated on its Centenary by Councillor Steve Wallis, Mayor of Eastbourne from June 2019 until May 2020.

A moving Service was taken by the Reverend Adam Ransom, Rector of the Benefice of Hampden Park and the Hydeneye. A small crowd of residents and neighbours gathered round the

monument and sang 'O God our Help in Ages Past' and the National Anthem. Father Adam gave a warm welcome to everyone, said prayers for the fallen from World Wars I and II and other conflicts, ending with a Roll Call of local Parishioners who had lost their lives in both wars. Rupert Gwynne was remembered for his part in the original ceremony. It was recalled that in 1922 he was the chief donor in giving the Memorial Recreation Ground in Wannock to the people of Polegate in perpetuity. Father Adam closed the re-dedication Ceremony with prayers for all the Armed Forces.

The setting of the Hampden Park War Memorial in a glade near the Lake with its busy wildfowl residents and the pretty tea chalet nearby is the perfect example of how to install a contemporary monument for the public to enjoy.

Sabrina Harcourt-Smith

The Recording Remembrance Project: Victory in Europe Day

The Recording Remembrance Project aims to enhance war memorial records across several counties including East and West Sussex. Volunteers record the condition, physical nature and inscriptions of memorials and record them on the website.

Victory in Europe (VE) day having taken place on the 8th May, it may have triggered memories of the war.

The East Sussex Historic Environment Record (ESHER) would like to ask Lewes Archaeological Group members to help us enhance records of WW2 memorials from home.

You may already have photos of memorials that are listed on our database

that could be added, or you may know further details about particular people recorded on your local memorial. Other sources of information on memorials and those commemorated on them which can be explored include the Imperial War Museum, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, family history websites and local history societies. Memorials recorded by the project include crosses, plaques and more unusual structures.

One such memorial is the bus stop located in Colemans Hatch, commemorating Private Joan Barber of the Auxiliary Territorial Service who was killed by enemy action on July 9th, 1943, aged 23.



Photo courtesy of James Castle (2020)

Once recorded on the Recording Remembrance database, these memorials will be added to the Historic Environment Record to ensure that these physical representations of the sacrifices of war are recorded for future generations.

Guidance on how to get involved with the project, including a project pack can be found on the Recording Remembrance website – www.recordingremembrance.org.uk, where you can sign up as a volunteer. Although the project was initially set up during the commemorations for the First World War, we would like to record all war memorials and a brief list of commemorated conflicts can also be found on the website.

Andrew Ward (ESHER)

50th Anniversary Celebrations

Although the 50th anniversary programme got off to a good start with a special talk by LAG's Honorary President Mike Allen, it disappointedly ended with the cancellation of the last two lectures of the season. The good news is that John Bleach's talk on Malling will (hopefully!) take place on Friday 16th October.

In January 2020 David Rudling gave a brilliant talk on Romano-British settlements in the Ouse Valley. The talk was so popular people were sitting on the ground in the front row and there was a huddle by the entrance.

Then in February, Dan Swift from Archaeology South East gave 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. The excavations have taken forward the history of Lewes in a really significant way.

We have celebrated the anniversary in style! Thanks go to all the speakers and walk leaders and also to all of the members of LAG and other supporters who have helped LAG reach this mile point and also have helped us celebrate it.

Annual General Meeting

Because of COVID the March talk was postponed but the Committee took the decision on to hold a virtual AGM from Friday 15th March until Sunday 17th March. The outcome of the AGM will be reported at the next LAG talk hopefully in October.

The following officers and committee members were appointed –

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 Greateorex.

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

Prior to the meeting two the Treasurer's and Chairman's report were circulated.

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

Paula reported that the year had sped by and that LAG's 50th anniversary year had gone really well with many enjoyable walks and talks and a garden party as well.

We have been fortunate to have Mike Allen as our President for the past two years. He has offered us wise advice and guidance and provided many great ideas. It's been so very good to have Mike as our President to help us celebrate. Thank you so very much.

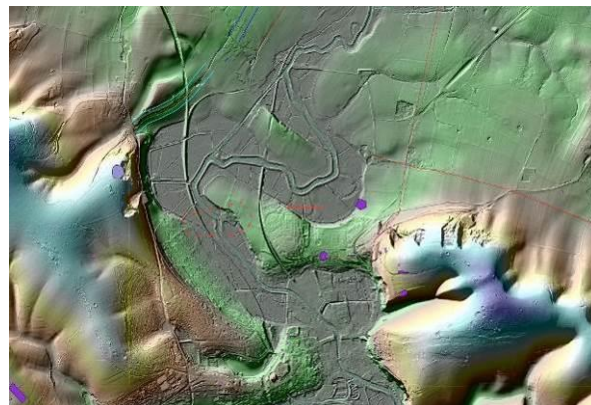
In relation to **membership of the Group**, we have welcomed eight new members which is always a pleasure. There are 44 paid-up members of whom 17 have already paid for 2020-21 and 27 are paid up for 2019/20. A further 24 were paid up to 2018/2019 but have yet to renew. So 68 members are up to date or one to two years behind. Around 60 previous members haven't renewed for a few years but many still attend meetings. These numbers are broadly the same as previous years but there has been a welcome increase in the number of new members.

