

THE EASTBOURNE NATURAL HISTORY &  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Founded 1867

**NEWSLETTER**

No 77

December 2013



**This is Beachy Head Woman!**  
To find out more read the meeting  
report on Hayley Forsyth's talk.

**THE EASTBOURNE NATURAL HISTORY  
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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**A Message from the Editor**

If you missed any of our excellent speakers catch up by reading the Newsletter reports. Our Christmas meeting and Spring programme look to be equally as exciting with talks and a walk planned too, details in the next Newsletter. If you have any ideas for speakers, workshops, walks or just want to express an opinion do get in touch. I am always pleased to hear from you and love to receive articles for the Newsletter. For the March issue please email (or send a clear printed copy) to me by Monday 24th February.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, Helen Warren, Editor

Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeological Society is on Facebook. Find us on:  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Eastbourne-Natural-History-and-Archaeological-Society](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Eastbourne-Natural-History-and-Archaeological-Society)

We are also planning to have a website so watch this space!

## ***Our Christmas Meeting on 13 December***

Four ENHAS members will give short talks

### **Chris Snook                      Archaeology and Antiquarian Books**

Chris is co-proprietor of Archaeology Plus that specialises in secondhand and new books on archaeology, history, antiquarian and related subjects. He will give us an insight into how he acquires books and offers them for sale.

### **Sabrina Harcourt-Smith                      Folkington Church**

Sabrina is a long time resident of Wilmington and has made a study of the Grade I listed Parish Church of St Peters Folkington. She will share her knowledge and love of the Church with us.

### **Steve Sims                      Least Squares Fit**

Least squares fit is a method of plotting a number of pre-determined points so that their relationship can be interpreted. During excavation each artefact is individually recorded in it's exact position. This programme allows them to be plotted.

### **Roy Douglas                      An Historical Picture Book of Eastbourne**

Roy is in he process of producing this new publication and will share his objectives and findings with us.

**All this together with a  
Book Sale, Mince Pies –Tea/Coffee  
and a Raffle!**

## Recent Archaeological Discoveries around Hastings.

A talk by Lynn & Kevin Cornwell.

13 September 2013

In the new meetings' venue at St Saviour's Church Hall, with plush upholstered seats for all, (real luxury), 27 members and guests gathered to hear Lynn tell us of HAARG's (Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group), recent fieldwork in the Hastings area. The area ranged from Ninfield to Winchelsea, including Robertsbridge, Westfield, Bodiam, Herstmonceux, Seddlescombe, and the new Hastings link road. HAARG have certainly not been idle! Kevin managed the technology by projecting images and joining in as necessary. Lynn began by telling us that, generally speaking, these days farmland in the Hastings area is largely put to grass, consequently field-walking is ruled out as there is no turned soil, so Lynn & Kevin, and HAARG have concentrated on geophysical surveys, Resistivity and Magnetometry, to indicate what may be present beneath the surface, followed by exploratory digs where appropriate. Lynn praised the book on the subject written John Gater, of *Time Team* fame, as very useful for advice and instruction as to how best use the equipment.

The first site looked at was **Castle Croft, in Ninfield**, just off the Bexhill to Herstmonceux road, where there is an imposing earthwork of at least 4000 square metres, with associated ditches, which was investigated by a Worthing group together with HAARG. Roman building waste in the form of Classis Britannia (CLBR) stamped tiles and combed box flues has been found, and also parts from a medieval horse harness. The Croft itself, a raised platform, is domed, and built up, with a second ridge of equal height, also built up, alongside it. These ridges are at the edge of dry land on the natural water line, at the tidal point of the river running around them, and the two ridges look suspiciously like the two arms of a harbour, an idea reinforced by 3D modelling. The underlying geology of the adjoining fields is clay and sandstone, which is not so good for magnetometry, but a resistivity survey revealed a host of rectilinear

features, with intense areas of burning and associated slag. The CLBR tiles, the possible harbour, or at least a docking bay, together with the areas of burning & slag suggest a possible link to an official Roman military managed site for the extraction and export of iron from the Weald. Future work hopes to further prove this.

