



Issue 43 Spring 2015

South East Newsletter

Covering Kent, Sussex, Surrey & London south of the Thames

Martyn Allen, new Chairman for CBA-SE



Martyn Allen is currently a Research Fellow at the University of Reading working on the Rural Settlement of Roman Britain Project which examines the impact of developer funded archaeology on our understanding of the period. Prior to this role Martyn worked with English Heritage as a research assistant at the EH Centre for Archaeology at Fort Cumberland. Martyn completed his PhD at the University of Nottingham in 2011. His thesis examined the zooarchaeology of Fishbourne Roman Palace across the Late Iron Age / Roman transition.

NEW! CBA-SE e-bulletin

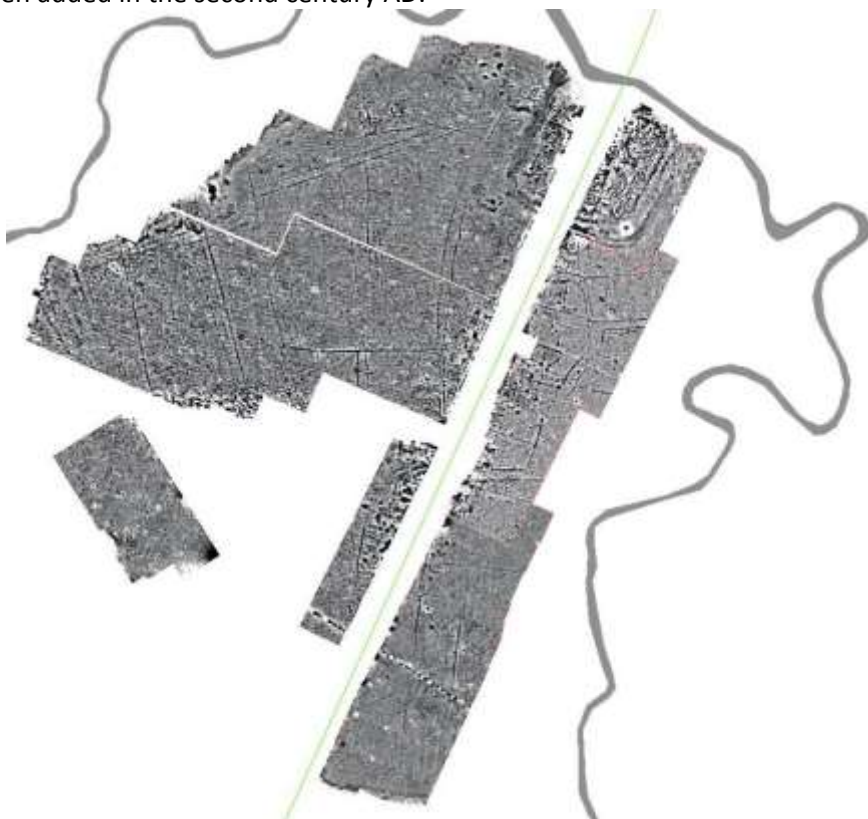
As a benefit to members we have decided to introduce a bi-monthly e-newsletter featuring events, fieldwork opportunities, talks and relevant publications. If you are interested in receiving this please email the membership secretary (membership@cbasouth-east.org). Any groups who would like to have their events publicised please email either the editor (judie.english@btopenworld.com) or (asassinallen@gmail.com) for Ann Sassin Allen.

The geophysics of Alfoldean *mansio* and road-side settlement

At the scheduled ancient monument site of Alfoldean, which is just north of the village of Slinfold, West Sussex, are the remains of a Romano- British mansio and strip settlement, situated directly alongside Stane Street and within a meander of the River Arun.

Alfoldean was first identified in the early 1800's, and subsequently excavated by S.E. Winbolt in the 1920's and 30's, and by Time Team in 2005. Additional published field work was undertaken in the 1980's and 1990's.

The suggested construction date of the mansio was during the late 1st century AD, and it was in use until the late 3rd/early 4th century AD, the date range based upon the pottery, coin and metalwork finds from the site. The strip settlement is thought to be contemporary with the construction of the mansio. The substantial ditch enclosure surrounding the mansio is believed to have been added in the second century AD.



