



# H.D.A.G

Newsletter July - Dec 2015

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Dear members

A happy New Year to you all.

We hope you enjoy our July-December 2015 newsletter, a big thank you to all those who have written pieces, especially the new members.

There are reports of all our HDAG activities and also events that HDAG members have attended. There is also an important update on the time-consuming efforts of some committee members who are keeping an eye on local planning applications since the loss of WSCC's archaeological advice.

Some important Spring dates to go in your 2016 diaries are:

**January 18th – NAS Talk and social**

**February 27th – a Day School**

**March 14th – AGM and Talk**

See more on page 2.

If you have any queries or wish to attend any of these events please email [horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone Jennie on T. **01403 731695**. We also welcome your feedback and ideas for talks or activities, so do get in touch with us.

Best wishes Jennie and Susan  
Joint Secretaries



## Trip to Butser Ancient Farm Saturday 1 August 2015 by Robert Cripps



One gloriously hot day last August, HDAG visited Butser Ancient Farm, situated in a lovely chalkland landscape setting, near Waterlooville in Hampshire.

The farm was established as a research site for experimental archaeology more than 40 years ago, primarily focussed on Iron Age Britain. Since then it has moved site and broadened its scope to include aspects of the Neolithic, Roman and Saxon periods.

Our guided visit, courtesy of resident archaeologist, Ryan Watts, started in the Neolithic enclosure area. The main building, Llandygai house, is based on one excavated near Bangor, North Wales and represents the type of house built in the Neolithic period when our ancestors turned from hunter gatherers into farmers, cultivating crops and livestock. Built using local materials, the house represents what would have been home to an extended family group, possibly over several generations.

The Iron Age area enclosure consists of several round houses and experimental structures, the largest being Little Woodbury, based on a round house excavated near Salisbury. It was interesting to note it had no vent in the roof to let the smoke out from the central fire pit. This, I learnt, was not a design flaw as the smoke will rise into the cone of the roof and escape through the thatch killing any insects that might otherwise live there. The embers would have been extinguished before they reached the roof through lack of oxygen, so the thatch would not catch fire.

Other round houses were the Danebury, from the Hill Fort of the same name, the Moel y Gerddi and Mound 59 and Mound 74 – the last two being based on those found during an excavation of an extensive lake village site near Glastonbury. Some of the houses excavated there had as many as 10 clay and brushwood floors built on top as the previous one sank into the marshy ground. Other structures, based on where a single post hole or small number of postholes have been found on excavated sites, represent possible structures such as a haystack, a latrine, a chicken house and a granary. There were also a number of pits dug into the ground for storage of grain. Experimentation has proved that the pit, once dug and filled with grain, then sealed to keep the air out, will preserve the grain for a considerable period.

The Roman villa reconstruction is based on one excavated at Sparsholt near Winchester. This was the first villa to be built with authentic materials and techniques for 1600 years and much was learnt in the process. The excavated remains at Sparsholt were no taller than a metre high, so evidence from sites and sources was drawn upon in this reconstruction. There were some very personal touches including wall paintings of some of those involved in the project.

A Saxon house, currently under construction, is being reconstructed using archaeological evidence from the village of Chalton – a mile down the road from Butser Ancient Farm. Oak timbers from an ancient woodland nearby are being worked and shaped with replica Saxon tools by staff and volunteers. I would like to return at some stage to see how they are progressing.

The farm is intended to be a living archaeological experiment with chickens, pigs, sheep (Soay, Manx Laughtan and Shetland breed represented) and goats. My favourite was the kid goat 'Sorrell' who was just a few days old. Other experiments include a trial crop area, dug out log boats and a smithy for smelting ore and casting bronze artefacts. On the day we visited the Lithic Society ([www.lithics.org](http://www.lithics.org)) were there, knapping flint to make prehistoric tools.

This is just a flavour of what we saw on our trip and I would recommend a visit. Butser Ancient Farm can be found in Chalton Lane, Chalton, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO8 0BG.

[www.butserancientfarm.co.uk](http://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk)



The new Saxon house under construction

## Spring 2016 Talks and Events

### A Talk by the Nautical Archaeological Society (NAS)

Monday 18th January at 7pm

Venue: The Holbrook Tythe Barn, Pond-tail Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 5JF

HDAG are delighted to welcome Ian Barefoot from the Nautical Archaeological Society to talk about its involvement within our maritime heritage and some of their latest projects.

'The NAS is dedicated to advancing education in nautical archaeology at all levels; to improving techniques in recording, preservation and reporting and to encouraging the participation of members of the public at all stages. The Nautical Archaeology Society is a non-government organisation formed to further interest in underwater cultural heritage. They aim to preserve our archaeological heritage in the marine environment by acting as a focus for coastal and marine archaeology.

