

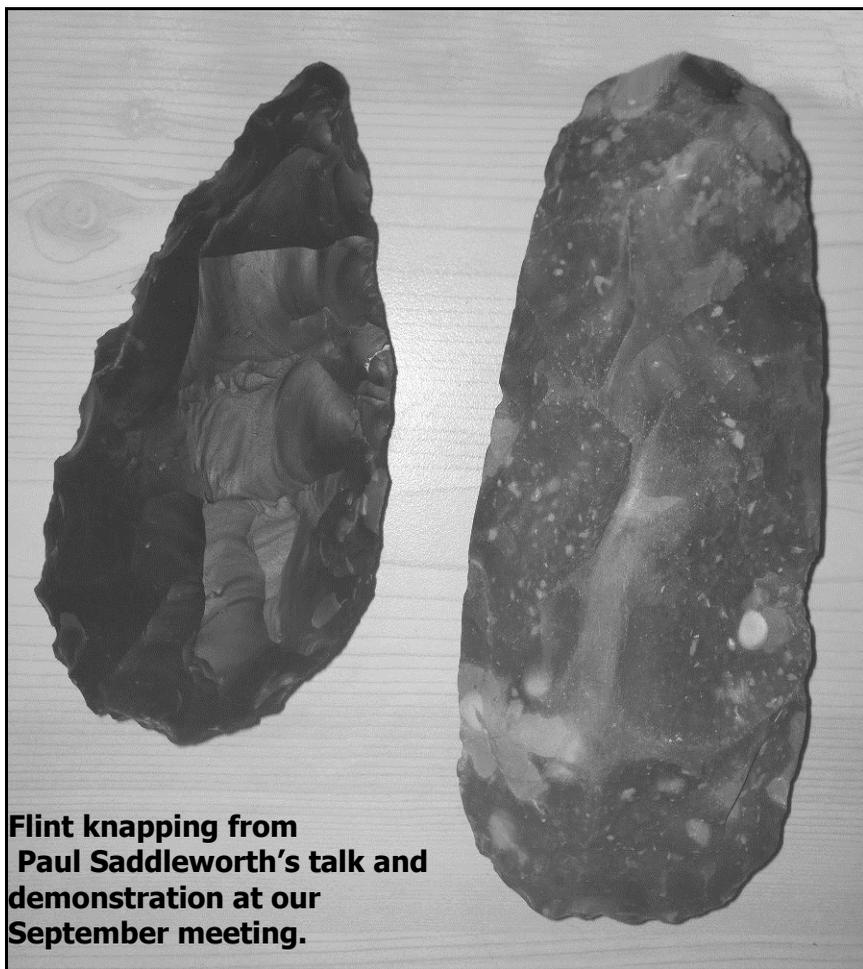
THE EASTBOURNE NATURAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1867

WINTER NEWSLETTER

No 85

December 2015



**Flint knapping from
Paul Saddleworth's talk and
demonstration at our
September meeting.**

Photo courtesy of Rob Davies

www.eastbournearchaeology.org.uk

**EASTBOURNE NATURAL HISTORY &
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Founded 1867

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A Message from the Editor

Welcome to the Winter issue of the ENHAS Newsletter. You will find the programme for our Christmas meeting on page 15. Our Treasurer and Membership Secretary has asked me to include a copy of the Society's rules, you will find them on pages 8 and 9.

In November we attended a meeting to discuss the revised future plans for the Redoubt Fortress and Eastbourne Museum. See page 14 for all the details.

Thank you John for the reports on our meeting talks and Kathy Jenkins for telling us about the Field Walking day.

I am always looking for interesting additions to the newsletter. Please email any articles for inclusion in the March Newsletter by Feb 26th 2016.

Best wishes for Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Helen Warren e: johnthepot_helen@lineone.net

A Talk and Demonstration on Flint Knapping by Paul Saddleton

Seated amidst his tool kit and large pieces of raw flint and on top of wide spread ground sheets, Paul invited us to gather round him to be able to see his demonstration.