In 2011, David Staveley began work with Horsham District Archaeology Group (HDAG) with the aim of continuing with the geophysical survey of the site that had begun a few years earlier, firstly by Time Team and then by Surrey Roman Studies Group/Surrey Archaeological Society.

These recent images produced by David are now indicating further the extent of the site to the west of Stane Street at Alfoldean, and highlighting possible areas of industrial activity and further areas of additional, and in some cases potentially earlier, occupation.

The geophysics represented is all magnetometry. The survey to the west of the Roman road was all completed by HDAG/David Staveley, to the north-east was by Time Team and to the south-east by Surrey Archaeological Society. While the main enclosure is packed with archaeological features, the settlement around it is actually quite sparse, with the densest occupation next to the road. A series of field systems across the rest of the area, and some of the roadside linear plots, are on a different alignment than the Roman road and may be Iron Age in date. The field systems seem to cross from one side of the road to the other (two of the approximately north-south linear features in the western field, however, are post medieval field boundaries). In the western field two possible round houses to the north-west may also help date these features. There have been very few Iron Age finds from the site to date, but so far include a 1st Century BC Potin, a Republican silver Denarius from 84BC and several Colchester 1 piece fibulae from 40-65 AD.

To the south of the round houses, a straight track, most likely Roman, heads towards a rectangular enclosure containing a strong magnetic response. A lot of tile has been found on the surface here, suggesting this is most likely a tile kiln. A further set of 5 industrial features can be seen immediately to the west of the main enclosure, with a large pit presumably providing clay for whatever they were producing adjacent to the enclosure ditch. Another industrial strength feature, seemingly between the two ditches on the south-east corner of the enclosure may predate the late second century ditches.

A future program of excavation at Alfoldean is planned by HDAG.

David Staveley, and Vicky Lillywhite (HDAG).

Prehistory in the Low Weald

When the London to Brighton railway was being built across Horley Common in 1839-40 a number of finds were unearthed at TQ 286 417, a patch of farmland to the east of Gatwick airport. The finds consisted of a 'British cinerary urn, flint arrowheads and bronze Roman coins' (VCH **3**, 200). The finds are lost but their description suggests that the site was originally a Bronze

Age barrow (Needham 1987, 126) later used as a Romano-British 'shrine' (Ellaby 1987, 90). HER 867 errs in stating that the urn was of the late Iron Age; the suggestion of a barrow and the presence of flint arrowheads would indicate that the urn was more likely to be of the Bronze Age.

These appear to be the earliest recorded prehistoric material from the Low Weald around Horley, an extremely flat plain lying below the 61m contour. This plain is dissected by the river Mole and the geology is Weald clay largely overlaid by a spread of iron-cemented gravel derived from Wealden beds to the south and forming the Low terrace of the river. The gravel is masked by topsoil presumably of alluvial origin and similar to the Weald clay itself.

Medieval Horley was strung along the edge of the Low terrace bordering the river and comprised the church, manor house, mill and the hamlet of Lee Street. A more dispersed settlement pattern occupied the rest of the parish, but more recent work in advance of development has vastly increased our knowledge of prehistoric settlement and land usage in what has hitherto been considered to be geology devoid of early archaeological interest. The general lack of prehistoric finds in this area, until recently, has largely been due to the nature of the soil which has not been extensively ploughed and hence there has been little fieldwork coupled with the notion that the Weald had been little settled which discouraged archaeological pursuit. Some finds appear not to have been recorded at the time of their discovery and found their way to distant museums, such as the four ground flint axes together with a core and fabricator in Birmingham City Museums and Art Gallery (Watson *et al* 1999, 262) listed as from Horley. The finds were not precisely provenanced but a further ground axe was found by the Burstow stream (TQ 284 446) in 1956 (Macleod 1957, 120).

Once the railway station opened in 1841, Horley rapidly developed beside the tracks and obliterating the common. Recent initiatives to extend residential development in the southeast has led to two major archaeological evaluations in the north west and north east of the town, and which have revealed the area to have been farmed and settled in later prehistory.

