

# CBA SOUTH-EAST NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2025

Issue 62

Our thanks to all contributors for providing these reports for the CBA South-East Newsletter.

## CBA South-East and Surrey Archaeological Society joint Conference January 2026

### Conference on Moated Sites in the South-East

Date: Saturday 24 January 2026

Time: 10.00am - 3.30pm

Location: East Horsley Village Hall, Kingston Ave, East Horsley

Overview: Moated sites in south-east England: 21st-century research and insights

The Medieval Studies Forum and CBA-SE are pleased to come together for this joint conference which combines new research and insights on moated sites in the south-east of England, while considering themes and approaches which can be applied to older excavations.

Tickets now available, £10 for members, £15 for non-members.

<https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/moated-sites-in-the-south-east-conference>

## COUNTY REPORTS

### SUSSEX REPORT - David Rudling

This report reviews some of the non-commercial archaeological fieldwork in Sussex during the last 6 months. It also provides updates concerning various non-fieldwork archaeological matters.

### SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY (SA&H)

In June SA&H in partnership with the Roman Studies Group of the Surrey Archaeological Society, held a one-day conference entitled 'Shining a Light on Roman Roadside Settlements in South-East England and Beyond' at Kings Church, Lewes.

Whilst most of the case studies were in South-East England, a keynote lecture by Professor Tony King discussed Roman roads and associated settlements in a much wider Western Roman Empire context. In October SA&H held another conference in Lewes, 'Changes in Victorian and Georgian Sussex 1840-1914'. Whilst much of this event involved historical sources, it also included some industrial archaeology, such as railways and brick-making. Next year it is planned to have a history conference on Georgian Sussex. Currently the SA&H autumn/winter free monthly online archaeology lecture series is underway (see [www.sussexarchaeology.org](http://www.sussexarchaeology.org)). It is also about to launch a new online Sussex history lecture programme. The next archaeology symposium (a round-up of recent Sussex archaeological fieldwork and research) is planned for 21 March 2026. A new venture in 2026 will be an archaeological study tour to Crete 10th-19th May. The Tour Guide will be Dr Don Evely, a former British School at Athens Knossos Curator and an expert on Minoan archaeology (see page 34 for details).

In October 2026 it is intended to hold, in partnership with CBA South-East, a conference at Lewes in memory of Ivan Donald Margary who died in 1976. He was the national expert on Roman Roads in Britain, and who during and after his life made very generous gifts to a wide range of causes, including the purchase of the Fishbourne Roman Palace site and its transfer to the Sussex Archaeological Society. The aim of this memorial conference is to highlight some of the major Margary legacies, and the organisers welcome offers of papers, especially regarding lasting benefits in Kent, Surrey or Sussex (ie Margary's home territory). All the planned conferences mentioned above will be hybrid - that is both in-person and online by zoom.

## SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (SAS)

During the autumn and winter of 2025/6, SAS will again provide its members with some free to members online evening lectures. On 8th November it held a one-day conference at the University of Sussex, 'Sūpseaxna: New Research from the Early Medieval Record'. The speakers were Sue Harrington, James Sainsbury, Emeritus Professor Martin Bell, Marina Soares Da Silva, Giles Dawkes, Professor Gabor Thomas, Scott Chausse, Michael Shapland, Jane Clark and Harry Redburn ( <https://sussexpast.co.uk> ).

The interesting and very important SAS Library at Barbican House, Lewes remains a much under-used facility. The opening hours are 10.30am-1pm and 1.30-4pm, Tuesday- Friday, but all visits to use the library for research purposes need to be booked in advance (Phone: 01273 405738 or Email: [library@sussexpast.co.uk](mailto:library@sussexpast.co.uk)). We do not know when volume 162 of the *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (that for 2024) will be sent to members. In the continued absence

of a members' newsletter, the current main methods of SAS communicating with its members are the occasional 'Members Mailout' by email, and the SAS Facebook and websites.

SAS held its AGM on October 25th 2025, at Michelham Priory, Upper Dicker, near Hailsham. Members have been informed that in the coming year the Society will continue the 'ongoing major programme of organisational change' and establish 'dedicated local Committees at three of our key heritage properties - Fishbourne Roman Palace, Lewes Castle & Museum, Michelham Priory House & Gardens, with the aim of enhancing the breadth and depth of their impact locally'.

Senior staff changes at SAS have occurred and General Manager John Baldock and Membership Secretary Dr Jemima Jarman have departed. Currently the Society does not have a Chief Executive Officer with no immediate plans to recruit to this post as yet. However, recruitment for a Chief Operating Officer for the whole organisation is underway, and this post will 'be required to deputise for a Chief Executive Officer if/when appointed'. Natasha Williams is the new Director for the Lewes Properties, and the Society has recently advertised for a new Director for Fishbourne Roman Palace. Karen Johnston is the new Members Officer.

On Friday 25th July Fishbourne Roman Palace held a Festival of Archaeology event: 'Meet the Experts'. Organisations that took part included various Sussex local archaeological societies, Sussex Archaeology & History, the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and Archaeology South-East.

Finally, members are reminded that the SAS administered 'Sally Christian Archaeology Bequest' exists for the funding of practical training courses, conference fees, etc, for those students/amateurs/non-professionals starting in archaeology. The deadline for the next round of applications for funding is Wednesday 11th March 2026. Up to £2,000 is made available each year to multiple awardees. For further details about the fund see 'Research' at: [www.sussexpast.co.uk](http://www.sussexpast.co.uk)

## **NATIONAL TRUST – THE CHANGING CHALK PROJECT**

On Saturday 6th September the Changing Chalk Project led by the National Trust held a one-day conference at Kings Church, Lewes on 'Heritage on the Downs'. Lecture topics included: 'Exploring Chalk Grassland Nature', 'Rural Sussex in Roman Times', 'Heritage on the Downs: Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society's contribution to the story', 'A possible church at Frog Firle', Local research around the Shoreham area', and 'Church Graffiti at Eastbourne'.