He explained that flint is a hard, sedimentary cryptocrystalline form of the mineral quartz, categorized as a variety of chert. It occurs chiefly as nodules and masses in sedimentary rocks, such as chalks and limestones, and was formed in the Cretaceous period between 145 and 65 million years ago. Formed in shallow seas or lagoons teeming with life, chalk is made up of the skeletons of millions of proto-planktons and diatoms, whilst flint is formed from sponges and other sea dwellers such as urchins. The critical point is 5–

7 meters below the level of the muddy ooze, where chalk begins to compress. It is a generally alkaline environment because of the chalk, but where the relatively bulky dead sponges etc are being broken down by bacteria in anaerobic conditions, a local acid environment is formed, which dissolves the chalk and causes silica in the water to precipitate and form masses of solid silica. Some masses start to form in the burrows of bottom dwellers, and many flints contain shadows of fossilised worm holes, sponges and urchins.

What makes a good flint to knap? Flint is not the only material that can be knapped, obsidian, glass and Novaculite, or Arkansaw-stone, can too, but the latter must be heat treated. In the UK the best flint is black in colour at the core, which Paul sources from Norfolk. Ancient Neolithic man who developed the Grimes Graves flint mines had to go through several strata of unsuitable flints, now called building flints, before reaching the prime material. A good flint will “ring” if struck. Flints are porous, and need to dry out very slowly, and can be compromised by frost fractures that are not apparent, also impurities in the flint, or other unseen faults will cause the sound to be dull. Exposure to air causes a patinate or rind of white. Sussex flints can be used, but contain many impurities and are relatively unpredictable. The cores are usually grey in colour.

The basic process is simple, and all a question of mechanics. Flakes will come away if the angle struck is less than 90 degrees, if the angle is greater than 90 degrees, nothing will happen. Flakes can be formed easily due to the predictable quality of the dense flint, where blows will form conchoidal, or shell-like fractures. Struck flakes will have a bulb of compression at the point of the blow, with radiating concentric lines reflecting the shock waves that travel through the flint. Flakes over twice their width in measurement are called blades. Many flakes, waste from forming a core tool, can be used to make other tools such as knives, arrow heads, scrapers and borers, and there are literally tens of thousands to be found on the Downs. Much of the Mesolithic toolkit was made up these small flakes and blades.

Before beginning, Paul explained that one has to have in one's mind the tool that needs to be "found" in the core of the nodule, then, working against a folded leather skin over his thigh, with a **hard** hammer stone, Paul set to work to make a typical Acheulean hand axe, describing the process as he went. First he had to de-cortex the stone, removing the white rind, which is useless for tools, repeatedly turning over the nodule between strikes, and designate a ventral inside face, and dorsal outer face, to rough out the required shape. Almost immediately the selected nodule demonstrated how annoying flint fractures can be, revealing at least two, and the tool had to be made much smaller than planned.

To make more refined and shallower flakes, Paul switched to using a **soft** hammer, made of antler. He had three types, the softest a red deer, using the end from the skull attachment, denser a reindeer antler, with the densest from a moose. Native red and roe deer's antlers have a spongy core, just like a bone. Moose would still have been resident in the UK in the Mesolithic, with evidence being found at Star Carr in North Yorkshire. At Box Grove in Sussex, it was possible from the scatter of flakes from each discrete knapping episode to discern the position of the maker's legs, and even if the knapper was left or right handed! Many animal and even human skeletons show evidence of wounds or butchering. With great skill, Paul slowly revealed his hand axe, and passed it round the meeting, to appreciative acclaim.

Both hard and soft hammering were **percussive** methods of forming. Taking a flake struck earlier, Paul proceeded to demonstrate **pressure** forming to make the beginnings of a tanged arrow head. Historically pressure tools were also made of antler, from the beam, or straight part of the wall, the Ice Man had such a tool in his tool kit, but modern knappers use copper rods set into wood. Working with the flake against a pad in his left hand, (pad made from tyre wall, but a leather pad is used traditionally), the arrow head slowly began to emerge, before Paul stopped and invited us to inspect his collection of ancient tools, blades and flakes found on the Downs above Eastbourne.

Following an extensive question and answer session, Chairman Greg Chuter then gave a fulsome vote of thanks, and told the meeting of the proposed field-walking day on Saturday 9th September, and the meeting dissolved.

Report by John Warren

ENHAS Field walking day - Saturday 19 September

Sixteen ENHAS members and friends plus Greg and Donna Chuter met at Butts Brow car park at 10am and walked down hill westwards towards Jevington into a valley to a wheat field on the left-hand side.