It was in the 1980's when an oil pipeline was laid across the area that careful observation of the spoil revealed hints of at least some sort of exploitation in the vicinity. The finds were small quantities of humanly worked flint, and a

single broken barbed and tanged arrowhead from Meath Green points to a late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age presence (Cotton and Poulton 1990, 164). Since then an excavation of a Mesolithic site close to Thunderfield Castle (TQ 2995 4250) has been in progress since 1998 using a 1m square transect method. Here two adjacent sites have been found, one with a hearth. In another transect the base of a cremation burial was discovered and among the burnt bone flecks in the ploughsoil immediately above was found a barbed and tanged arrowhead which might suggest that the burnt bones were deposited in the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. Other interesting recent finds have been as a result of developer funded excavations in advance of housing developments, both in the vicinity of the earlier pipeline discoveries.

The north west sector development at Meath Green (TQ 265 447 centred) on the terrace overlooking the River Mole was evaluated by Oxford Archaeology in 2004. A small number of worked flints were recovered, indicating some low-level early prehistoric activity in the vicinity. The evaluation also found evidence for a Late Iron Age to 1st century Roman settlement, surrounded by a system of field enclosures and with imported pottery, industrial residues and four Late Iron Age coins in gold and silver and dating from c20BC to cAD43. This evidence would suggest a settlement of some status (Howe *et al* 2005, 279; 2008, 364)

The north east sector development on land north of Tanyard Farm has been evaluated by ASE from 2004 (TQ 293 442 centred). Here, pits, postholes and ditches have revealed some Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age material, and more recently, extensive evidence for Middle to Late Iron Age settlement south of the Burstow Stream. This includes a rare double ring gully and a post built structure which may have been of a ritual nature. There were also field systems which continued into the Roman period. The evidence from the hut circles suggests some rebuilding which might suggest seasonal use (Howe *et al* 2011, 276-8).

Both areas had periods of apparent disuse although the field systems seem to have a level of continuity. It may be that periodic episodes of flooding led to temporary shifts to drier ground. Some environmental evidence for the Gatwick-Horley area was reported from the Gatwick Late Bronze Age settlement which was excavated by Framework Archaeology in 2001 (TQ 262 413) and on the flood plain east of Horley. The indications are that an open

landscape of grassland floodplain had developed during the Bronze Age (Wells 2005, 66) This may have continued to be the case since it was noted that crop marks to the west of the Gatwick site were the probable site of a banjo enclosure (Wells 2005, 50). Further evidence for prehistoric activity in the Weald was recently disclosed during development of a site at Wickhurst Green near Horsham (ASE, in prep).



Excavating the ditch at Charlwood

In 2009 metal detectors discovered a small hoard of Late Iron Age and early Roman coins in a field to the north-west of Charlwood, a village close to Gatwick. This site is on the Paludina limestone ridge and has extensive views only to the west and Leith Hill. (Williams 2012, 4-6). Fieldwalking and magnetometry surveys have subsequently taken place revealing the possibility of buried archaeological features. In October 2014 this was confirmed by a small evaluation trench and further work is under consideration. This is not the only evidence of prehistoric activity in the area with an important late Mesolithic site (TQ 232 414) being investigated in 1979 (Ellaby 2004, 12-23) and in 1952 a late Bronze Age sword was found by workmen of the Crawley Development Corporation (TQ 261 394) and is now in Crawley Museum (Lowther 1958, 122).

There is clearly a considerable amount of evidence now being accrued to suggest that there was continuing use of this area of the Low Weald for an extensive period of prehistory. Within an area of a few square kilometres there may have been seasonal usage of Wealden resources from the Mesolithic period, while Late Iron Age settlement continued into the Roman period with some evidence for wealth and status. There are questions as to whether the north west and north east sector sites were in any way related to each other, and if they were unusual in their situation in a part of the Low Weald. There is certainly a case for further research in the clays of the Weald and a re-examination of any evidence held in county databases.