A new drainage ditch had been cut at **Kitchenham Farm**, and Roman glass, roof tiles and a complete Romano-British cooking pot had been found in the spoil heaps. This pot was of rather crude East Sussex ware made during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, and was used for cooking. The land had been traversed by the Hazards Green to Darwell pipeline in 2004, and a report of the time listed a cremation pit, a possible bread oven and a boundary ditch that had been found. Mag results revealed hundreds of artefacts from the ditch spoil, a curving feature, linear features, pits, iron working slag and more pits with intense burning. The proposed "oven" in upper East field has now been re-interpreted at a collapsed bloomery furnace. These furnaces were apparently built up using clay in the form of a short chimney, dried out, and filled with ironstone, charcoal and lime, then heated to approx. 1000 degrees centigrade or more to melt the iron out of the ironstone. Iron Age Britons would then allow the furnace to cool, then break it open to retrieve the "bloom" of iron, but the Romans had evolved ways to tap out the molten iron with associated slag, and recharge the furnace whilst it was still hot to produce the iron much more efficiently. A post hole which post-dated the furnace was found within the furnace circumference, proving the site's use over several periods.

Finds included a child's leather shoe found between the furnace and the post, Roman roofing and floor tiles, (some stamped CLBR), with amphora handles packed around the post backfill, black burnished dog-bowl ware, and lots of mill stone, all in a ditch fill, with a capping layer of iron working slag. There were also lots of artefacts among the slag including a lady's sandal with worn heel and toe, a thong integral to the structure of the sandal, all made from a single piece of leather, and other sandals. Also in the slag were tree timbers, stakes, and planks. A real archaeologist's Christmas! Many

of the timbers were very water-worn, with one that seemed large enough for dendrochronology dating, but that proved to not be possible. However samples were sent for Carbon 14 dating, returning a 190 AD date. The Classis Britannica were active from 130-230 AD, so it looks like a military riverside settlement with ditches, revetments, and a possible toilet. Most interesting finds were a bronze handle for a surgeon's scalpel, though the iron blade is missing, It is of a "Jackson" type, similar to examples from Pompeii, and a softwood fine toothed comb. The mag results proved to be very sensitive, detecting a largely ploughed-out, 5 cm deep ditch, with the bases of pots within it whose pot bodies had apparently been destroyed by the ploughing.

The sandals and comb were sent to the UCL, where a student led project conserved them, which was free of charge to HAARG. The artefacts were freeze-dried, which caused them to shrink somewhat, but all were well conserved and presented to the meeting for close inspection after the talk. The leather particularly proved to be of very sophisticated construction, and quite high status, with thongs, wood inserts, copper nails, and hob-nails still in place in some examples.

HAARG had been asked to survey **Rookery Field**, within the planned area of medieval **Winchelsea**, and revealed a cellar, building platforms, a track-way and road extensions not apparent to the naked eye. Also, at **Pinwell House, Westfield**, HAARG had been asked to find a suspected Roman road. The road was nowhere to be found, but the survey revealed a medieval cottage by the side of the present road. This structure was in the written historical record, but the precise location had been lost. HAARG were pleased to have been able to re-locate it.

The owner of **Robertsbridge Abbey**, a listed building, refused to pay for a full English heritage survey prior to proposed alterations, so HAARG were called in to see if there were any hidden features in the way of the proposed new work. There were some up-standing wall remains, but the very clear survey revealed the ground-plan of the Abbot's guest hall, with vaulted cellar, the complete floor plan of the

Abbey church, previously only known from parch marks, some walls and a gatehouse outside the scheduled area not known before, together with evidence of strip-ploughing. They were pleased to recommend that the scheduled area be extended to include them to ensure the new discoveries' survival for future study.

At All Saints, **Herstmonceux**, the parish wished to see if there was any space within their graveyard for more burials. HAARG were pleased to identify tombs and graves unknown before, to assist planning for their future use of the graveyard.

Oxford Archaeology have been awarded the contract to run the survey prior to building the **Hastings link Road**, and are making full use of HAARG's volunteers. To scotch any speculation, there is no Norman boat, nor pre-battle Norman camp, nor hint of a battle at Crowhurst, but masses of other finds. There are lots of health and safety issues with the very large site and associated use of large machinery, but it is obvious that there is evidence of a large industrial site associated with iron working, some nice Iron Age pottery, a host of linear and rectangular features, and pits. There is a massive charcoal and slag bank running into the valley, with a series of bloomeries, at least seven, along its edge. This has been surveyed, but Lynn was not allowed to show any results. Suffice it to say that it is of national significance, and the expert Jeremy Hodgkinson is coming to see it.

Most unexpectedly, around the edge of the edge of an ancient marsh there have been found masses of Mesolithic flint scatters, plus some burnt mounds, proving the sites popularity and use from deep history. Many of the flint scatters are circular and could indicate a single knapping episode. When we visited the site with HAARG a couple of weeks ago the archaeologist in charge said that they were going to try to re-assemble the chippings and flakes as had been done at Boxgrove, to see what type of cores were being prepared. No flint is native to the site, someone took the trouble to go and fetch the raw material from a distance of many miles. It seems that the site may have been semi industrial, preparing cores to be passed

or traded on. It is projected that at least 100,000 individual pieces of flint will be recovered! All finds on the extensive site are GPS registered and mapped. We were told that the report is unlikely to be ready for at least five years.