Twenty metre grid squares were marked out with corner poles (plus health and safety tape) – triangulated because of the slopes both upward and eastward. Half of the field only was available having been raked instead of ploughed. Everyone had a job: carrying pegs, poles or tape, siting pegs or poles, measuring the 20m squares and triangulating. The grid was x 4 up the hill and x 3 across.

Five people lined up parallel to the fence in the first 3 squares going up hill. The field was not square and the first line going across the field (E) angled towards a point on the footpath/N boundary which left a small triangle included in the second square walk. Labelled bags were given out for each square and the five people spread out and walked across their grid (E) – heads down and picking up anything they thought had been made by human hand ie not plough damage or natural chalk/stone.

Some walked and looked faster than others. The bags were left at the corner posts. Greg and Donna were on hand to make decisions on finds and to explain any rejects. A piece of flint of mine was found to be a “pot lid” - broken on a natural fault in the nodule not man made. More bags were given out and the next grid was walked. Some areas were producing more finds than others and some parts of the field had more weeds and wheat stalks than others. Initially it was not easy to identify flints damaged by ploughing but by looking for a platform, a bulb of percussion plus ripples and/or ridges where flakes had been removed made it clearer.

After lunch the remaining 6 grids were walked, bags filled and passed to Greg. The majority of the finds were worked white flint plus some fossils. I was not aware of any pottery being found. The contents of the labelled bags will show where concentrations were. There are bronze age field systems nearby so a settlement is being sought. Greg will no doubt tell the Society his thoughts on the field and any future work there once the finds have been cleaned and evaluated.

Personally I found lots of worked flint plus one nice tertiary blade: 4-5 cm long, 1 cm wide with a platform, a bulb and a ridge down the middle of the long side where 2 flakes had been removed to form a triangular cross section.

The sun had come out as we reached the field and it was very pleasant field walking weather. The walk back up to the car park was steep and slow for some, but all were back at their cars by 1.30pm. Thank you Greg for arranging this with the farmer, it was interesting and informative and I hope it leads to a dig.

Report by Kathy Jenkins

Disappointed Bridges or Pavilions of Delight by Sally White

To a moderate audience of about 30 visitors and members, Sally gave a fascinating, illustrated talk about the piers of Sussex, with a host of facts and anecdotes about them, some of which are included here.

The building of seaside piers is apparently very largely an English and Welsh phenomenon, though there are two in Scotland. The first was built in Ryde on the Isle of Wight in 1814, and was simply a landing stage to save ferry passengers from having to be carried up to half a mile through the breakers of a very slowly shelving beach at low tide, whilst the hey-day was between 1860 and 1910, when there were 90 piers, of which 50 still survive.

The public soon discovered that they enjoyed a walk out over the sea without being sea-sick, and were happy to pay a toll to do so. All piers levied such a toll until about 40 years ago. The piers were designed by a very small group, with Eugenius Birch being the best of them, designing 14 in all, with three in Sussex. These were Brighton West Pier, Hastings, and Eastbourne, which was one of his best. Cast iron was a favoured material, as wooden structures in the water were quickly eaten by molluscs and worms, whilst the decks were wooden, often in herringbone patterns, with slats between to drain rain and storm sea water. These slats also let through any dropped coins, much to the delight of boys beneath, and more recently, metal detectorists.

The eight Sussex piers were at: Brighton, which had three, Bognor, Eastbourne, Hastings, St Leonards, and Worthing, with plans for 30 more, 11 in Bexhill alone. Seven of them were similar, but one was different. This was also the earliest in Sussex, Brighton Chain Pier, officially called the Brighton Royal Suspension Chain Pier. It was designed by Captain Sam Brown, and was based on a chain suspension bridge at Berwick on Tweed. Two similar ones were built, one in Scotland, and one on the Isle of Wight. The Brighton one was opened on 25th November 1823, and had iron towers built on wooden piles, with the landward chains buried 54 feet into the chalk cliffs, anchored to iron plates, and the seaward end anchored similarly into the sea bed. The pier was used as a 24 hour landing stage for the Dieppe ferry and was regularly damaged and repaired. It cost £30,000.00, (£1.8 million today). A season ticket cost a guinea, and each visit 2 pence. In 1847 the Dieppe ferries moved to the new harbour at Newhaven, after which it became more of a pleasure pier. It lasted until 15th December 1896 when during a storm, the pier shuddered and collapsed, never to be rebuilt.