Rose Hooker and Roger Ellaby

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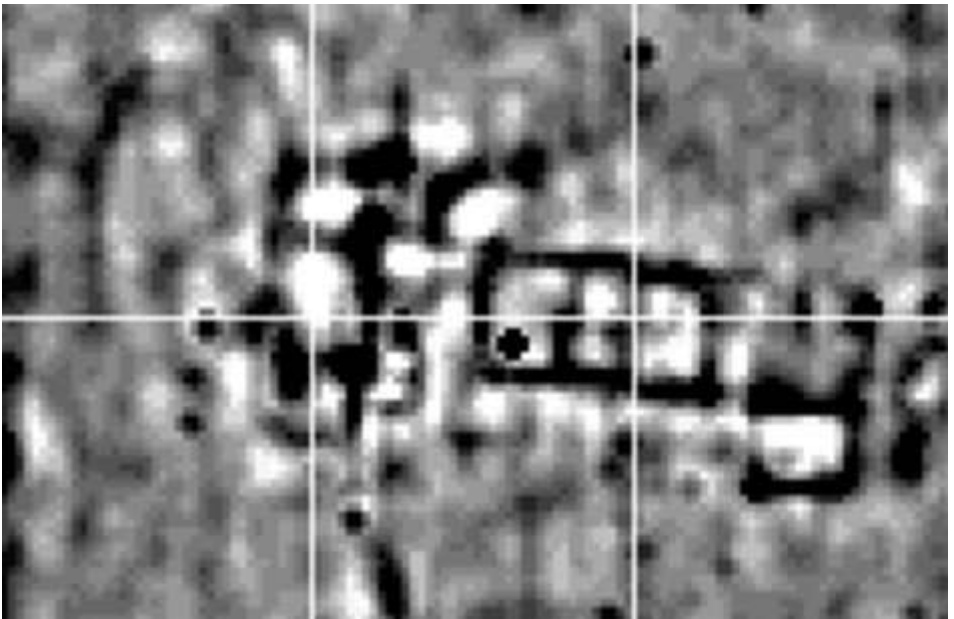
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VCH, Vol 3, 1911, 200-208

Plumpton Roman Villa

Last summer excavations were undertaken for the first time on the site of Plumpton Roman villa. This Roman-period settlement is located to the north of the South Downs in East Sussex, just to the south of the Greensand Way - an

important Roman road which connected the Pulborough area to the west with Barcombe / the River Ouse to the east. Dating mainly to the 3rd-mid 4th centuries, the villa is of the winged-corridor type. Found in 1973, the site was subsequently partly investigated on several occasions by the use of various survey techniques including fieldwalking; the recording of soil marks (Allen 1984); and geophysics. In 2014 a new programme of fieldwork, both geophysical survey (especially extensive magnetometry) and trial trenching were undertaken by Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd and the Sussex School of Archaeology on behalf of the landowners, Plumpton College, and Natural England, as part of a Higher Level Stewardship Agreement. The aim of this project was to more fully explore the extent, nature and condition of the villa and its settlement boundaries. This information is required to assess the effectiveness of the area of the field which has in recent years been taken out of cultivation. The reasons for needing new investigations included the finding each year after ploughing of traces of masonry in the area immediately to the west of the protected site. A new soil resistivity survey of the villa house was also carried out in 2014 by David Millum and volunteers. This survey produced a more detailed image of the buried remains than had been achieved by previous surveys and is thought to show at least two phases of construction and a possible bath-suite at the western end (see photograph 1).



Plumpton villa Resistivity plot-out of the main villa building (David Millum).

The excavations in 2014 were designed to investigate plough damage, both previous (ie in the area of the main villa building / the area currently removed from cultivation) and on-going, such as just beyond the western edge of the protected area. The work undertaken by the Sussex School concentrated upon the locations of the winged-house and the ditched settlement enclosure on its western and northern sides. The excavation of part of the main villa building exposed parts of two, possibly three rooms and part of the front (southern) corridor which flanked them (see photograph 2). The exposed foundations were made of chalk and flints. In all cases the surviving footings were below floor level. Evidence for the nature of some of the flooring, however, included both large and small (mosaic) tesserae. A trial trench to the west of the rooms described above revealed that very compact foundations and demolition continues at a shallow depth under the crop. These deposits, which have not yet been excavated/sampled, are further evidence that the currently protected area needs to be extended westwards. A third trench revealed and sampled part of the east-west orientated northern boundary ditch as previously located by the magnetometer survey.