Casper Johnson, the County Archaeologist, had a brief to survey **Doke's Field at Bodiam** to ascertain the route of the Beauport to Rochester Roman road. There is a known CLBR site near to the river, but Lynn told us that it is at least 2 metres below present ground surface, so HAARG were not interested in that, but rather in the route of the Roman road. This had been identified by Margave in the past, but the surveys revealed a bi-linear feature running approximately North to South in a completely different place, nor was it straight, but followed the natural contours of the land. In 1902 cremation burials had been found, probably in the road ditches. These were dated to 150 AD, and were probably associated with the Iron Industry going down to the known CLBR port on the river.

At Footlands Farm, Seddlecombe, just off the A21, Romano-British iron workings had first been identified in 1924 from the slag bank, and worked on by several groups between 1925 and 2012, HAARG were asked to survey for the Roman road, and traced it for over a mile through several fields. It was a similar bi-linear feature as had been found at Bodiam with many hot-spots of slag, burning, and dense rectilinear features intermittently along its length. The route bisected earlier field systems and tracks with a possible round house near Hancox, a 14<sup>th</sup> century house, and finds included yet more Mesolithic flints.

From the evidence presented, the whole Hastings area is a crowded, multi-period landscape with continuous occupation and periods of intense industrial activity, which HAARG are actively helping to reveal.

Following questions, Lynn was thanked profusely for the extraordinarily rich and interesting story of HAARG's involvement.

John Warren

## **The Sussex School of Archaeology has launched its 2014 programme.**

The first course is on Saturday 4 JANUARY 2014 covering  
Prehistoric pottery with Barbara McNee.

VENUE: The Bridge Community Centre, Brighton Fee: £40

If you book this course together with the other three pottery  
dayschools we are offering on Roman, Saxon/Medieval and Post  
Medieval pottery, there is a discount on the total cost, which will  
be £150 instead of £160.

There are still places left on this course, so please book soon  
For further information and to book a place go to the website at

[www.sussexarchaeology.org](http://www.sussexarchaeology.org)

## **The Friston/Folkington water pipeline excavations**

Our November meeting with Tim Allen    Report by John Warren

In the absence of the chairman, John Warren introduced Tim Allen, who had come to tell us all of the discoveries made prior to digging in a new water pipeline. This comprised a 10 meter wide strip of land over several kilometres between Friston and Folkington.

Tim began by explaining that South East Water have a legal obligation to provide water to an ever expanding population, and following several very dry winters during which reservoirs had become seriously depleted, a new pipeline was proposed to run from Friston borehole, in order to be able to fill them again as needed, instead of relying on current rainfall. The route was known to be through archaeologically sensitive areas, and rather than repeat the depredations of the 1960s, when during the building of one of the reservoirs at Crane Down, an Anglo Saxon cemetery was found and destroyed, without being excavated properly, the County Archaeologists, Caspar Johnson & Greg Chuter, together with South East Water determined that a "rescue dig", or "Archaeological Mitigation" should be undertaken along the entire length of the proposed pipeline, and employed Tim to lead it. Throughout the talk, sites were illustrated by a wealth of recent photographs.

In his preamble, Tim reviewed trading links across and along the English Channel, together with patterns of settlement and the various "wealth" items that were traded, putting the various ages into context, and explaining the complexities of movement of essential raw materials for fabricating bronze.

The whole area of the South Downs has been occupied since the Mesolithic period, and farmed since Neolithic times, and constantly subject to "Colluvial Creep", the process where gravity gradually flattens out the topography, eroding some features away, and covering others with protective layers at a lower elevation, which on occasion has been very useful.

In the area known as The Gallops an Iron Age settlement was found, comprising lots of holes, post holes, rubbish pits, storage pits, track ways, ditches, and grooves from ploughing. These holes require a lot of deduction and interpretation, investigating the minutiae of evidence, in order to be able to build a feasible picture of life in the past. Theories and interpretations are all very well, but nothing can refute the evidence from the ground, some interpretations can be sound, though none can ever be certain. For instance, the ditches could be field boundaries, be delineating drove ways, or be the limits of a settlement, and the post holes grouped for dwellings, or for other uses. The limitation of the 10 metre wide strip was stressed, insofar as the area to be investigated was strictly limited to that area only, without the possibility of following up interesting or intriguing leads off the edges, but a wealth of information was still uncovered, dating from the Mesolithic through to early modern periods.