Each pier required an Act of Parliament to approve its construction, because the land between high and low water is Crown Property, and permission had to be sought before driving piles into it. Hastings pier found a petrified forest in the way, and had to remove many ancient giants before work could be completed, one was 3 feet in diameter and 24 feet long!

Hastings is also unusual in that it has a split, Y shaped, double entrance at the landward end, presumably to help dissipate the force of the tide, though this was soon filled in and built over to provide more room for kiosks. It was opened by the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in December 1869.

Eastbourne pier was opened in June 1870, but Eugenius Birch had miscalculated, and made the level of the decking too low, and on New Year's Day in 1877 a storm destroyed the landward end, filling the beaches with displaced planking. This was soon rebuilt, but several feet higher, and now there is a marked drop about a third of the way along. Eastbourne's pier quickly acquired a landing stage, as did most others, to accommodate the paddle steamers providing trips for tourists between the towns boasting piers along the South coast. There were known as the "sixpenny sickers" due to their propensity to roll in choppy weather! Worthing theatre goers were shocked one performance when the ferry used the landing stage as a brake.

Brighton became very popular following the association with the Prince Regent, and the coming of the railways, and at one stage had three piers. Most usually started simply as promenade decks for walkers, slowly gathering kiosk attractions, theatres, ballrooms and restaurants, but the Brighton Palace Pier, the most recent, was designed as a pleasure pier from the start, with 2 ½ acres of decking, made up of 85 miles of planks, with ironwork from the Phoenix Ironworks in Lewes, and electric light from the start. It is now the last real surviving pier in Brighton, as Birch's West pier is sadly now just an isolated, derelict wrecked fragment.

There were many entertainments on the piers, including a flea circus and roller skating at Hastings; the Bird Man spectacular at Worthing; a camera-obscura at Eastbourne, still operational, but rarely open; roller skating again at St Leonards; landing stages for boat trips, theatres and reviews were almost universal; gymnasia, tea rooms, bars, demonstration diving, often bizarrely from bicycles, and a wide range of musical performance.

During WWII, with the South East coast the most likely site of an invasion, it was planned to blow gaps in them to stop their use as landing stages by the enemy, and at Eastbourne this was nearly done during a theatre performance with a full audience still on the pier! Luckily this was avoided, and the decking simply removed, to be replaced by concrete in 1946.

Piers are very expensive to maintain, and are always prone to damage by storm surges and particularly fires, Eastbourne's being only the most recent. We are very lucky to still have what is left after 150 years, and Sally thought that a case could be made to start charging a small levy for access again to help with upkeep and maintenance.

Following a lively Q & A session, thanks were given by Lawrence Stevens, and the audience applauded generously.

Report by John Warren

RULES of the Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeological Society