## **BLUE PLAQUE: E. CECIL CURWEN MD OBE (1895-1967)**

On Saturday 21 June a Blue Plaque was unveiled by the Mayor of Brighton and Hove, Amanda Grimshaw, at 34 Medina Villas, Hove, Sussex in memory of E. Cecil Curwen (1895-1967). This location is where Curwen lived and worked from 1925 to 1934. E. Cecil Curwen, along with his father, also Eliot Cecil Curwen were amateur pioneers in the archaeology of Sussex prehistory, both being medical doctors by profession. Curwen junior, to whom the Blue Plaque is dedicated, undertook many important excavations at key archaeological sites in Sussex: neolithic examples comprising the causewayed enclosures at Whitehawk and at the Trundle, and flint mines at Cissbury and at Harrow Hill. Later prehistoric sites included Hollingbury Camp, Wolstonbury, The Caburn, New Barn Down, Thundersbarrow Hill and Plumpton Plain.



## SOME RECENT FIELDWORK IN SUSSEX:

### Brighton, East Sussex

This spring and summer the Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society (BHAS) continued excavating at Rocky Clump, Stanmer Park, Brighton. This was the last season of fieldwork at the site in the current programme of research, and the BHAS team will now be focusing on the post-excavation aspects of the project. The fieldwork was directed by Andrew Fanning, with Simon Cooper and Mark Peck in support. The excavations revealed various ditches, pits and postholes, and most of the finds were of Roman date.



Excavations at Rocky Clump, Stanmer 2025 (Photo: Elizabeth Rice). The large sarsen stones which give this site its name are in the clump of trees.

### Chichester, West Sussex

In September, the Chichester and District Archaeology Society (CDAS) carried out a geophysical survey at Stansted Park in West Sussex with the aim of verifying that the late seventeenth century historic garden layout was as depicted in the previously unconfirmed 1707 plan by Johannes Kip. The survey covered both the East Field and South Lawn and

revealed many features of historic interest in both, including the location of a colonnade beneath the South Lawn, one of the important parts of the radical redesign of the house and gardens that took place in the late eighteenth century. The circular feature in the parterre garden was also located and confirmed.



### **The Culver Archaeology Project, Bridge Farm Excavations Wellingham, East Sussex**

Over the winter of 2024/5, a new 40m open area trench was machine stripped of topsoil just to the east of Trench 7 (2018-2024) and located over the eastern entrance to the enclosed settlement and the road to Pevensey (*Anderida*). The excavations, to be continued in 2026, revealed evidence for both the London and Pevensey roads, and traces of the two enclosure

ditches, including the four termini of the two ditches at the eastern entrance. The exposed stretch of the road to Pevensey is metalled with flint and has traces of the pebbled cambered surface at the edges of the agger.



An interesting find made in 2024 in Trench 7 was a poorly preserved but scarce and very interesting copper As coin of the emperor Hadrian AD 117-138) with on the reverse the earliest personification of Britannia. The reverse type, legend PONT MAX TR POT COS III, S C in field, BRITANNIA in exergue, shows Britannia seated facing, foot on rock, drawing up the hood of her Birrus Britannicus, and holding a spear in her other hand, with a shield at her side. Minted at Rome AD 119-123 (RIC II.3, nos. 241-2). The Birrus Britannicus was a distinctive hooded woollen cloak that was worn by Britons. It became a significant export from Britannia to Rome, and was a luxury item for the time. The Culver Archaeology Project (CAP) has recently acquired a charity status.



**David Rudling**

(with thanks to Brian Tomkinson and Peter King (photo) of CDAS, and David Millum and Mike Naylor (photo of coin) of CAP)

**SURREY REPORT – Rosemary Hooker**

For regular updates about Surrey Archaeological Society activities and news from other groups your first port of call should be our monthly e-newsletter compiled by Anne Sassin and available on our website <https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/enewsletter-029>.

This e-letter is available monthly by e-mail to members and non-members free of charge by contacting the office ([info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk))

The final phase of our annual summer dig at Cock's Farm Abinger took place between May 2025 and June 2025. It explored the potential Neolithic activity on this site and revealed a potential round house site and post-ex work may refine its date. Short interim reports of this multi-period site can be found in the Surrey Bulletin: *Surrey's Past*, backcopies of which are available on our website.

The summer test pitting programme at Albury Park was another successful community event, with over 40 volunteers excavating and recording 24 test pits over the course of 8 days (spread over two weeks in June and September). In addition to attendance from the Chertsey YACs (Young Archaeologists Club), the project supported Heritage Open Days in the church with a display of some of the finds. The 2025 pits supplemented findings from the previous season

on the later medieval settlement in the park, as well as providing evidence of Early Saxon and Roman activity. Further activity is likely to continue in 2026.



Source: Surrey Archaeological Service



Source: Surrey Archaeological Service

The Society also supported a week-long Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Archaeology and Adventure residential course at Sayers Croft in August. Students took part in a dig across sections of the Roman road, led by the local Ewhurst group, along with classroom-based activities on the other work which goes into fieldwork investigations, including LiDAR and historic mapping, finds assessment and geophysics. Our website also links you to the Surrey LiDAR Portal ([surreylidar.org.uk](http://surreylidar.org.uk)) with opportunities to join groundtruthing events.

The Society is still collecting items formerly stored by Guildford Museum. Volunteers are now undertaking a Collections Review to assess the archive for retention and disposal. In future it is hoped that all information will be available digitally. Other volunteers are working on updating our website and the library volunteers are also making the books, journals and research items more easily available.

It should be noted that Judie English bequeathed her library and archaeological archive to the Society which is also being assessed.

By Rose Hooker (SyAS)

## **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT PLANNING**

The Surrey County Council Historic Environment Planning team moved out of its offices at Quadrant Court, Woking, in April. We're still based in Woking, but have moved across the town to a new property - Victoria Gate - recently acquired by the Council. The team's email addresses and telephone numbers remain unchanged. The new office is more modern, but unfortunately the move didn't quite go to plan for the Historic Environment Record as many items were split from the main archive and we're having to re-catalogue everything we own to determine its current location. 'Business as Usual' work has been affected and some physical resources, including files and books, are inaccessible at present. We're well on the way to resolving this and enquiries to the Surrey HER should be sent as normal, but some physical resources may be unavailable - we will advise if this is the situation on a case-by-case basis. For the time being, the HER is also unable to accommodate visitors. Where physical materials are requested we may be able to make these available for view at the Surrey History Centre if necessary. Further details can be found on the Surrey County Council website at [Heritage and planning - Surrey County Council](#).