A surprising amount of information about late Iron Age Britain can be found in the works of Julius Caesar, who invaded in 55 BC and described the way of life of the inhabitants. The Britons used chariots, as had the Achaean Greeks, their houses were like upside-down baskets, brothers held their wives in common, and all children were deemed to belong to the chieftain. Caesar considered the population to be very dense, with ownership of large herds of cattle. This information is now being reinterpreted alongside known and recent finds, particularly a shallow sub-rectangular pit, dated to the middle Iron Age, approx. 300 BC, whose base was covered with pottery, animal bone, charcoal and shells, basic domestic detritus. These sunken features have sometimes been interpreted as shrines, and the detritus as ritual feasting, but modern interpretations favour domestic dwellings, as excavating a hole is an easy way to get down out of the wind, and requires a less tall structure above ground making it easier to build. Comparisons were made with North American Indian wikipus or tepees, and Anglo Saxon grubenhausen.

Some of the hollow ways, or track ways, were found to be Neolithic, sealed beneath a Bronze Age layer of colluvium, with generally speaking the deeper, being the older. Usually the track ways are 2 meters wide, and up to 1 ½ meters deep. Also these routes of different ages, all followed the same general route over four or five thousand years, a good route being so in whatever age, as it follows ridgeways or lines of easiest travel, with the latest in the sequence being the Old Coach Road.

Some landslips in prehistory had preserved the paleo soil levels, which proved to be very thin. With thin soil the ground would have been easily cleared for cultivation, then cropped until the soil was exhausted, which may have been as short a time as a single season, before moving on to freshly cleared areas. Ground would have been kept clear by grazing animals, who would have refreshed the fertility as a by-product with their dung. The general pattern of settlement was for isolated farms or small groups of buildings which may be nucleated family groups during the early periods, with a much more unsettled period in the later Iron Age, which was the period of the Hill Forts. These may have been a result of population pressures, or a perceived external threat, no-one can know for certain.

The last site looked at contained a multi-phase rectangular medieval structure with beam slots and post holes. Pottery associated with it dated from Anglo Saxon, through Anglo-Norman, with a cut-off date of 1350. Without doubt this reflects the cataclysmic event of the Black Death, when many isolated communities were simply wiped out. It is not generally known that animals could also contract the pestilence, and that it would just need a proportion of the essential working population of a group to die to make the whole settlement non-viable.

Tim stressed that South East Water can no longer be considered an archaeological vandal. There are now stringent conservation rules, which SEW strictly follows. Even the turf and topsoil, which protects the underlying chalk from eroding, is carefully laid to one side on pallets, and re-laid so that the areas excavated can quickly re-establish themselves with the full fauna.

After a period for questions, the vote of thanks was proposed by John Warren, and the 34 Members and visitors assembled to hear a talk expressed their appreciation with fulsome applause.

# Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeological Society

## Society Publications available 2013

### **STENCHAOLL FIELD EASTBOURNE**

An account of the initial identification of Eastbourne's Bronze-Age Gem at Shinewater by Lawrence Stevens £1.00p

### **SHINEWATER EASTBOURNE'S BRONZE AGE GEM**

Reports of a series of lectures given by experts about Eastbourne's Bronze-Age Gem. Compiled by Lawrence Stevens £2.00p

### **EASTBOURNE URBAN MEDIEVAL EXCAVATION PROJECT**

Interim report on the excavation of the Jesus House and Vicarage site - Church Street, Old Town by Lawrence Stevens £1.50p

### **EASTBOURNE URBAN MEDIEVAL PROJECT**

The archaeological potential of the Star Brewery site by L. Stevens £1.50p

### **AN INTERIM ACCOUNT OF THE BOURNE VALLEY EXCAVATION**

An account of the excavation of the Star Brewery site that formed part of the Eastbourne Urban Medieval Project  
by Lawrence Stevens and Michael Allen £3.00p

### **THE EASTBOURNE ROMAN VILLA**

An account with illustrations of the Roman Villa that once occupied a site near the present Eastbourne pier  
by Lawrence Stevens and Richard Gilbert £2.00p

### **EASTBOURNE THE VIGIL AND THE MORROW**

A record of the work of Ratton Evening Centre with a gazetteer of archaeological sites in Eastbourne Borough  
by Lawrence Stevens (out of print)

### **THREE LIME BURNING PITS, CHURCH STREET, EASTBOURNE**

by Lawrence Stevens - Off print from Sussex Archaeological Collections 128 73-87 £1.50p