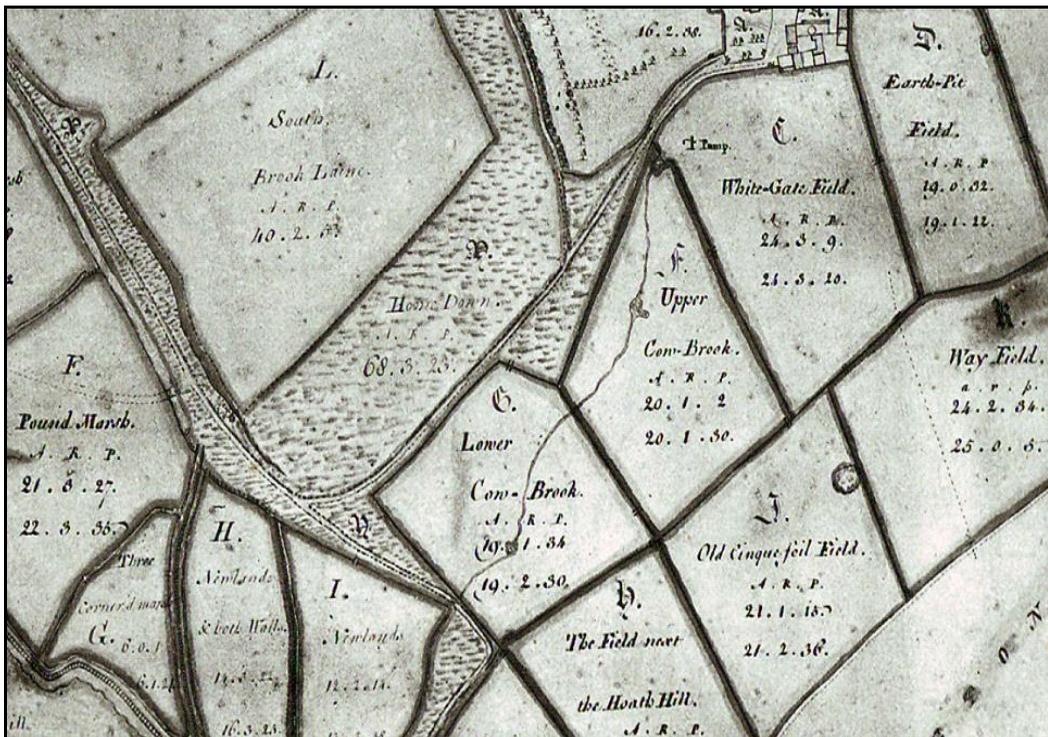
1. This Society shall be entitled “**The Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeological Society**”.
2. The purpose for which the Society is established is to promote and encourage the following objects by charitable means but not otherwise:
 - To investigate, preserve and record for public educational purposes the flora and fauna of Eastbourne and neighbourhood.
 - To stimulate and educate the public in the beauty, history and character of the countryside.
 - To encourage for the benefit and education of the public the conservation and investigation of features of natural history, archaeological or scientific interest in the area.
 - To establish centres for the education of the public and particularly of children and young persons, in all or any of the above matters.
 - To pursue these ends by meetings, exhibitions and lectures, publications and others forms of instruction and publicity and by the promotion of schemes of a charitable nature.
3. The Officers of the Society shall be honorary and consist of not more than a President, Vice presidents, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Apart from the Vice Presidents they shall be elected annually.
4. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a committee consisting of the Officers specified in Rule 3 and not more than nine other members. At a committee meeting **five shall form a quorum**. The committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees to assist in the management of the Society and shall determine their terms of reference, powers, duration and composition, provided that all acts and proceedings of such sub-committees shall be fully and promptly reported to the committee.
5. The Chairman shall not hold office for more than three years in succession. Members of the committee shall each hold office for not more than three years, three retiring in each rotation each year, but shall be eligible for re-election. The committee may co-opt additional members to serve until the next Annual General Meeting.
6. The minimum annual subscription to be paid by each member, and that of additional members at the same address, shall be decided at every Annual General Meeting. Anyone under the age of 18 (or 21 if receiving full-time education) may be admitted as an Associate Member on payment of a minimum subscription as decided by an Annual General meeting. Associate members shall have all the privileges of full membership except that they shall not be eligible to vote.
7. All subscriptions shall be paid in advance and be due on 1st April each year. A member joining between 1st January and 31st March shall not be required to pay a further subscription until the second April after becoming a member.

8. Subscription to Life Membership of the Society was discontinued at the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd April 2004. Members granted Life Membership before that date shall continue to enjoy all the privileges of membership of the Society without further subscription.
9. Every member shall be considered to continue to be a member of the Society for **SIX** months following the subscription due date of 1st April each year. Any member whose subscription is SIX months or more in arrears shall automatically cease to be a member of the Society.
10. Membership of the Society shall be open to everyone except that the Committee shall have the power to refuse application for membership. The Society may, at Annual General Meetings, elect Vice Presidents and Honorary Members, such members having all the privileges of Ordinary members.
11. Excursions shall be arranged from time to time for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the Society.
12. Meetings shall be arranged by the Committee for each session of lectures, short papers, comparing notes, discussing matters of interest and exhibiting objects connected with natural history and archaeology.
13. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in May each year, at which the Committee shall present a report of activities and finances of the Society during the past year. The Officers and Committee for the ensuing year shall be elected and any other business relating to the general objects of the Society shall be transacted.
14. No rule shall be made or altered except at an Annual General Meeting of the Society, or at a Special General Meeting convened under rule 15. Notice of such new rule or alteration shall be communicated to each member not less than seven days before the date of the meeting.
15. A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee or by the Secretary on receipt of a request signed by five members of the Society, stating the object for which it is to be convened. At such a meeting twelve members shall form a quorum and no business shall be transacted other than that for which it was convened.
16. The Society in General Meeting shall, from time to time, appoint Trustees and shall also have power for any reason sufficient in the opinion of the Society to remove a Trustee. The Trustees shall not be more than four in number, nor less than two.
17. The Committee may, from time to time, decide that any sum belonging to the Society not needed for the immediate work of the Society shall, as soon as possible be invested in the name of the Trustees of the Society in securities authorised by law for the investment of Trust money. The Trustees shall in all respects deal with the sums invested in their names on behalf of the Society as the Committee shall from time to time direct.
18. Any member may introduce a friend at Ordinary meetings on payment of a Visitor's fee which shall be determined at every Annual General Meeting. Those visitors not accompanied by a member shall pay a similar fee.
19. All new members shall receive a copy of the Rules of the Society and shall agree to abide by the said rules.