The excavations outlined above were undertaken as a programme of 5-, 2- and 1-day training courses and Monday-Friday volunteering opportunities. This year (2015) it is intended that further such investigations will take place between Saturday 20th June and Saturday 1st August, and those wishing to be kept informed of such opportunities should register an interest with the Sussex School of Archaeology (info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk) or visit its website: www.sussexarchaeology.org We will again be offering our popular and comprehensive 5-day Excavation Training Courses starting each Monday from 29th June. We will also run some of our popular 1-day (Saturday) Excavation Techniques for Beginners taster courses. Both such courses provide an excellent start in field archaeology. Other courses cover more specialist topics/skills. Details of local accommodation/camping are available on request.

David Rudling, Academic Director, The Sussex School of Archaeology

Reference

Allen, M. 1984. Plumpton Roman Villa (TQ360147), a Cursory Note, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **122**, 219-220.



Figure 2. Plumpton villa 2014. Excavation of part of the winged, corridor-villa.

Kent Archaeological Society Summer Visits

For 50 years, hundreds of intrepid Victorian archaeology and history enthusiasts embarked on long and arduous excursions around Kent in trains and carriages, visiting parish churches and prehistoric monuments in distant parts of the county. They were the founder members of the Kent Archaeological Society, who met for two days in a different town every summer to conduct their annual general meeting on the first morning and spend the afternoon and all the next day on sight-seeing trips.

Neither distance nor weather daunted them. They came from all over Kent and beyond, arriving on trains hired from the county's then-new 'South-Eastern' and 'London, Chatham & Dover' main line railways. After being met by horse-drawn carriages at a local station they jolted for hours along dusty, rutted lanes to their destinations.

Photographs of visits to historical sites in Kent taken by Witham Matthew Bywater and presented to the Society before his death in 1899 provide an insight into late Victorian interest in their heritage. In 1890 some 400 people attended the Society's AGM and the next day 300 undertook a 23 mile trip by carriage to visit Chilham Castle, Chartham, Godmersham, Waltham and Petham parish churches, returning to Canterbury along Stone Street, an 18th century 'turnpike' road originally built by the Romans. All this required meticulous planning and timing by the 'Director of Locomotion'.

The Earl of Darnley was especially particular about the arrangements for a visit to his country seat, Cobham Hall, in July 1876 for 'luncheon in the Large Dining Room'. His lordship told the society's secretary that his party should park their carriages exactly where told to do so by his head coachman, not arrive before the 'appointed time', nor wander at will around his house. He also instructed his household staff to line-up outside the Hall to receive his guests. It must have been like a scene from 'Downton Abbey'.



At Kit's Coty House in 1909 (EC Youens)



Cobham Almshouses in 1876



KAS carriage leaving Christchurch Gate
Canterbury in 1890



Saltwood Castle in 1888

Holleyman Lecture 2015

'A Portal to the Anglo-Saxon Past: Village core excavations at Bishopstone and Lyminge (Kent) and their significance for Anglo-Saxon settlement studies'

Dr Gabor Thomas, former SxAS Research Officer

This year's Holleyman Lecture will be held on Thursday April 16th. From an archaeological perspective, the story of south-east England as an 'Anglo-Saxon' province has traditionally been told through cemeteries which still greatly outnumber excavated rural settlements of the 5th to the 11th centuries AD. This paper compares and contrasts the results of two village-core excavations at Bishopstone, East Sussex and Lyminge, Kent, initiated to fill this gap in the region's settlement history. Discussion will highlight how these sites are enriching understanding of pivotal changes in Anglo-Saxon society, from the coming of Christianity and the foundation of the earliest monasteries, to the rise of a social elite and a recognisable settlement hierarchy, and the intensification of production and economic resources.



Excavation of the Anglo-Saxon hall at Lyminge (photo Gabor Thomas)

A joint Sussex Archaeological Society, Sussex School of Archaeology and University of Sussex Archaeological Society Lecture.

7.00pm, Fulton Lecture Theatre A, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton.

Admission: £8 for members of SAS, SSA and USAS, others £10.