Free to HDAG members, with a suggested donation of £3 if members would like to bring a guest. There will be refreshments served afterwards and a chance for a New Year catch up.



### A Day School with Simon Stevens, ASE, on The Bayeux Tapestry

Saturday 27th February 10am-4pm

Venue: Easteds Barn, Easteds Lane, Southwater, West Sussex

The Bayeux Tapestry is a unique archaeological artefact and historic document rolled into one. It tells the story of the events leading up to, and culminating in, the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Technically an embroidery rather than a tapestry, it documents the various historic episodes in woollen thread on a linen background. The dayschool provides an account of the Tapestry from its enigmatic origins to its place in popular culture today, but always concentrating on the cloth itself – be prepared for a day of regal splendour, power politics, sexual intrigue, graphic violence and full frontal nudity.'

Cost £15 HDAG members £20 non-members  
To book a place on either of these events please email [horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk)

### March 14th – AGM and Talk

Details to follow.

## Petworth Big Dig, August 2015

by Jennie Williamson and Vicky Lillywhite



Jennie — This was the final excavation in the historic Park at Petworth House. Under the guidance of National Trust (NT) archaeologist Tom Dommett and Archaeology South East's Simon Stevens, the purpose was to investigate the remains of the 6th Duke's stables as well as the 18th Century avenues, Porters' Lodges and formal gardens which had shown up through geophysical survey.

Not being physically able to dig this year, I was looking forward to joining the finds team and working with professionals, from whom I learned so much about the best practice of cleaning, identifying, marking and recording finds. With several trenches open it wasn't long before the finds came in – from prehistoric flint, old nails to ceramic building material (usually tiles) and pottery of all periods.

For those that haven't been on a project organised by professionals, it is a fantastic way to learn and have fun. They made us feel part of the team. It was good to meet up with old friends and make new ones from other like-minded groups. The atmosphere was brilliant but the weather was not always so!

Those of us who turned up on the Wednesday morning, after a stormy night, will never forget the devastation we were confronted with on arrival. The picture above shows our firmly anchored 'finds tent' ripped up and blown to the foot of the hill in the distance, and the contents that had been neatly stacked every evening were upturned and strewn around in front. Needless to say we lost a day's digging and were sent home to let the organisers resolve the problems. Next day we started earlier and carried on as normal – over to Vicky.

Vicky – As so often happens with archaeological digs, the weather was against us throughout, (changing from 30°C to howling gales in a matter of days). What showed up so clearly on the Geophys did not show up clearly, if at all, in the soil, and on the last day a plentiful amount of medieval pottery started to come up, just as we were closing the trenches down. However, Tom and Simon seemed satisfied that enough evidence had been uncovered to confirm the plans of the layout of the stables before their subsequent removal, and then Capability Brown's landscaping of Petworth Park.

In addition to evidence associated with the stables, previously unknown evidence of the irrigation systems used within the park was uncovered. Although plans exist showing the pipes and tunnels that run under the grass throughout the park, it is not unusual to find previously unmapped pipes, as we did in my trench.

First, a brick built access chamber appeared; then, careful excavation around and inside it, revealed two lead pipes that had been joined in the chamber with what was presumed to be a shut off valve. Excavating further, we again picked up one of the pipes displaying a very fine balloon joint and a high quality repair (so I was told by a very enthusiastic fellow archaeologist who clearly had a passion for pipes!).

The other trenches yielded evidence of cobbled surfaces, very large sandstone boulders (most probably moved from the sandstone quarries dotted about the park but no-one could reason why), the remains of walls and demolition rubble most probably from the time of the 6th Duke's stables.



## HDAG Talks

by Joan Francis

We may have lost the opportunity to study Archaeology at Sussex University but HDAG along with all the other local Archaeology Groups, and the Sussex School of Archaeology (SSA) are providing a wide range of subjects for those interested to enjoy.

Simon Stevens is running a day school for HDAG on the Bayeux Tapestry. The 73 metres long work of early medieval art is not only a pictorial chronicle of events seen through the eyes of its designer but shows the tools, weaponry, ships and clothes of the period and much more.

The Sussex University Archaeology Group has some very good lectures too. It costs £5 for membership and £1 on the night or £3 for non-members. This Autumn I managed to get to Dr David Bird's excellent talk on the first excavation of Ashted Common Roman Villa, including the results of more recent excavations. I also went to the talk by Dr Martyn Allen on the Rural Settlement of Roman Britain Data base. This includes both traditionally published reports and the 'grey literature' arising from developer-led excavations dating back to 1990. It looks fascinating but, as with all computer data bases, it will need some help to get started.