12th September 2015

Local Field and Place Names - a talk by Kevin Gordon

Kevin began by introducing himself to the 48 present as one of the diggers on the EUMEP Jesus House excavations between 1977 and 84, so with long local associations, but apologised that he was no expert at field or place names, and then went on to prove himself wrong with an entertaining and informative talk. He recommended a guide for our future interest in the form of a book entitled "A Study of Place Names in England", by John Field (appropriately!). As Kevin was born and brought up in or near Seaford, he hoped that he would not be too Seaford-centric.



This is part of a 19th century tithe map showing Seaford fields and their names. Amongst others you can identify: Three Corner'd Marsh, Pound Marsh, White-Gate Field, Earth Pit Field, Way Field, Newlands, the Field near the Hoath Hill and Old Cinquefoil Field.

No one can say how the land was described in deep antiquity, but in the Anglo Saxon period, places were originally named to prove an ownership, hence Offham, the **ham** or settlement of Offa, and within that ownership.

Locations were described by their use or crop, hence Winter's Field, Corn Field or Turf Field.

The most obvious feature locally are the **Downs**, so why Downs when they are up? The name may derive from the **Celtic Dun**, being a hill, or could be from the Anglo Saxon way of speaking, "Going **a**-down", with different areas given local names such as Bullock Down, or Warren Down from their use or produce. Locally, the land immediately below the Downs are typically described as **Bottoms**, hence Kiln Bottom, or Foxhole Bottom, most usually after features found there.

A **Combe** is a short valley in Sussex, with the earliest reference being Tiddlescombe in ad 996, and they appear in a lot of local names such as Moulscombe, Tellscombe, or Motcombe.

French derived names come in following 1066, hence **Senlac**, or field of blood, at **Battle**; **Beachy Head**, for good view, or **Compton Vachery**, for cows or a dairy, just north of Nutley.

Sussex itself is divided east to west into six **Rapes**, or administrative districts, the boundaries for which run north from the sea, based on Chichester, Arundel, Bramber, Lewes, Pevensey and Hastings. The origin of the word is obscure, but the six martlets of the Sussex flag represent the six rapes. Each Rape had a castle and a port, and were held by different Lords, Kevin suggested to provide escape routes to the continent.

The Rapes were divided into **Hundreds**, possibly describing an area for a hundred households or steadings, or an area that would provide 100 equipped fighting men. Hundreds were further divided into **Hides**, derived from the Anglo Saxon word for family, a hide was large enough to support a household, and is usually about 120 acres, though sizes vary, and in Domesday Book, land producing £1.00 worth of produce was assessed at 1 hide. Ultimately all land measurement was for tax assessment, for produce, service, or geld payment. What is a field? An area of unenclosed land for agriculture.

In the Medieval period these were great open areas divided up by paths or drove roads, ditches banks and fences, into **furlongs** or **acres**, areas of land that could be ploughed in one day, measuring one chain of 22 yards wide by 10 chains long. Furlongs were divided equally among the households of a village, so that all got a nearly equal share of the good and bad land. In Sussex these large fields were called **Laines**, the Lanes in Brighton originally being a large field north of the coastal settlement.

Now that land measurement is assessed in Hectare by Lidar, or GPS, the traditional measuring chains and rods are going out of use. (A rod is equivalent to poles and perches, at 5.5yards, or 16 ft 6 ins, which is incidentally the length of a military pike, or the goad to help drive an ox team. The only people using a chain as a measure these days are cricketers, or British Rail, whose way markers are still measured in miles, chains and yards.