Surrey has been named amongst those councils identified by the Government for the first round of its programme of Local Government Reform ('LGR'). The exact details of this aren't clear at the time of writing as the county and district/borough councils submitted competing

proposals to the government regarding the shape the new, unitary authorities should take. A decision on this is expected soon, with the new authorities being constituted over the course of 2026-27. However LGR preparation work within the organisation is proceeding as the “discovery phase” to create a blueprint for service disaggregation (or in some cases amalgamation) which involves an entire inventory of each team’s physical resources, finances, partnerships, contracts and digital holdings. It is not anticipated that this will affect enquiries to the service.

By Tony Howe, Historic Environment Planning Team Manager, SCC

## **COMMUNITIES AT THE RIVER: THE FETCHAM SPRINGS ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT**

Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) is delighted to announce a £250,000 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for Communities at the River: The Fetcham Springs Archaeology Project – a five-year initiative to uncover, protect, and celebrate the nationally significant heritage of Fetcham Springs.

Thanks to National Lottery, this major new project will explore one of Surrey’s most fascinating archaeological sites. Excavations in 2009 revealed traces of a prehistoric hunting camp from the end of the last Ice Age and a high-status Roman building, offering rare insight into human activity spanning over 12,000 years.

Starting in 2025, volunteers of all ages will be able to join summer excavations, geophysical surveys, and finds processing sessions led by professional archaeologists from SCAU. Training and support will ensure everyone – from complete beginners to experienced enthusiasts – can take part. Local schools and community groups will also be invited to get involved through visits, workshops, and themed loan boxes.

Community engagement is at the heart of the project, with a lively programme of events including flintknapping workshops, Roman and Stone Age reenactor visits, Roman gladiator training sessions, and open days designed to bring the past to life.

Fetcham Springs is also an ecologically rich site, holding the Wildlife Trust’s Biodiversity Benchmark. Landowners SES Water, who are committed to sustainable land use, will work alongside archaeologists to protect both the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

Findings and stories from the excavations will be shared widely through talks, pop-up displays, an audio guide, and a booklet – promoting learning, curiosity, and pride in Surrey’s heritage. The project began in September this year, with 118 volunteers helping SCAU archaeologists excavate test pits over 10 days. Initial results have revealed evidence of activity from the prehistoric hunting camps through to the medieval period, including flint tools, Roman pottery, and a few pieces of Saxon pottery. The finds are now being processed at the Surrey History Centre, and a full report will be shared, before the full scale excavations in 2026.



Source: photo courtesy of SCAU, part of Surrey County Council



Source: photo courtesy of SCAU, part of Surrey County Council

For more information or to get involved, please email [education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk) for details of how to be added to the mailing list.

Hannah Potter, Education Officer, SCC

## KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY REPORT – Andrew Ward

### NEWS

A very useful resource has been created by Karen Anderson after almost a half a century of work!

The first general meeting of the British Archaeological Association was held in Canterbury in September 1844. The highlight of the occasion was a visit to nearby Breach Down to view the opening of some Anglo-Saxon barrows. Finds made at the site were later purchased by the British Museum - they date the cemetery to the 7th century, beginning soon after St Augustine's arrival in Kent in 597. As part of her course in Early Medieval Archaeology at UCL, Karen drew and photographed the museum collection and produced a barrow inventory and finds catalogue. This work is now available on her website along with a discussion of the finds.

<https://www.romseysaxonlandscape.co.uk/breach-down>

The Kent Archaeological Society will be adding Karen's excellent resources to the KAS website for future access for researchers. A big thank you to Karen for permission to share her work.

## TRUSTEES

A number of new trustees have been appointed to the Kent Archaeological Society board. The society is pleased to welcome Peter Tumley, Robert Tucker, Monika Rese, Jodie Cramphorn, and Dr Heidi Stoner to the board. A full list can be found on the Charity Commission website: [KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - 1176989](#)

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

**Kent Archaeological Research Group Conference:**

**Archaeological Investigations and Research on Thanet and around the Wantsum shore**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Following on from last year's successful conference concerned with recent work in the Darent Valley, the KAS fieldwork conference for 2025 will focus on the area of Thanet and the shores of the Wantsum Channel in the north-east Kent. A series of speakers will outline recent archaeological discoveries and research and the day will close with some thoughts on topics for further study.

Tickets available at: [Thanet & North-East Kent - A KAS Fieldwork Conference – Kent Archaeological Society](#)

## Making an Early Saxon Sword:

The next in a series of online talks hosted by the KAS, with Experimental Archaeologist Alexander Read.

Thursday 20 November 2025 - 19:00 20:30

What is experimental archaeology and how does it help us figure out how things were made? We take a look at an Early Anglo-Saxon sword from the cemetery at Sarre, and use experimental archaeology to explain how it was made, and show the technologies available to the Saxon blacksmiths.

### **KAS Affiliated Group Events:**

Events from the Society's numerous affiliated groups can be found on the website at <https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/events>.



*highwealdhunters@outlook.com*

*Supported by*



Council for  
British Archaeology  
South East

*Discovering how Prehistoric  
people lived in the High Weald*

### HUNTERS OF THE HISTORIC HIGH WEALD

By Helena Griffiths, Andy Bliss and Mark Roberts

#### **Project update – July 2025**

In June 2024, local resident and geologist, Helena Griffiths stumbled on a scattering of human struck flints on a footpath near Horsted Keynes in West Sussex. Systematic field walking of 23 acres of ploughed fields led to many more artefacts and debitage (flint waste material) being found, all finds being geolocated. This unique discovery has given a rare insight into the area and how it was being used by our Prehistoric ancestors possibly from as early as 10,000 years ago, when the landscape was very different, and river valleys were the important highways for travel, and hunting grounds. This project gives an exceptional understanding into the ancient inhabitants of the High Weald area.