On the 12th December, the SSA offered a day school on The landscapes of the Stone Henge Environment provided by Dr Julian Richards. It was worth making the effort to get there at this busy time of year. It touched on so many interesting points and questions about its early history: Was the classical Greek writer Diodorus Siculus referring to it in the 1st century BC? Were they farming deer, as DNA from excavated antlers shows that they were being collected from the same animal in different years? How did they build it? Where did the stones come from and why this place? Are periglacial features lining up with the Heel Stone and the winter solstice? It was a very enjoyable, thought-provoking day.

John Funnel at Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society (BHAS) sends me a list of what they are doing as well as news of events from many other groups, which I forward to some of you. If anyone else would like to receive it, do please let me know. It is a brilliant way to see what is going on around the area and to join in. Please contact me with any questions or requests at horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk

Don't forget to look at our Spring programme listed in this news letter. We hope to see many of you at these events.

## Keeping an eye on local planning applications by Peter Hardy

During the spring of 2015, the committee received news that, as of the end of March 2015, West Sussex County Council would no longer be providing specialist archaeological advice and expertise to local planning authorities about potential threats to known and potential archaeological sites due to building and development.

This sudden bombshell affected many authorities, including Horsham District Council (HDC), and was of great concern to HDAG and the wider archaeological community. It came at a time when there is such a huge demand for building and land development – particularly in the South East.

Despite HDC's reassurance that it would implement new procedures to protect archaeology, HDAG felt it would be necessary to monitor planning applications closely to ensure that any known or potential sites did not go under the developer's bulldozer completely unnoticed, and also that the settings of listed building were adequately respected.

As a member of your committee, I was therefore assigned the task of combing through around 250 planning applications a month on HDC's on line planning portal. This involves researching numerous documents to see if necessary implementations have been put in place to guard against loss of archaeology. This will probably be necessary until we are confident that the local authorities have taken adequate measures, or alternatively, that the situation is being monitored at a parish council level.

I have found that once the documents become familiar, they can be scanned with speed and many applications regarding tree pruning and house alterations can be set aside. However, the planning process appears very different for each application and it can take time to extract the information needed. Any items of concern are referred to the committee for appropriate action.

Unfortunately, the area covered by the group is on the border of two other planning authorities – Crawley and Mid Sussex. The time restraints in examining HDC planning applications are currently preventing us from adequately monitoring these additional areas.

If any member feels they would be able to help with this work, please do get in contact with us – it would be greatly appreciated. We know, for instance, there are some very big developments in the pipeline for the area east of Horsham. If you know of any new developments going on in your area that you think we should know about – please let us know via [horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk)

## Worth Park Victorian Picnic by Vicky

HDAG were delighted to be asked to attend the Worth Park Victorian Picnic in July to celebrate the launch of the newly restored park, and the switch on of the Grade 2 listed Pulham Fountain.

Vicky and Joan manned a stall, and talked to all the very interested local residents for over 5 hours about the history of Worth Park and the results of HDAG's research and excavations there. Over the past two years HDAG has carried out two excavations and written three archaeological reports for Worth Park, as well as participating in public events there two years running.

Thanks to being awarded a Heritage Lottery Grant, Worth Park has been able to restore their Grade 2 listed garden structures created by James Pulham and Son, and reproduce other lost Pulham designs, to restore the gardens to their former Victorian splendour.

In September, Worth Park was awarded a Silver-Gilt award in 2015's South and South-East in Bloom awards. The contribution HDAG's archaeological research made to the gardens was mentioned by the awarding body.



## Visit to Andover Museum and a Roman Glass Workshop – November

On Saturday 7th November, HDAG members visited the Andover Museum in the morning and then, after a pub lunch, went on to a Roman Glass Workshop run by Mark Taylor and David Hill in the afternoon.

It was enjoyed by all. Hazel Barnard commented: "We were given a very friendly, relaxed welcome, and it soon became obvious that Mark and David were brimming with knowledge, enthusiasm and skill. The workshop was full of Georgian style wine glasses, delicate glass baubles, and all types of Roman vessels, made on the premises and for sale. Mark demonstrated all kinds of glass-making techniques, which were mesmerising to watch. David anticipated his requirements, when assistance was needed, and explained everything to us.

"They have built up an impressive collection of books on the subject, too. The time passed quickly, and we left the workshop reluctantly, although Mark and David seemed happy to keep talking. I would recommend a visit. The Andover Museum, and the pub lunch, were also good choices."

Another member said: "It was a very thorough and detailed demonstration of



how glass can be blown, formed (e.g. into handles), coloured, and moulded."