Here follows just a few examples of the fascinating details of the talk:

- **Three corner Field**, or **Long Field**, simply describe its shape, or similarly **3 Acre Field**, its area, or **Titanic Field**, either very big, or ironically small, as in **Little John** in Robin Hood.
- **Mill Field**, **Church Field**, describe buildings close by.
- **Glebe land** belonged to the church.
- **Coney Croft** bred rabbits.
- **Denture Field**, one rented and held by indenture; or Copy Field, the right to farm the land being held by a copy of the lease or land registration.
- A 13th Century Oxfordshire map has **Where the Ox Lay dead Field**.
- **Wayfield**, by the side of a right of way.
- **Drove Field**, by a drove road.
- Near Bishopstone is **Pound Marsh**, some marshy ground that held a pound for straying beasts.
- **Barbados** or **America Field** would be a long distance from the homestead. Also **Near Field** or **Far Field**.
- **Winterland**, most suitable for planting winter wheat, or other winter crops.
- **Walklands**, a field for the fulling of cloth
- **Wish Field**, a marshy area, as Eastbourne's Wish Tower
- **Rail Field** or **Down** was a place for exercising horses delineated by long fences.
- **Sparrow's Laine**, only fit to feed the sparrows
- **Bare Arse Field** and **Poverty Bottom**, very poor land
- **Hob Field**, or **Hob's Hall**, land blighted or taken by the devil and fit for nothing.
- **Taper Field**, or **Lamp Land**, was usually owned by the church, with rent being paid in candles or tapers, in Arlington in 1455, records show 12 lb of wax being as rent.
- **Cinq foil Field**, described its crop, or five leaved plants, otherwise known as Potentilla
- **Lucerne Field**, the English name for the fodder crop alfalfa.

- **The Dicker** is a corruption of the Latin Dix, referring to a Tithe, or tenth, payable to the church. In the 13th century iron was paid as the tithe. It was also a measurement or area, a foundry in the iron industry was built on a ten rod dicker.
- **Crowborough** may have been one of Alfred's Burghs, and **Danehill** the camp site of a Danish raiding party.
- **Hurst** is a wooded hill as in Peshurst, or Crowhurst.
- **Dene** or **Dean** is a valley; places ending in **-ly** describe a woodland clearing such as Hellingly
- **-ing** endings indicate a tribe or group, as Worthing or Birling
- **-eye** an isle or islet, as in Hydnye, Langney; or simply Rye, the island
- **Ton**, or **tun**, a manor or settlement, as in Lullington, Jevington etc
- **Ham**, a hamlet or settlement, ie West Ham to the west of Pevensey.
- A Firle, was land covered in oak trees, **Frog Firle** had frogs, near the river, and **Pig Firle**, was good for grazing swine.
- A **Hooe** was a spur of land into the sea or marsh, as in Piddinghoe.
- In 1919 **Peacehaven** was nearly called New Anzac by Sea, until the Daily Express ran a competition, when Peachhaven won!

How were the names pronounced? We can never really know until the advent of recording devices. Locals call **Folkington** just that, pronouncing all the syllables, but trendy newcomers call it Fowington. Though **Selmeston** is Simpson locally; **Burwash** is Burrish; **Bosham** is Bosam; and **Offham**, Oafam. Interestingly Brighthelmstone seems always to have been simply **Brighton**, though **Lewes** was Lews, and **Keere Street** pronounced Kare St.

To illustrate how fluid spelling and pronunciation can be, Kevin related a family anecdote about a name in his own family. All census returns up to 1891 state the family name as Emsley, but in 1901 it is written as Hemsley. Why would that be? He discovered that before 1901 the form was filled in by a man who travelled around and asked people their details, writing down what he thought they said, but in 1901 for the first time the forms were handed out for each individual household to fill in themselves, and so got the different spelling. My father in Law's name was Greaves, but his father pronounced it Graves to differentiate them from another family!

To finish, Kevin encouraged us to look out for the distinctive Sussex road signs, octagonal cast iron posts with a crown on top giving directions to local places, and gave the meeting some homework, to find out what the field was called where our own houses are built. Many muttered that they would.