### **POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT SITE, DECOY STREAM**

Prehistoric and medieval artefacts gathered from a garden suggest a settlement site near the stream by Lawrence Stevens £1.50p

**WATCHING BRIEF REPORT - BULLOCK DOWN FARM**

A report on a watching brief covering the installation of a water pipe across an area of known archaeological interest

by Robin Reffell

75p

**RESCUE EXCAVATION POCOCKS FIELD 1991**

A comprehensive account and analysis of an excavation carried out ahead of extensive roads work to build Cross Levels Way Eastbourne by Lawrence Stevens

£3.00p

**AN EXCAVATION AT POCOCKS FIELD, EASTBOURNE, EAST SUSSEX 2004 -AN INTERIM REPORT**

An interim report on the excavation carried out in September 2004 by Robin Reffell

60p

**AN EXCAVATION AT POCOCKS FIELD, EASTBOURNE, EAST SUSSEX 2005 -AN INTERIM REPORT**

An interim report on the excavation carried out in September 2005 by Robin Reffell

60p

**EXAMINATION OF A WINDMILLSTEAD - WILMINGTON WOOD EASTBOURNE**

by Lawrence and Patricia Stevens

75p

**A NATURAL HISTORY OF EASTBOURNE**

Published by Eastbourne Natural History & Archaeological Society

£1.00p

**FLORA OF THE STAR BREWERY SITE**

by M.A. Ash

50p

**All publications are available from Robin Reffell 01323 648226**

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## Bird Watcher's Diary from Peter Cullen

**September:** A holiday on the Isle of Wight was as follows: on the 18<sup>th</sup> a visit to Newton Harbour saw an Osprey and two Little Egrets, while at Yarmouth records were 82 Blacktailed Godwits, 40 Bartailed Godwits, 11 Ruff, 3 Little Egrets and a grey plover. Next day, Yarmouth had 50 Blacktailed Godwit and 27 Bartailed Godwits. At Arretan Barns 3 Spotted Flycatchers, a Red Kite and a Buzzard were seen. On the 5<sup>th</sup> 3 more Spotted Flycatchers were at Parkhurst Forest, while at Yarmouth there were: 58 Blacktailed Godwits, 15 Bartailed Godwits and 3 Little Egret. A visit to Dungeness on the 10<sup>th</sup> recorded a rare Semi-palmated Sandpiper,

5 Ruff, Spotted Redshank and Black Tern at the Reserve and Ruff, Cetti's Warbler, Little Egret, Sparrowhawk and 3 Marsh Harrier at the ARC. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, a Raven at Chat Vale, a Balearic Shearwater at Splash Point, Seaford and a Buzzard at

Friston Forest. At Dungeness on the 14<sup>th</sup> the Reserve had: 2 Greenshank, 5 Ruff, Bartailed Godwit, 2 Marsh Harrier and a Black Tern. At the ARC were Little Stint, 3 Greenshank, 15 Bartailed Godwits, 3 Little Egret, Ruff and a Peregrine. On the 20<sup>th</sup> at Dungeness a Black Tern was at the point. At the Reserve: 4 Ruff, 2 Bartailed Godwit, 8 Blacktailed Godwit, 2 Greenshank, Curlew Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, 3 Little Egret, Buzzard, 2 Marsh Harrier and 2 Sparrowhawk. At the ARC were Little Stint, Green sandpaper and Common Sandpiper. On the 24<sup>th</sup> at the North Stoke: Red Kite, Sparrowhawk and 7 Buzzards, while at Pulborough Brooks records were: Redstart and Buzzard. At Weirwood Reservoir on the 26<sup>th</sup> Kingfisher, Green Sandpiper, Little Egret, 6 Snipe and 4 Mandarin were noted. A seawatch at Dungeness on 28<sup>th</sup> recorded a Sooty Shearwater. Records at the Reserve were Little Stint, 2 Blacktailed Godwit, 2 Snipe, Marsh Harrier and Little Egret.

**October:** Records at Dungeness on the 10<sup>th</sup> were: Black Kite, Glossy Ibis, 4 Little Egret, 5 Great White Egret, 2 Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Blacktailed Godwit, 3 Snipe, Marsh Harrier and Raven. At Dungeness on the 15<sup>th</sup> records were Brambling, 4 Great White Egret, 4 Snipe, 8 Little Egret and a Black-tailed Godwit all at the Reserve. On the 24<sup>th</sup> the Reserve had Ruff and 2 Great White Egret, while at the ARC there were 3 Redpoll, Glossy Ibis and Little Egret. Next day 4 Swallows were at Beachy Head with 2 Firecrest and a Pallas's Warbler at Belle Tout. On the 29<sup>th</sup> Scotney Pit had 50 Barnacle Geese with 6 Snow Geese, Ruff, and Little Egret at the Reserve and Great White Egret, 3 Greenshank, 3 Common Gull, Marsh Harrier and Cetti's Warbler at the ARC.