In June 2025 a group of some twenty local volunteers took part in a community dig led by professional archaeologist Mark Roberts. The aim of this year's project was to dig test pits across the original flint scatter, with the hope of finding some preserved archaeological layers beneath the plough zone. The area of fieldwalking was also increased.

The preliminary results from the test pits are consistent with the location of the surface flint scatter, with the most flints being found in the test pit centred on the most intense area of surface scatter. Flint pieces are found throughout the plough zone, included with modern materials (plastics, glazed pottery, and medieval slag). Regrettably, ploughing has disturbed the archaeological layers. However, flint artifacts such as blades, flakes, scrapers and cores were found. Microliths were also found lending weight to the hypothesis that this scatter may have been a place where flints typical of the Mesolithic period were being worked to make

hunting implements, for butchering meat and processing animal hides, all classic signs of hunter gatherer activities.

Image right:

Photograph of artifacts characteristic of the Mesolithic period found in test pits; (left to right) 2 pointed microliths, an end scraper, a backed blade, and a black flint bladelet core.



The excavation team hard at work in the sunshine

As part of this year's project a further 20 acres has been field walked. A newly ploughed field was identified adjacent to the river valley where a good likelihood of finding flints due was anticipated due to the importance of the waterways in prehistoric times. Again, all finds have been geolocated, giving a unique image of the distribution of the flint artifacts.

Preliminary results have identified two distinct flint scatters, but this time preliminary assessment of the flint artifacts suggest a younger Neolithic time frame, due to the occurrence of polished artifacts, including a possible grinding stone made of quartzite, and a polished quartz pebble. Both rock types are not found in the Weald so have been carried in from elsewhere, evidencing travel or exchange with other areas. The fact that they were polished

suggests that they were items of importance (curated). A background scatter exists across this field also.

Image right:

Photograph of artifacts considered characteristic of the Neolithic period found during fieldwalking: (left to right) arrowhead preform (below), an unfinished barbed and tanged arrowhead on older flake of late Neolithic to Early Bronze age (above), hammerstone, and polished quartzite implement (possibly a whetstone).



The occurrence of arrowheads together with a wider range of artifacts - blades, hammerstones, scrapers and also polished artifacts suggests that the community at this time were still involved in hunting activities, but were possibly less mobile. The Neolithic period is characterised by a population more firmly established in the landscape - moving beyond hunter/gatherer activities and beginning to farm the land.

The project is improving the detailed knowledge of Prehistoric communities in the High Weald in a unique way, thanks to the willingness of the landowner to grant access to large swathes of their land. It is evident that the High Weald was not an impenetrable uninhabited area, but was a unique environment that was of value to both Mesolithic and Neolithic communities for hunting and farming - the early inhabitants of the High Weald appreciated and exploited the value and resources of the land as we do today.

The project has already very significantly expanded our knowledge of Prehistoric activity in the High Weald. Fieldwalking will continue during the present season, alongside work to assess and categorise all of the finds. A short journal article will be written up for publication summarising preliminary findings and contextualising the site in relation to other known local Mesolithic /Neolithic sites. A 'research agenda' will be developed - a plan to focus future archaeological fieldwork to answer further questions about Prehistoric human activity in the near vicinity. It is hoped that this will explore the significance of the valleys through which the Cockhaise and Cob Brooks flow and will take into account previous work over the last hundred years at sites such as Ardingly, Wakehurst, Chiddinglye and Stone Farm Rocks near East Grinstead. Importantly, a display at East Grinstead Museum and a series of talks are being planned to communicate what has been discovered to a wider audience.

In conclusion we would wish to express our heartfelt support to the organisations that have

offered such staunch support, the owners of the farm on whose land the fieldwork was conducted, East Grinstead Museum our museum partner and the Council for British Archaeology (SE) who offered the project a generous grant which enabled the project to be properly established and resourced.

Above all, this archaeology project focuses on local people - the hunter/gatherers who were among the first to exploit the rich resources and wildlife of the High Weald and the wonderful team of community volunteers who came together to explore and discover more about this unique landscape through a range of archaeological techniques. The team comprised volunteers from age 16 to 80+; most had never dug before. They worked incredibly hard and without complaint, despite the warm weather. Without them and without the generosity of Mark Roberts, the renowned Sussex archaeologist who excavated Britain's earliest human fossils at Boxgrove and who volunteered his professional expertise pro bono, this project would never have 'got off the ground'.

*"I am full of admiration for your own fieldwalking project and this current project; it is so good to see a Mesolithic excavation in the High Weald. Wishing you and the project well and hoping that there will be more to follow and build on this very good start"*

***John Mills, Former County Archaeologist, West Sussex***

## Recent research updates on sites in the South-East

### **Rural Baths in Roman Britain**

By Dr Giacomo Savani (University of Leeds)

Baths were essential facilities in antiquity and were common in cities, small towns, military outposts, and villas. People with very different cultural and social backgrounds shared a love for bathing, as demonstrated by epigraphic and literary sources from all over the Roman world. One of my favourites is a funeral inscription from Rome dating to the 1st century AD, where we read that baths, together with wine and sex, ruin our bodies, but, at the same time, are the pleasures that *vitam faciunt* - 'make life worth living'.

Indeed, in a well-known passage, the great historian Tacitus (Agr. 21, 2) lists the baths among the 'delenimenta vitiorum' - the Roman 'lures of vices' - that tamed the wild spirit of the Britons after the invasion of AD 43. While we must acknowledge the strong moralist and rhetorical tone of Tacitus's account, this passage undoubtedly attests to the perceived importance of baths in the process of cultural change promoted by Rome in a newly conquered province.