There was a lively Q&A session, the vote of thanks was given by Greg Chuter, and the meeting applauded appreciatively.

Report by John Warren

Future plans for the Redoubt Fortress and a new Museum for Eastbourne

Several members of the Society attended a meeting at the Winter Garden on 26th November when revised plans for the Redoubt Fortress and a new Museum for Eastbourne were explained and discussed.

Eastbourne Tourism Development Manager, Annie Wills began by explaining that the proposed plans for the Redoubt Museum, outlined at last June's meeting, were not viable due to the severe damp problem. It had been hoped that £2 million lottery funding would be sufficient money to make the Georgian fort watertight, but when the appointed architects saw the saturated brickwork, lack of adequate interior drainage and the state of the roof, they estimated that the figure would be in the region of £10 million! This large amount of money would not be forthcoming from any funding body including the Heritage Lottery Fund or Historic England (formally English Heritage).

Following Annie's presentation, Jo Seaman, Heritage Service Manager at Eastbourne Borough Council, put forward the revised plans for the Redoubt and an adjacent new build museum. He said that both were important to Eastbourne and each could not function without the other.

By spending £2 million on refurbishing and renovating the Redoubt some of the casemates could be used to depict such things as life in Napoleonic times, with fibre-glass replicas of cannon, figures etc. these would not be effected by the damp. The parade ground too, with its good acoustics, could be used for concerts and community events. The Pavilion would be removed, as would the derelict colonnade, and a new museum built on the site. This would also serve as the main entrance to the Redoubt, disabled access would be included.

The museum will tell the story of Eastbourne from primeval times, including prehistoric and later history together with a changing programme of exhibitions featuring stories associated with the happenings and people of the town. The new building will also have some dry and safe storage space and research facilities and should open in 2018.

As with all projects these plans do depend on getting the necessary finances in place; it does mean that our Council, together with Historic England, will have to support our museum, something that we all hope for!

Report by Helen Warren

Our Christmas Meeting on 11th December

Four Short Talks by Society Members and Guests

with Book Sale, Mince Pies –Tea/Coffee and a Raffle

Pitt Rivers in Sussex by Robin Reffell

Robin will detail the field work and excavations carried out by this eminent archaeologist.

East of the pier project by Allen Wenham

Alan will describe how the artisans' quarters behind the original Seahouses was unkempt in the early 1860s, inhabited by fishermen, blacksmiths, building labourers and laundry workers. Many were impoverished by chronic seasonal unemployment and sought solace in the local taverns.

Roman building material from Poplin Marsh by Kevin Cornwall

Kevin has examined and reported on the building material excavated in the Society's Poplin Marsh excavation. He will share his findings with us.

Dry valleys on the Seven Sisters by Derek Leppard

Derek has researched the dry valleys of the Seven Sisters and will report on his findings

Spring Programme

Friday 8th January - David Staveley **AN INTRODUCTION to ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICS** as applied to the Barcombe Roman Villa site and how it will aid the Society's Mornings Mill Farm Project in Willingdon.

Friday 12th February - Anna Docherity **THE EXTENSIVE IRON AGE SETTLEMENT on St. Annes Hill, Eastbourne**

Friday 11th March - Matt Pope **THE PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY OF JERSEY AND ITS ENVIRONS**

22nd April **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** starting at 7.15 p.m. followed at 8.00 p.m. by **the ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION of part of the Playing Field of St. Andrews School**, Eastbourne, (near Colstocks, one time Manor of Medesey) by Garry Webster

Friday 10th June - **THE ARTEFACTS FROM THE POCOCKS FIELD EXCAVATIONS of 2014-2015** - by Giles Dawkes, Director of the extensive project and its amazing illumination of Eastbourne's pre-history.

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Symposium 2016

Saturday 30th July - This years' Archaeological Symposium will be devoted to the Society's **EASTBOURNE URBAN MEDIEVAL EXCAVATION PROJECT 1977-1984**. The event will take place at the Birley Centre, Carlisle Road, Eastbourne, more details of which will be available at our January meeting in 2016.

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Our meetings are usually held on the second Friday of the month at:
St Saviour's Church Hall, Spencer Rd, Eastbourne BN21 4PA
Meetings start at 7.30 pm, doors open 7.15 pm
Members free, visitors £2.50

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