**November:** Records were on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 9 Brent Geese, 2 Marsh Harrier and Little Egret.

## Learning from Eastbourne's Excavated Human Bones Hayley Forsyth Report by Mary Ford



Despite the rain – and the counter-attraction of a vital England football match – there was a good turnout of members and guests on October 11 to hear Hayley Forsyth speak about the Eastbourne Ancestors project. This was her first public talk, although you would never have known it from her professional, confident presentation.

Hayley, who has a masters in osteo-archaeology and a degree in archaeology, is the co-ordinator for the project, which was funded by the Lottery Heritage Fund, plus a contribution from Eastbourne Borough Council. The aim of the project was to analyse a selection of the 300 or so human skeletons in the Heritage Services collection. These remains came from various sites in the town: the Eastbourne College of Art and Technology site (dug by ENHAS in 1991 and Archaeology South-East [ASE] in 1997/1998), Saxon Close (Ocklynge Hill), Hurst Road, Willingdon Road, the Dental Estimates Board and Beachy Head amongst others.

The first task was to clean the bones and for over a year volunteers have been carrying out this task. Before soil can be removed from skeletal remains it needs to be moistened to prevent damage and, for the same reason, wood not metal implements have to be used. Once the soil had been removed, volunteers sieved through it and found small pieces of bone, teeth, amber beads and even a small fragment of gold braid.

After cleaning the bones are laid out anatomically and Hayley analyses the remains to determine the individual's biological sex, age, stature, metrics and pathology. To determine biological sex, its best to look at the morphology of the pelvis, a woman's pelvis is wide to allow her to give birth whereas a man's pelvis is narrow. The skull can also be a guide; men generally (but not always) have a more robust cranium with the brow ridge, mastoid process (behind the ear) and the nuchal crest (back of the skull) tending to be more prominent.

Bones can also be used to determine age at death. The fusion of bones occurs as we grow and happens at different rates, with babies having more bones in their bodies than an adult human. As teeth erupt at more or less set times they can be used as a guide to age and, after the age of 21, wear pattern comes into play. Hayley showed several photographs of teeth, including one of an enamel "pearl" in a tooth and one with unusual wear on the second molars, perhaps from using them as tools. Caries, tooth loss and abscesses can all be indicative of lifestyle.

Hayley showed several photographs of bones with joint disease: one where the sacrum was fusing to the last lumbar vertebra, a metatarsal fused with two other foot bones (possibly something was dropped on the foot), and three vertebrae that had been fractured and fused together (very painful!). Other bones showed evidence of osteoarthritis, rib fractures, a nicely-set broken clavicle and a broken tibia with a possible cloaca (pus hole). A rather gruesome find was a preserved hand. Hayley said no one had any idea where it came from; she was not even sure if it was human and intended to do some research and get it tested.

Among the Saxon grave goods found with the skeletons were brooches (including a double-headed dragon brooch), claw glass beakers and the largest rock crystal spindle whorl found in Sussex. One of the brooches even had preserved textile remains on the back.

Hayley chose some individuals for further testing, mainly Anglo-Saxons as they predominate in the collection. She gave a brief summary of the findings for each one:

- The Beachy Head Lady. This is the skeleton of a female who was about five foot tall and probably about 23-25 when she died. There were no grave goods.
- A Bronze Age Beaker burial from the Dental Estimates Board site. Unfortunately this was in very bad condition and had to be removed from the scientific sample.
- A female skeleton from ENHAS's dig. She was 5 foot 3 inches and died in her early 20's. Lines on the teeth were indicative of trauma during her childhood.
- A skeleton from the ASE excavation has evidence of bad oral hygiene.