The earliest baths experienced by the local population in Britain were those associated with military bases. Still, soon enough, these facilities became relatively common in the countryside, too, where villa owners started to invest in such amenities from the mid-first century onwards. Moreover, all the major towns in the country boasted a public bathhouse, usually supplied by an aqueduct. Impressive examples occur in London, Wroxeter, and Leicester.

Thus, in Roman Britain, bathing soon became an essential component of people's daily routine, especially in urban contexts. The process of bathing required a considerable amount of time to complete, so it's not surprising that a trip to the baths was also an important social event. People met their friends and carried out business there. By frequently being seen at the baths, they also wanted to appear well-groomed, healthy, and socially knowledgeable.

My recent monograph, *Rural Baths in Roman Britain: A Colonisation of the Senses* (Routledge 2025), and its associated open-access resource (downloadable from the book website), *The Gazetteer of Rural Baths* [excellent coverage for Kent, Surrey and Sussex - David Rudling], explore the key role of baths in connecting diverse rural communities in Roman Britain, questioning the current understanding of these buildings' function and socio-cultural significance. The classification of rural baths as 'appendixes' of villas has often led both antiquarians and modern scholars to overlook their importance, particularly in provincial contexts. Using South-East and South-West England as case studies, I offer a fresh perspective on the relationship between rural baths and the development of identities in the countryside, where most of the population lived.

Wingham, Kent. Mosaic in the bath building.

Considering the sensory richness of Roman baths, in the book I employ the theoretical framework of sensory archaeology developed by Yannis Hamilakis, who suggests that the senses are deeply connected with memory, feelings, and the materiality of places. Indeed, baths were immersive spaces that provided bathers with a profoundly sensory experience. Upon arrival, the lavish décor of painted walls and mosaics would catch the eye while the body swiftly reacted to temperature variations. Bathers would experience the tactile sensation of humidity, the scent of aromatic oils, and the gentle bubbling of the water that accompanied conversations and the consumption of delicacies.

Bignor Baths, Sussex. Painted plaster and Stucco from the south range baths.

Through the lens of the senses, I address themes of receptivity, social acceptance, and cultural interaction, moving beyond conventional views that portray villa baths as exclusive to

the elite. My hypothesis is that landowners with strong ties to local communities sought to bolster their leadership by making their baths accessible to the people living in the surroundings of their villas. I also suggest that some of these facilities might have been used in ways that we would not expect, perhaps during religious festivals.

The senses and the powerful subconscious responses they triggered were pivotal in the acceptance and enjoyment of these novel physical and social experiences and in establishing bridgeheads for the cultural values embodied by the baths. Yet, this 'colonisation of the senses' was not a one-way process, as baths might have been repurposed to host religious activities and, therefore, transformed into unprecedented hybrid sensory spaces.

### **Book discount offer for CBA South-East members and online talk details**

Dr Savani, who will be giving an online lecture as part of the Sussex Archaeology and History winter series, has arranged for CBA SE members to order copies of his book *Rural Baths in Roman Britain A colonisation of the senses* at a discounted price (£116 - reduced from RRP of £145) by using the Discount Code 25AFLY3 (see page 32).

To register for Dr Savani's free online talk at 7.30pm on 21st January 2026 please go to:

**<https://tixoom.app/sussexarchaeology/ra22utfp>**

## **Obituaries**

### **JUDY ENGLISH 1947 – 2025**

By Rose Hooker and David Field

We wish to pay tribute to our friend and colleague Dr Judie English, a prominent and active member of the Society, whom we are sad to report died on 9 May in the Royal Surrey Hospital, Guildford and who was buried at a private event on 10 June in the Woodland Burial Ground, Shamley Green, Surrey.

Judie had been dealing with lymphoma for a number of years which, though well controlled, left her with-out a viable immune system which led to her death from kidney failure and pneumonia. Her contribution to the archaeology of Surrey over a period of some 40 years was consistent and enormous, and the void left by her absence will be extremely difficult to fill.

Like many who entered archaeology before the creation of professional archaeological units, Judie responded to the need for rescue archaeology and took up the trowel. Thus, early interest was of necessity channelled through excavation, at that time organised and carried

out by local societies and museums, and she became involved in the process of keeping an eye on planning applications, conducting watching briefs and rescue excavation, principally in the Mole Valley and Waverley areas.

Judie was born in Bournemouth and developed her interest and skills in archaeology by volunteering in Wessex with projects led by the late Professor Geoffrey Wainwright. In the early 1970s she moved to Redhill and later to Cranleigh, where she became interested in its local history and, in 1976, joined the Surrey Archaeological Society. Immediately she engaged with the subject and the following year joined the Society's Guildford Group and began to not only to contribute to its newsletter, but also to its research work, collaborating with Helen Davies on fieldwalking around the Royal Surrey and Science Park sites amongst other projects. At that time Judie was primarily interested in the medieval period and she collaborated extensively with the late Dennis Turner on manorial and other projects. Some of these entertained an interest in the history and archaeology of the Weald which, in turn, led to fieldwork in adjacent counties, and she became an enthusiastic supporter of the Wealden Iron Research Group. In particular she was working on the site of Pollingfold moated site, turning up evidence for ironworking amongst other things; then she excavated the moat at Cranleigh Rectory in 1985.

Judie was primarily a scientist and worked in the University of Surrey Biomedical Research Department for some 30 years on a 'rolling' contract, focusing on sleep patterns, and she has an impressive publication record in this field. During the 1990s her academic skills were used during the short-lived continuing education programme of the university by teaching courses for the Archaeology and Environment part-time degree.

As a long-term active member of Surrey Archaeological Society, she soon became a member of Council and chaired the Archaeological Research Committee between 1995 and 1999, eventually becoming Vice-President, and then a Trustee in 2024.

During this time, she supported a number of initiatives and groups, such as the Surrey Settlements Project, the Surrey Historic Landscape Project, the Prehistoric Group and, in her final years, the Medieval Pottery Studies Group. During the late 1990s Judie was involved in the training excavation at Cocks Farm Abinger which has since expanded and revealed a multi-period landscape.