More information can be found at <http://www.romanglassmakers.co.uk>

## The purchase of ArcGIS software by Martin Breese

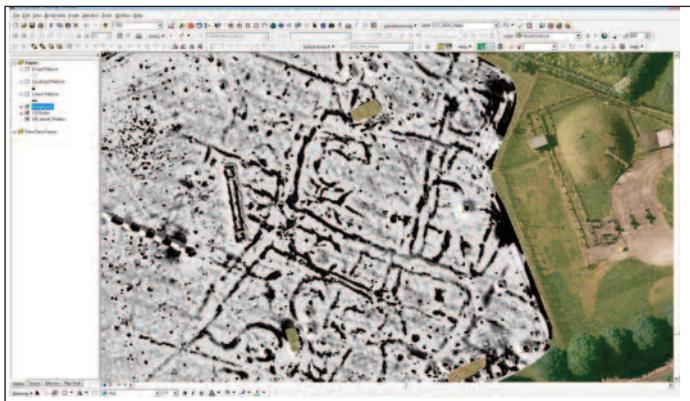
HDAG has recently purchased a single-user, one year licence for ArcGIS software produced by Esri UK. This software will be used to process and display data produced using our Leica surveying equipment– basically we will soon be able to show on maps relevant topography of areas we are surveying and the accurate location of archaeological features and finds etc.! The software can also display the results of geophysical surveys.

ArcGIS (and other Geographical Information Software) can be used to produce maps using a system of overlays – that is, for example, using digital maps freely available from Ordnance Survey layers selected showing waterways, roads, vegetation, buildings etc. can be superimposed one on top of the other... with survey data we produce being overlaid on top of this.

This type of software can be used to investigate the positions of interesting features relative to each other and to understand how they were positioned in the surrounding countryside. Perspective views of sites can also be produced aiding interpretation and allowing sites to be seen from otherwise unobtainable points of view. The “ground models” used to create the perspective views are interpolated from spot height data; and these can be used to analyse the gradient and aspect of hill slopes to explore, for example, how ancient settlements and field systems were distributed.

Other GIS software is available – and some of it is free: HDAG has experimented with such “freeware” – which is of good quality and is used widely for educational purposes, especially in the developing world – but such software has been developed and is supported by mainly volunteer software developers and the support and “back up” for this complex software is often lacking. In contrast ArcGIS is recognised as the “industry standard” in surveying circles and by most archaeological agencies. We are pleased to announce that HDAG, as a non-profit organisation, has qualified for substantial discount on this software!

Below – an example of the user interface of ArcGIS software – used to display geophysical survey data (image courtesy of Esri UK)



## Roman Forts Tour 10th October by Valerie White

Following previous excellent tours around Canterbury and Rochester, Vicky's sister, Karen came up trumps again to deliver a brilliant day tour of the Roman forts on the Wantsum Channel in East Kent.

Firstly we visited 'Rutupiae' (Richborough Castle), evocatively sited in the East Kent marshes. Features included 1st century foundations of a triumphal arch to multiple ditch defences and towering stone walls of 3rd century Saxon shore fortifications. We really got a sense how symbolically important the site was right from the start to the end of Roman rule.

Next stop on our tour was Sandwich, principle Cinque Port near the mouth of the river Stour and home of the 4th Earl of Sandwich who reputedly invented the popular snack to sustain him whilst at the gambling table. We had a fascinating walk round the medieval streets which led us to our tasty lunch at the Market Inn.

Lastly, we went to Reculver, at the far end of the ancient Wantsum channel, which survives as ruined walls and earthworks. We saw the 12th century towers, famously used for target practice for Barnes Wallis' bouncing bombs during WWII. It was however, very exposed with a cold wind at Reculver – which explains why the group were stood in tightly knitted single file against the wall – not because we were in the firing line!

Thanks again to Karen for her fascinating insights.



## Nymans' Woodland Weekend by Jennie

HDAG has helped with several archaeological projects on the National Trust (NT) property, Nymans, that have been organised by NT archaeologist, Tom Dommett. So when HDAG was asked to man a stall at Nymans' Woodland Weekend event, it seemed like a good way of letting people know more about what we do.

The projects carried out in the woods were: the Brickyard Survey, a possible Rock Shelter, Graffiti Recording, and Keeper's Cottage Survey, all of which have been reported in previous newsletters.

The Woodland Weekend, held over the 3rd /4th October, was set up in the Pinetum and included other stalls related to woods, such as the Wood Turners and the Hazel Weavers.

Our stall was compiled by the committee and comprised of HDAG display boards, finds, leaflets and, of course, membership forms – as well as a display set up by Tom.

We were lucky with the weather and enjoyed the fabulous view over the Sussex countryside whilst talking to all the visitors. It was a good opportunity to raise HDAG's profile and encourage new members.



The HDAG display boards in the beautiful Nymans gardens