- Another from the ASE excavation was of a man of 35-45 who was nearly 6 foot tall. He had been buried in a ditch and with weapons. One of his hands had been amputated and had healed with no problems. There were also rib fractures which had healed well with no infection.
- A skeleton that was likely male, but buried with female grave goods. Hayley speculated that he had filled a female role in society.
- A woman about 18-25, buried with the double-headed dragon brooch, pin and a claw glass beaker.
- A weapons burial of a man nearly 6 foot tall. He had a fractured finger that had healed.
- A skeleton from Hurst Road that had been in two boxes but turned out to be one person. He was a young-mid adult male, nearly 6 foot tall, with bad teeth and a lot of osteoarthritis in the spine.
- A female from Saxon Close/Willingdon Hill. Her skull was 2cm thick in some places (indicative of Paget's disease) and she also had osteoarthritis.
- A male from Saxon Close who was one of the oldest - he was over 46 but could have been even older. He also had osteoarthritis.
- Yet another skeleton from Saxon Close with osteoarthritis, plus a really nasty infected tooth that had split in half during life.
- A male excavated in 1921 in Willingdon Road. There was a large assemblage with him but it had been moved and reburied to make way for a road. He had Diffuse Idiopathic Skeletal Hyperostosis affecting the spine.

Hayley had tried x-raying some of the skeletons but unfortunately didn't have much success. Some were sent to Oxford for carbon dating and to Nottingham for isotope analysis. For the latter the bones are burnt and the strontium and oxygen levels matched to maps showing the occurrence of these elements around the country. This showed that most of the skeletons were from Eastbourne, one possibly came from the Pennine region and another from the east coast.

Three of the skulls were sent to Caroline Wilkinson at Dundee University for facial reconstruction. Hayley showed photographs of two of them, which were very lifelike. Tests had showed that Beachy Head Lady had African ancestry a 3D model of her face had been reconstructed accordingly. She has been dated to AD 245.

After the lecture there was a crowd of people around the table to see some of the grave goods that Hayley had brought along. And everyone will be able to see the results of the project at an exhibition in the old Pavilion Tearooms from 18 January to 16 November 2014.

## **Eastbourne Heritage Service - Redoubt News**

**Eastbourne Heritage Service** has applied for a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant. If successful, work on the project could start in 2015. The Redoubt Fortress is planning to undergo an extensive refurbishment, including the redisplay of the entire museum and the provision of access to the Fortress. The main aim is to add to the site's wonderful heritage value and improve the experience for visitors. Eastbourne Heritage Service is working in partnership with volunteers, communities and organizations to develop the plans which will encourage audiences to discover their local and historical heritage. As part of the planning process we're asking people what they would like to see at the Redoubt Fortress. And we'd love to hear from you. To start the survey go to [www.surveymonkey.com/s/DVPHLHJ](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DVPHLHJ) This survey is open to anyone so please feel free to tell anyone else you feel may be interested.

### **Appeal for information**

We are currently planning exhibitions for 2014 and are looking for information about men who enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment in the First World War. Are you related to any Royal Sussex soldiers who fought in the First World War? If you have any information about these men, we would like to hear from you! Contact us on [redoubtmuseum@eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:redoubtmuseum@eastbourne.gov.uk) or 01323 410300

### **Community Archaeology**

This summer has seen the Heritage Service undertake some fascinating fieldwork in and around Eastbourne including commercial Watching Briefs as well as our popular community work. Our main excavation this summer was a week long investigation of the dovecote in Motcombe Gardens with the aim of trying to establish whether the building was constructed in the mid C16th as was believed. Our intrepid team did a wonderful job of carefully exposing the building's foundations in an effort to find some dating material. This uncovered an intriguing story of repairs and development going back a few hundred years at least, but unfortunately the date of the foundation was not firmly established based on the evidence found this year.

The dovecote seems to have been through a number of changes, possibly involving underpinning but certainly including the addition of structural supports around the southern side, all of which have been carefully recorded. Finds from the site dated mostly to the works carried out in the Gardens in 1909 when they were formally handed over to the Town from the Chatsworth (Duke of Devonshire's) Estate, however there was also some medieval pottery found indicating an earlier story to the site. A second trench opened up just south of the building to try to investigate the extent of the pond before it was encased in

its' Victorian brick formality provided some tantalizing results. A series of rough surfaces gave way to clays and chalk, not the silts that would have been expected had the pond extended this far for any length of time, despite the bottom of the trench rapidly filling with water overnight. Some early medieval pottery gave us a glimpse of the earliest days of Eastbourne as a town and the corner of a possible stone building may give us some clues to the farm complex that existed around the Dovecote and give us a better context for its' construction.

We are currently analyzing the finds and carrying out research on the building and site before anything further can be said.....but we can reveal that rats might well play a big part in the development of the building to that which we see today!

Further small scale Community Fieldwork days have involved investigating a possible ploughed out Bronze Age Barrow and trying to establish why we are finding pottery dating from the Neolithic (approximately 5500 years ago) to the late Saxon period in a copse at the foot of the Downs. This latter area could well form part of a longer term project which may look at archaeologically modeling areas of built up Eastbourne on areas close by that still remain undeveloped..... all very exciting indeed!