Malling Crossing Project

Last year we began a new project to try and establish where the crossing between Old Malling and Landport was. A small group has been established and has met a few times. Members of the group have undertaken a considerable amount of paper based research which

has been discussed in the group's meetings.

Below is a Lidar map of Malling with the area for investigation.



We plan once the river has gone down and the rain disappeared and of course once we are permitted to do soon account of COVID to undertake some field work including taking sample from the river bed and investigating a double ditch leading to the river bend where we think might be an advantageous crossing point.



A key map dating to 1622 by Deward and held in Barbican House Library is damaged (at the exact place a crossing might have been marked). We are investigating with Barbican House Library and the Keep the possibility of having the map restored funded by LAG and possibly by the Lewes History Group.

LAG archive

For the last few months David Gregory and Paula Stanyer have been looking at the artefact archive from various LAG excavations in the 1970s which was

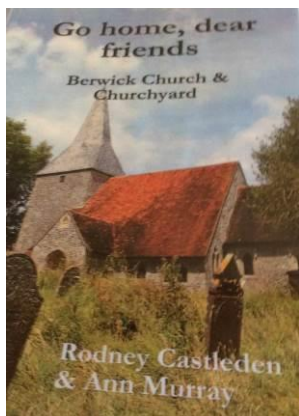
being stored by East Sussex County Council. ESCC got in touch to say that it would be introducing storage charges which would quite quickly use up LAG's money.

Unfortunately, the paper archive relating to most of the excavations was destroyed in the floods of 2000.

David and Paula have considered all of the artefacts and concluded with the approval of East Sussex County Council that there is no archaeological value in continuing to store much of the archive and most of this part has been disposed of.

The artefacts relating to the Ringmer potteries will be stored though with the largest archive needing to be gone through with a view to reducing it to a level which the Barbican House museum will store hopefully. Thanks goes to Rob Wallace and the Culver Archaeological Project for offering to store some of remaining archive on an interim basis.

'Go Home Dear Friends~ Berwick Church & Churchyard'



A glance through the Revised Edition of *The Buildings of England ~ Sussex: East* by Nicholas Antram and Nikolaus Pevsner (2013) reveals that our county is rich in ancient rural churches. Every village has one. Many of them are early-to-late medieval in style, some have Victorian additions, and all are treasure

troves of local history. For the serious researcher, the explorer or the armchair traveller alike, the choice is a beguiling array of fine buildings. The ultimate happiness for any church visitor is to discover that a good guide-book is available.

St. Michael and All Angels at Berwick is one of those churches lucky enough to offer such a guide. *'Go Home, Dear Friends ~ Berwick Church & Churchyard'*, written by historian Rodney Castleden and Ann Murray, was published in 2018 by Blatchington Press.

The book is the fourth in a series of church monographs masterminded by Castleden. The series began in 2013 with the work of the Seaford Monumental Inscriptions Group. All the inscriptions from the churches of St. Peter, East Blatchington and St. Leonard, Seaford were transcribed and published in two volumes in 2013/2014 (see Note). This heroic task set the scene for further church history projects.

In the third volume, on St. Andrew's, Bishopstone, Castleden and Murray expanded the format to include chapters on the church and its history (see Note).

The church of St. Michael and All Angels is set amid rolling fields at the southern end of Berwick village, at the foot of the South Downs. The shingled broach spire and large red tiled roofs give the church a spectacular profile in this idyllic landscape.

The church has many interesting features. They embrace a singular if slightly irregular building history, a notorious, literary Vicar and a scheme of world-famous wall paintings.

Part One explores the history of Berwick village and church, including a chapter devoted to the celebrated Reverend Edward Boys Ellman, who was curate at Berwick from 1837 and vicar from 1848

until 1906. This charismatic country priest's *Recollections of a Country Parson* were newly edited and published in 2006 and have been an important source for the authors. During the years 1855 to 1857 Ellman restored the dilapidated medieval church building, having found it 'a most depressing sight'. He commissioned the notable Guildford architect Henry Woodyer for the programme. Like many other Victorian architects, in reality Woodyer carried out rather more 'rebuilding' than 'restoration'. His credentials were certainly good ~ he had been a pupil of Lutyens, was a colleague of Butterfield and later designed All Saints Church in Eastbourne.

The author has examined Woodyer's 'restoration' with painstaking scrutiny in tandem with The Reverend Ellman's writings, and rightly concludes that the vicar played a large part in the rebuilding project. Castleden also rightly comments that Ian Nairn in *Pevsner's 1965 Buildings of England*, was justified in saying that Berwick Church 'suffered much at the hands of a restorer'. However, Castleden's thoughtful study of the 'controversial' Ellman/Woodyer programme inspired him to be not too critical and to admire Woodyer's re-created North Arcade with its sandstone double pillar. Chapter Seven will be at its most useful when read while in situ in the church.