Tickets are available from the Sussex School of Archaeology at www.sussexarchaeology.org

Early booking is recommended.

Spring in Malta

There are still a few places available on the trip to Malta leaving Gatwick on Tuesday 12th May and returning on Tuesday 19th May. The itinerary includes a day in Rabat, visits to Valletta, the Ghar Dalam caves, Gozo and many more. For details contact David Rudling – david.rudling@sussexarchaeology.co.uk

Surrey Archaeological Society Annual Symposium

Saturday, February 28, 2015 - 09:30 to 17:00 at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall
Woodfield Lane, KT21 2BE, Ashted, Surrey

10.05 ***Recent finds in Surrey***: FLO: David Williams

10.35 ***Betchworth Castle: 2014 excavations report and suggested historic development***: Martin Higgins

11.40 ***Recent excavations in the village of Thorpe***: SCAU: Phil Jones

12.10 ***Papermaking in Surrey***: SIHG: Alan Crocker

14.00 Margary Award

14.10 ***Bishops and peasants: everyday life in 13th century Esher***: David Stone

14.45 ***A Late Upper Palaeolithic site at Guildford Fire Station: discovery, excavation and the results so far*** : Oxford Archaeology: Gerry Thacker

15.45 ***Recent Archaeology South-East excavations to the north of Horley***:
ASE: Dan Swift/Simon Stevens

16.15 ***Dismantling and displaying the Reigate Roman Tile Kiln fire tunnel***:
Emma Corke and Peter Burgess

Tickets (£10 in advance, £12 on the door, £8 students in advance) from Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Quarry St, Guildford GU1 3SX

Sussex Archaeological Symposium The Archaeology of Fields

Saturday 21 March 2015 from 0920 – 1710 at the Huxley Lecture Theatre, University of Brighton, Moulsecoomb Campus, Lewes Road, Brighton BN2 4GJ. Cost: £30 (£27 for SAS members and SSA Friends. Optional lunch £8

0920 Registration

1000 Welcome

David Rudling

1015 Prehistoric fields and trackways

Martin Bell

1130	Lynchets formation and dating 'Celtic' fields	Mike Allen
1215	Fieldsapes of the Weald	Nicola Bannister
1400	Impact of capitalism, 1500-present	Brian Short
1445	Bronze Age occupation at Manor Road, Burgess Hill	Felicity Howell
1545	Pococks Field Eastbourne, prehistoric – Tudor marsh	Giles Dawkes
1615	Local Archaeology round=up	

Early Medieval Monasticism in the North Sea Zone: New Research and Fresh Perspectives

Friday 24th - Sunday 26th April 2015, University of Kent, Canterbury

2015 marks the conclusion of a major AHRC-funded campaign of excavation at Lyminge, the first archaeological investigation to provide a detailed account of the origins and development of a royal monastery in the kingdom of Kent. The aim of the conference is to contextualise the results of this research by bringing together an international body of scholars to examine the theme of early medieval monasticism in the North Sea Zone.

Sessions include: 'Power and Place: the Politics of Monastic Foundation', 'What did Monasteries Look Like? Architecture and Layout', and 'Production, Consumption and Surplus: Monasteries as Economic Central Places'. There is an optional excursion to Lyminge and other local sites on Friday afternoon followed by a keynote address by Professor John Blair and a wine reception.

Among confirmed speakers are: Justine Bayley (London), John Blair (Oxford), Rosemary Cramp (Durham), Rosamond Faith (Oxford), Zoe Knapp (Reading) Elizabeth Lorans (Tours), Mark McKerracher (Oxford), Tomás Ó Carragáin (Cork), David Petts (Durham), Thomas Pickles (Chester), Gabor Thomas (Reading), Dries Tys (Brussels), Ian Wood (Leeds), Barbara Yorke (Winchester).

Conference registration fee is £42 which includes lunch and refreshments. The optional field trip to Lyminge is £10 per person. Please go to www.lymingearchaeology.org for details and registration. Please contact a.knox@reading.ac.uk with inquiries.