Jo Seaman Eastbourne Heritage Officer

## **Eastbourne Heritage Service wins Heritage Lottery Fund support for Summerdown Camp Project**

Eastbourne Heritage Service has received a welcome £8500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund(HLF) for the exciting "Summerdown Camp Community Project". The Camp opened in April 1915 and was the first, and at the time the largest, of three purpose built convalescent camps designed for rehabilitation of the wounded from the many horrific theatres of war of the First World War. The camp was dismantled in 1920 and most of the land has since been redeveloped as housing. The only existing reminders of the camp are in the street names Summerdown Road and Old Camp Road. The soldiers being cared for at the camp, known as 'Blueboys' because of the coloured (and often ill fitting) uniform they were required to wear, became a familiar sight around Eastbourne and brought home the terrible realities of war as well as some much welcomed soldierly cheer to the town's residents. Working with local volunteers, the project focuses on the stories of the people who worked and convalesced at Summerdown Camp and its impact on local life in the First World War.

The project will offer a vital opportunity to reflect and commemorate the lives of the soldiers briefly resident in Eastbourne during the First World War. Over the course of the project, Eastbourne Heritage Service will undertake research to uncover the untold and unheard stories of Summerdown Camp to inform commemorative events, education activities, workshops, lecture, displays and a dedicated

Summerdown archive. The project will tell the stories of the people who worked and lived at Summerdown Camp. It will uncover new information about the buildings through archaeological fieldwork, medical treatments (both physical and mental), patients, staff and legacy of the First World War on Eastbourne and the Blue Boys of the Camp. The centenary of the opening of Summerdown Camp will be marked by an emotive exhibition and lecture exploring the stories of the men and women of Summerdown. The archaeological excavation of part of the Summerdown Camp site is scheduled for Spring 2014.

As always with such ventures, volunteers are a big part of this project and Eastbourne Heritage Service will provide training in archives, exhibition design, archaeology, research and much more!

Schools and community groups can also get involved in this project with craft workshops and events both in class and at the Redoubt. Eastbourne Heritage Service is looking for any information about Summerdown Camp and the people who convalesced and worked there. So if you have any stories or objects from Summerdown Camp no matter how small or trivial it may seem or would like to get involved in the project, please contact Katherine Buckland – [katherine.buckland@eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:katherine.buckland@eastbourne.gov.uk) or 01323 415641.

## **Eastbourne Heritage Service Volunteer Opportunities**

There are lots of ways you can get involved with Eastbourne Heritage Service, volunteering is just one of them. Here are some of the ways you could help.

**Archaeology Review at the Town Hall** on Thursdays

**Uniform Review at the Redoubt** on Tuesdays

**Royal Sussex Regimental Collection, Sussex Combined Services Collection and Eastbourne Military Collection Audit at the Redoubt** on Tuesdays

**Summerdown Camp Journals at the Redoubt** on Tuesdays

**Summerdown Archaeological dig - April 2014**

## Redoubt Event Volunteers

### Education Volunteers

**Eastbourne Heritage Service are looking for volunteers to assist with the increasing school visits and outreach sessions.**

Benefits of being a volunteer:

- Free entry to events (excluding lectures) for active volunteers
- 20% discount in the Outpost Café
- 20% discount in the Redoubt museum shop
- All training and materials will be provided for volunteer projects
- Lots of tea and biscuits in meetings!

Contact [katherine.buckland@eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:katherine.buckland@eastbourne.gov.uk) or 01323 415641 for more information.

### Programme Spring 2014

- January 10<sup>th</sup>** **Nick Garland** Archaeological Excavations of the Stadium and Keep – Falmer Sussex
- February 14<sup>th</sup>** **Speaker: Ian Everest** From the Sussex Ox to the Fordson Major  
The Development of mechanized agriculture in Sussex
- March 14<sup>th</sup>** **John Mills** Archaeology in West Sussex
- April 11<sup>th</sup>** **Ken Brooks** Local Geology and Fossils of the Sussex Coast
- April 25<sup>th</sup>** **Annual General Meeting**  
**The AGM will be** followed by Greg Chuter talking on  
Exceat re-visited and Coombe Hill

Our meetings are held at:

**St Saviour's Church Hall, Spencer Rd, Eastbourne BN21 4PA**

The meeting starts: 7.30 pm, doors open: 7.15 pm. Members free, visitors £2

For more details contact [www.eastbournearchaeology.org.uk](http://www.eastbournearchaeology.org.uk)

E: [enhas.info@gmail.com](mailto:enhas.info@gmail.com) or T: 01323 648226