In 2008 Judie joined the Council for British Archaeology South-East Committee and served as Newsletter Editor until 2020. Meanwhile her archaeological interests had widened and she began to look beyond the trench to provide archaeological context over broader areas. She worked with English Heritage on earthwork analysis of a landscape palimpsest at Beckhampton, near Avebury, that incorporated the juxtaposition of 'Celtic' fields with a round barrow cemetery, and this led to a fascination with ancient fields and other landscape features that captured her interest during more recent decades. As retirement beckoned it also led to her doctorate, carried out at the University of Sussex with the late Peter Drewett and David Rudling. Her thesis was published in 2013 as *Pattern and Progress: Field Systems of the Second and Early First Millennium BC in Southern Britain* (British Archaeological Reports British Series no 587).

Subsequently, there was an explosion of projects investigating and analytically surveying monuments and blocks of topography that involved a knowledge of landscape change over millennia, from barrows to military trenches. Surveys covered the Mole Valley gap, the hillforts of the Greensand Ridge, the Ash Ranges, Reigate Heath barrows, Chaldon field systems, Dry Hill fort and Caterham Old Park. Judie's last major project was a survey of the cross-ridge dykes on the South Downs undertaken with the assistance of the late David Lea and Dick Tapper, with the results published in the *Sussex Archaeological Collections*. She was a Member of the Council of the Prehistoric Society between 2014 to 2016 and regularly attended activities of that organisation, then in 2018 she was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in recognition of her valuable work in the field of archaeology.

A regular contributor to the *SyAS Bulletin*, her first paper published in the *Collections* was in 1992 on the earthworks of Hammer Meadow, Abinger Hammer. Over the next 33 years Judie's contributions to the *Surrey Collections*, *Bulletin /Surrey's Past* and *Surrey History*, as well as the *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, *Landscape History* and *The Medieval Settlement Research Group Annual Report*, provide a remarkable publication history. Judie's final published piece of work to date, beyond the two items which appear posthumously in the 500th edition of *Surrey's Past*, is on Medieval pottery from the western Low Weald.

Judie was a great communicator and lectured across the South East on a large number of topics from cave art, placename studies and the influence of the Middle Eastern world on Northern Europe. It is for this that she is remembered by so many and for her encouragement and support when inspired by her enthusiasm. Judie will be much missed by all who came to know her.



## **JOHN DAVID FUNNELL 1946-2025**

By David Rudling

On Wednesday 6th August 2025, CBA South-East member John Funnell died peacefully at his home at Brighton following a period of ill health caused by a tumour on the brain.

John was born and grew up in Brighton. After leaving school John worked in engineering at Hatchards on the Old Shoreham Road and then at Brighton Sheet Metal Works in Lower Bevendean where he was employed for 44 years before being made redundant at the age of 63. His last job was at Patridge House, also in Bevendean, working with people with dementia, a job that he really loved and only left because of arthritis in one of his knees. John married Irene in 1966 and they had two children, and three grandchildren, one of whom, Kiera, often went digging with her grandfather when on visits to Brighton.

Outside work and family life, John was, from the mid-1980s, a very active field archaeologist in Sussex. I think that his first digging experience was undertaking volunteer work for me at the Northbrook College Roman villa site at West Durrington in 1987. He may well by then have been attending one of my Liberal Adult Education archaeology evening classes at Brighton College of Technology, and he was certainly studying for an 'O' Level in Archaeology with me there in 1987/8. Subsequently John continued to help with volunteer work on various Sussex Archaeological Field Unit (SAFU - now known as Archaeology South-East) projects including those at Botolphs, Chanctonbury Ring, Highdown Hill, Crawley Pound Hill, Lewes Friary, Beddingham Roman villa and various sites (Red Hill, Eastwick Barn, Mile Oak and Downsview) as part of the A27 Brighton Bypass. During the Bypass Project John directed other volunteers from the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society (BHAS) to undertake some additional investigations at the Downsview Bronze Age site, thus helping to increase our knowledge about this important prehistoric settlement.

Having successfully passed the 'O' level in Archaeology, John and some of the other students (who included David Yates, David Dunkin, Barabara McNee and Jane Russell, all of whom went on to have professional careers in archaeology, with three getting PhDs) wanted to learn and achieve more, and in 1990 they sat 'A' level archaeology and did very well in the exams and then wanted to progress even further with their archaeology studies. So, I asked Birkbeck College in London if we could teach their three-year, part-time Higher Education level Certificate in Archaeology at Brighton College of Technology. The answer was yes, and again the class of older part-time learners, including John, proved successful. The Certificate was important because it involved practical work, theory, and the main British archaeology cultural periods. Next on the list was Birkbeck's Diploma in Archaeology!

Subsequently, John successfully applied in 2000 to become an accredited member (Practitioner) of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, the professional organisation for archaeologists working in the UK and overseas. The application process involved John having to satisfactorily demonstrate sufficient archaeological experience and competence, and to undertake to abide by the Institute's code of conduct. Whilst many professional commercial field archaeologists individually, and most archaeological contracting companies, in the UK became accredited members or organisations of the IFA (now the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists), John was, as an amateur archaeologist, rather unusual, but this reflects very commendably on the significance John put on standards within archaeology. Unfortunately, membership today amongst amateurs and full-time 'academics' remains very low.

From 1985 onwards John was an active member of BHAS and during the last 40 years he served as its Archaeological Co-ordinator. In addition to undertaking fieldwork (fieldwalking,

survey, watching-briefs, excavations, finds processing and report writing) this role included the checking of planning applications to see if proposed developments might affect archaeological sites, both known ones and those with possible potential remains. He also produced the annual BHAS Archaeological Field Notebooks, copies of which went to the County Archaeologist and to the Public Record Office, which provide a record of the projects undertaken by the Society's Field Unit. John was also involved in many other BHAS activities including being a member of both the Events Committee (lectures, day schools, walks, visits, etc) and the Outreach Team, and he produced and distributed the popular weekly BHAS Email 'Update'. He was also twice elected as the Society's President & Chairman (1994-1996; 2004-2006). His many years of service to BHAS was recognised by John being awarded Honorary Membership.