The second part of the book records several hundred Inscriptions which have been transcribed from both inside and outside the church. The title 'Go Home, dear friends' is from a memorial of 1896 in the Churchyard, to Mary Westgate. The authors describe the difficulties that can arise with the recording of monumental inscriptions. It is clear from the immaculate arrangement, lay-out and lists of names and indices how much fieldwork and time went into this section. As with the earlier volumes (see Note), these inscriptions are a precious material for

genealogists, church and family historians.

Many modern visitors will visit St Michael and All Angels to see the Bloomsbury murals, painted during the early years of the Second World War in 1941-1942. Castleden devotes his final pages to an account of their creation. The enlightened and respected George Bell, Bishop of Chichester since 1929, felt that old rural churches could be enhanced by contemporary art. Wishing to offer employment to artists in the bleak war times, he approached Duncan Grant at nearby Charleston Farmhouse and thereby commissioned Grant and Vanessa Bell of the Bloomsbury Group to decorate Berwick church interior with wall-paintings. This scheme has remained unique, although Bishop Bell is said to have promoted some crypt murals from Hans Feibusch for St Elizabeth's, Eastbourne (1930s) in 1944.

The author highlights Duncan Grant's Altar Frontal, worked by his mother for an altar made by the Craftsman Guild of Kennington. He closes by finding that the fusion of Grant's imposing Majesty scene around the chancel arch and the strong Downland light that pours through the clear windows, imparts 'an unusual sense of communion with the landscape outside the church'. Berwick Church justly deserves this excellent guide-book, the result of much hard work and research. It will be invaluable for Sussex historians of all fields, and offer enjoyment and benefit to church visitors of every kind.

Sabrina Harcourt Smith

Go home, dear friends. Berwick Church and Churchyard. by Rodney Castleden and Ann Murray. 2018, Blatchington Press, Rookery Cottage, Blatchington Hill, Seaford, East Sussex BN 25 2AJ. ISBN 978-0-244-43371-0 227pp. + Preface. Churchyard & Church Interior Plans £12.95 + £3 p.& p.

NOTE

Also available from Blatchington Press ~~
By Rodney Castleden and Ann Murray,

'All is Hush'd. Bishopstone Church and Churchyard', 2016. ISBN 978-1-326-80188-5 360 pp. £12,95

By the Seaford Monumental Inscriptions Group *'As I am now, so you must be'. Monumental Inscriptions at St Peter's, East Blatchington* 2013. ISBN 978-1-291-41512-4.

'Testimony of Regard'. Monumental Inscriptions at St Leonard's, Seaford, 2014. ISBN. 978-1-291-92555-5.

Recent fieldwork in or around Lewes

The most recent list of fieldwork maintained by Luke Barber (Research Officer at the Sussex Archaeological Society) did not include any recent fieldwork in Lewes itself.

Plumpton College: (NGR: TQ 358134). (Archaeology South East) Thirty-one archaeological evaluation trenches and eleven geoarchaeological test-pits were excavated in advance of redevelopment at Plumpton College, Ditchling Road, Plumpton, East Sussex. On the eastern part of the site a thick sequence of Quaternary deposits is preserved with clear palaeoenvironmental potential and the possibility for primary context Pleistocene or early Holocene artefacts and ecofacts. Archaeological features including pits, post-holes, gullies and masonry were encountered in eleven of the trenches. A concentration of Middle to Late Iron Age pits in the eastern part of the site suggest proximate settlement. There was no evidence of Romano-British activity contemporary with the nearby villa complex. A group of post-holes are tentatively dated to the medieval period and suggest the presence of a post-built structure of some kind close to the

medieval church. Masonry walls at the western end of the site represent the remains of Wales Farm. Several ditches in the central part of the site remain undated.

Summer Excavations 2020

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 2020 dig have yet to be confirmed but CAP is now looking at August into September.



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 when permitted to do so. For more information please see www.brightonarch.org.uk

Eastbourne: Motcombe Gardens and Butts Brow

Heritage Eastbourne had plans to excavate in Motcombe Gardens, Eastbourne to explore the stories of Eastbourne's Victorian farming families and uncover the latest discoveries from the Dovecote.

It also planned to return to Butts Brow to find out more about the Neolithic enclosure that appears to surround the

hilltop above Butts Brow car park,
Willingdon.

For information see: visiteastbourne.com.

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

Archaeology and Climate Change Conference 10th October 2020

A date for your diaries. A major archaeological event planned to take place at King's Church, Lewes on October 10th is a conference on the subject of 'Archaeology and Climate Change'. Given the theme of this event, which is being organised jointly by the Council for British Archaeology South-East and the Sussex Archaeological Society, demand for places is expected to be high and early bookings are recommended. Ticket prices (to include a buffet lunch) for SAS and CBA SE members and full-time students is £35; others: £45. Fuller details can be found on the Sussex Archaeological Society's website: <https://sussexpast.co.uk>.

THE LAG NEWSLETTER COMES OUT TWICE A YEAR IN THE SPRING AND THE AUTUMN. THE AUTUMN DEADLINE IS THE END OF OCTOBER AND THE SPRING DEADLINE IS THE END OF APRIL. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED! PLEASE EMAIL TO PAULAWODCOHEN@YAHOO.CO.UK