Sussex Archaeological Society Conference

The Tudor and Early Stuart Country House in Sussex c.1500-1640

Saturday May 9th at King's Church, Lewes

1005 The Tudor and Stuart Country House: a review of present studies – Maurice Howard

1045 The Tudor and Stuart Country House and the Landscape – Paula Henderson

- 1145 Furnishing the Tudor and early Stuart great house – Susan Bracken
 1225 Managing the country house household – ‘the early modern house and its ordinances’; - Alden Gregory
 1400 Perceptions and expectations: preparing a Tudor house for a royal visit – Caroline Adams
 1440 Petworth House and Park: origins and early history – Tom Dommett
 1540 Bolebroke, Chiddingly and Danny: research on three Tudor country houses in Sussex – David Martin
 1620 Funding the new house – Sir Thomas Sherley of Wiston House, Sussex (c.1542-1612) – Janet Pennington
 Tickets £38 (£20 for students) from <http://sussexpast.co.uk/event/tudor> or 01273 405737 or Bull House, 92 High St, Lewes BN7 1XH

Courses at Kent Archaeological Field School

- March, Sat & Sun 14th & 15th**, Test-pitting, Field Walking and Map Analysis at a newly discovered Roman building at Borden near Sittingbourne.
Easter, Good Friday 3rd April to Sunday 12th April. Excavation and Investigation of a newly-discovered Roman villa at Teston, west of Maidstone
May Bank Holiday Saturday 2nd to Monday 4th. How to identify and appreciate Roman Buildings in Rome with Dr Paul Wilkinson
May Bank Holiday Friday 23rd May to Monday 25th May. An Introduction to Archaeological Survey
June 1st to 5th and 8th to 12th excavating at 'Villa B' at Oplontis next to Pompeii in Italy
June 20th & 21st and June 27th & 28th. The Investigation of a substantial Roman Building at Sittingbourne.
July 4th to 10th Investigation of Prehistoric features at Hollingbourne.
July 25th to August 14th Excavation of a Roman villa and bath-house in Faversham.
August 3rd to August 9th. Training Week for Students at Faversham.
October 3rd & 4th Bones and Burials
October 17h & 18th Archaeological Drawing with Jane Russell
 For more details see <http://www.kafs.co.uk/> or phone 01795 532548 or 07885 700112.

Courses at Sussex School of Archaeology

- 7 MARCH Medieval to Georgian Pottery Identification - Luke Barber.
 14 MARCH Religion and ritual in the Neolithic - Steve Patton.
 11 APRIL Geology for Archaeologists - Rory Mortimer.
 18 APRIL Landscapes of the Stonehenge Environment - Julian Richards.
 9 MAY Environmental Archaeology the Basics - Dr. Mike Allen
 16 & 17 MAY Understanding vernacular buildings Pt 1 David & Barbara Martin.
 23 MAY Saxon Woodworking - Dr. Damian Goodburn.

23 MAY Bronze Casting - Rod Hughes
 13 JUNE Flint Knapping - Paul Saddleton.
 14 JUNE (Sunday) Sussex Villas - David Rudling.
 20 JUNE Churchyard Survey - Chris Butler.
 20 JUNE Excavation Techniques for Beginners - Lisa Fisher & Caroline Russell.
 27 JUNE Roman Glass - John Sheppard.
 27 JUNE Excavation Techniques for Beginners - Lisa Fisher & Caroline Russell.
 4 JULY Archaeological Surveying, the basics - Andy Bradshaw.
 11 JULY First Aid for Finds. Adrian Tribe.
 18 JULY Planning and Section Drawing - Andy Bradshaw.
 25 & 26 JULY Practical Environmental Archaeology - Dr. Mike Allen
 25 & 26 AUGUST Photography for Archaeologists - Lisa Fisher.
 15 AUGUST Understanding and Recording Historic Farm Buildings.
 Part one (understanding buildings) - Various tutors.
 22 AUGUST Understanding and Recording Historic Farm Buildings
 Part two (recording buildings) - Various tutors.
 For more details contact <http://www.sussexarchaeology.org/> or 01323 811785

CBA-SE is a branch (Charity No 1047378) of the **Council for British Archaeology** which aims to advance the public's knowledge of archaeology and history in their local area and to share information across counties.

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