During the 1990s the BHAS Field Unit returned to carry out further excavations at Rocky Clump in Stanmer Park. This is a site where BHAS had excavated during the period 1951-1981, and John was much involved in the new investigations, initially within the Clump, then to the north of it, and later to the south where excavations continued this year. At various stages John was the site Director, at others he assisted others. In more recent years John had some mobility issues regarding his knees and hips, but bravely he soldiered on and did what he could. At all times he was a constant source of inspiration and encouragement to fellow diggers and was especially welcoming to those new to archaeology and fieldwork. His wife Irene's excellent cakes were also much appreciated!

In addition to producing the annual BHAS Archaeology Field Notebooks, John published various reports in the refereed *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, and a listing of these is attached. One of these publications is a pulling together/write up of excavations undertaken by BHAS under the direction of Alec Barr-Hamilton (1947-1982) between the late 1950s and early 1980s. As far as I know these excavations were never visited by John, so a remarkable achievement. Similarly, just before John became seriously ill, he was working on the post-excavation aspects of another unpublished excavation project, this time one at Ringmer. Such efforts again demonstrate the importance John put on the full recording of archaeological discoveries.

John's wider involvement in Sussex archaeology included working as a volunteer for the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit (see above) and his regular attendances at the Sussex Archaeology Forum (he was its chairman from 1996 to 1999). He was also a member of the Lewes Archaeological Group, the Worthing Archaeological Society and the Sussex Archaeological Society. In 2011 John was chosen as the Sussex Heritage Person of the Year.

John was also a founding member and a trustee of the Council for British Archaeology South-East, and was its Treasurer from 1994-2016, and Grants Officer from 2016-2025. Pre-covid times and the switch from in-person to online committee meetings, some of which were held at Redhill, Maidstone or Tonbridge, John and I as CBA South-East Sussex representatives would often car-share. Such otherwise boring journeys became however an enjoyable opportunity for John and I to catch-up on each other's news and to put the world to rights.

John was a very friendly, kind, amusing and helpful individual, a hands-on organiser, a true gentleman and a dedicated and able archaeologist. He made people who were new to archaeology very welcome, and his enthusiasm for the subject was infectious. John was without doubt one of the nicest people I have known, and it was a privilege to have been one of his friends. He will be much missed.



#### **A Listing of John Funnell's Sussex Archaeological Collections (SAC) Publications**

1992 (with Chris Butler) 'Further Fieldwalking at Novington Manor, Plumpton, East Sussex', SAC 130, pages 13-21.

1999. 'A Neolithic polished flint axe fragment from Hollingbury', SAC 137, p. 175.

2002. 'Fieldwalking at Varley Halls and Marque Brow, Stanmer, Brighton', SAC 140, pgs 144-8.

2008. 'An Early Bronze Age burial and Iron Age ditch at East Brighton Golf Club', SAC 146, pgs 199-202.

2022. 'Roman nail-cleaner from Lancing Ring, West Sussex', SAC 140, p. 150.

2009. 'A medieval moated site at Stretham, near Henfield, West Sussex', SAC 147, pgs 77-95.

2012. 'Palaeolithic hand axe found near Barcombe, East Sussex', SAC 150, p. 208.

2016. 'The excavation of two linear earthworks in Pudding Bag Wood and Stanmer Great Wood, Brighton', SAC 154, pgs 89-101.

2017. 'Excavations on a medieval farmstead at Patching Field, Stanmer, near Brighton', SAC 155, pgs 200-203.

## **PETER YOUNGS 1930-2025**

By David Calow

This obituary first appeared in *Surrey's Past*.

Peter Youngs was born in 1930 in Spooner Row, a small village near Thetford in Norfolk. In our Society he was known as a kind, hard-working, determined man with strong principles, but there was much we did not know. His father, Eric, worked on the railways in Norfolk and was also a Primitive Methodist lay preacher. His mother, who performed in choirs in Sheffield, moved to Norfolk when they married. Primitive Methodists and United Methodists merged to form the Methodist Church of Great Britain in 1932, and in later life Peter could say he was one of the last people baptised as a Primitive Methodist in Britain. Peter did well and won a scholarship to Thetford Grammar School, taking advantage of Spooner Row railway station to travel by train through the war years. He was offered an exhibition to Cambridge but the family did not have enough money for him to take his place. Peter completed his National Service in Libya where his passion for archaeology developed.

Despite an interest in Methodism he chose not to go into the ministry but instead joined the Civil Service. He worked for many years at Farnborough before moving to the Civil Aviation Authority and finally to the British Museum, where he became Deputy Director responsible for Buildings, Maintenance and Security, a responsibility that took him into every part of the museum above and below ground. Peter married Marjorie, whom he met through a Methodist group, and they moved to Guildford where they brought up their two children. As a family they always had a keen interest in history and travel. Retirement gave Peter the opportunity to complete the education he had missed, and he studied for his GCSE and A-levels and, eventually, a BA in History and Archaeology at Birkbeck.

Peter joined Surrey Archaeological Society in December 1990 after attending a lunchtime lecture on Rapsley Roman Villa at the Guildford Institute given by Rosamond Hanworth, the Society's President at the time, and became steadily more involved, particularly after his wife died in 1996. He was elected member of the Council 1998-2001 and 2002-2004, Honorary Secretary 2004-2007 and Vice-President 2007-2019.

A great friend of the Library, Events, Roman Studies and Historic Buildings Committees, he was a constant strength behind the Guildford Group, a regular member of the Surrey Museums Partnership and a Director of the Reigate Roman Kiln Trust. A long-time supporter of CBA South-East, Peter was committee member from 1998-2016 and chair from 2002-2006. Although we in the Society knew he was a member of the Woodbridge Road Methodist Church in Guildford, we perhaps did not appreciate the depth of his interest in theology and his conviction that his beliefs must be turned into action. Peter was a strong supporter of the Samaritans and Save the Children, travelling several times to Uganda where he helped build a village school. Back in Guildford, he was heavily involved in the merger of his church with St Mary's in the centre of Guildford. This included the archaeology of the St Mary's site as it was being renovated for the use of both churches. He was an active member of the team that set up the Vigil for Peace which is held in the church each Friday from 9pm to 11pm for people in the town centre to visit.

Peter was a remarkable man and his family and many friends held a memorial service in St Mary's Church on 8 May to give their thanks for his life.

Peter Eric Youngs was born on 21 June 1930 and died on 9 April 2025, aged 94.



## Council for British Archaeology South-East

CBA South-East 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.

The CBA South-East committee has two vacancies that we wish to fill at our next Annual General Meeting, scheduled for the spring of 2026. The posts are for a Grants Officer and an Events co-ordinator. If you would like to know more or wish to discuss the roles further, please contact us at [trustees@cbasouth-east.org](mailto:trustees@cbasouth-east.org).

### Committee members 2025/26

Chair: Steve Cleverly; Vice-Chair/Social Media Officer: Andrew Ward; Grants: To be confirmed; Treasurer: Steve Cleverly; Secretary: Elizabeth Blanning; Membership Secretary: Shiela Broomfield; Webmaster: Phil Stanley; Newsletter: Ann Russell and Ann Isenberg; E-letter: Rose Hooker; Other trustees: Anne Sassin and David Rudling

Enquiries and Membership: Shiela Broomfield, 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD, tel: 01732 838698, [s.b.broomfield@outlook.com](mailto:s.b.broomfield@outlook.com)

### Contributions for the Newsletter and E-letter

If you have news that you think might be of interest to people in the South-eastern region, please contact us at [newslettereditor@cbasouth-east.org](mailto:newslettereditor@cbasouth-east.org). Articles and notes on all aspects of fieldwork and research on the history and archaeology of the region are very welcome. Contributors are encouraged to discuss their ideas with the editor beforehand, including on the proper format of submitted material (please do supply digital copy when possible) and deadline extensions. The newsletter is issued twice a year, with the next one intended for Spring 2026. Further details of submission dates will be published early next year.

Events, lectures, workshops, conferences, and fieldwork opportunities should be sent to Rose Hooker ([rosemary.hooker@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rosemary.hooker@blueyonder.co.uk)), our e-letter editor. The e-letter is emailed to all our members and partnership organisations and is circulated six times a year.

Any comments or articles will represent the views of the author/authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Trustees,

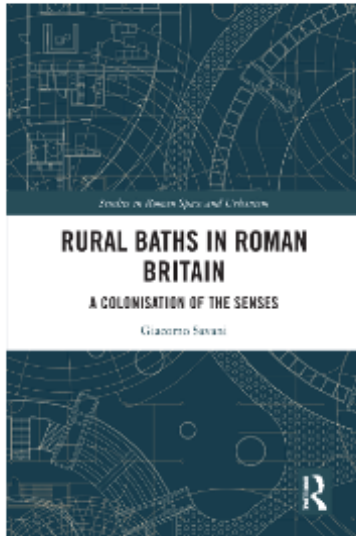
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## CBA South-East Grants

The CBA South-East have been awarding grants since 1998 and have issued to date over 80 grants to groups throughout Kent, Surrey and Sussex. The awards have been for a variety of projects, but with great emphasis in supporting public involvement in archaeology. A large number of projects have been given support during the excavation process, and a number of grants have been for post excavation specialist reports. Some funding has been towards the publication of historical, but important unpublished reports, while teacher training with regard to archaeology has also been the subject of grant allocation. A number of YAC groups have received help for visits to sites, museums, and event days. CBA South-East grants are considered at meetings in April and October, although urgent funding can be reviewed at other times during the year. Every application is considered and application forms and terms and conditions can be obtained from the CBA South-East Grants Secretary.

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Giacomo Savani

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For more details on the below trip please go to the Sussex Archaeology website: [sussexarchaeology.org](http://sussexarchaeology.org)

## Crete: Minoan Palaces and Beyond

10<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026 (9 nights)

Sussex Archaeology and History invites you to join us  
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Crete, the largest of the Greek islands is best known as the home of King Minos and the Minotaur in Greek mythology and for the Minoan civilisation first brought to light by excavations in the early 20th century. However, the history of Crete is very rich and varied and we intend to explore sites that represent not only the Minoans,

but also the Romans, Venetians, Ottomans and more modern periods. This is a unique trip combining archaeological, historical, cultural and gastronomic adventures. Please note that the trip will include some sites with relatively steep slopes and narrow paths, although most of the walking will be on flat terrain or in towns.

We will be based in Heraklion, Aghios Nikolaos and Sitia and the provisional itinerary will include, but is not limited to, the following (*all of which are subject to opening restrictions*)

- Palace of Knossos (including a tour of the British School at Athens Research Centre)
- Walking tour of Heraklion town, visit to a local winery for a tour and tasting
- Minoan sites of Malia, Nirou Khani, Galatas, Gournia, Vassiliki, Palaikastro, Kato Zakros
- Museums of Archanes, Aghios Nikolaos, Heraklion, Ierapetra and Sitia
- The Byzantine-Venetian church of Panayia Kera; Hellenistic city of Lato; Spinalonga; the Toplou Monastery and the harbour city of Itanos

We are very privileged to have Dr Don Evely as our expert guide. Dr Evely is a former British School at Athens Knossos Curator and an expert on Minoan archaeology. During the coach transfers he will share his knowledge and insights on the places, topography and landscape to be visited. The tour manager is Sarah Green, who now lives for part of each year on Crete, is a member of Council of the British School of Athens and has a long-term interest in Cretan and Greek archaeology.

The provisional cost of the tour is £3,900 per couple in a double room, and £2,300 per person in a single room

The cost covers all accommodation (on a bed & breakfast basis), daily picnic or taverna lunch, evening meals with wine in tavernas, coach transport, site entrance fees, boat fares (subject to weather), a daily supply of bottled water and gratuities. **Flights and transfers are not included and those joining the trip are responsible for their own travel insurance.**

There are a maximum of 24 places available, which will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, and confirmed upon payment of an initial deposit of £250 per person.