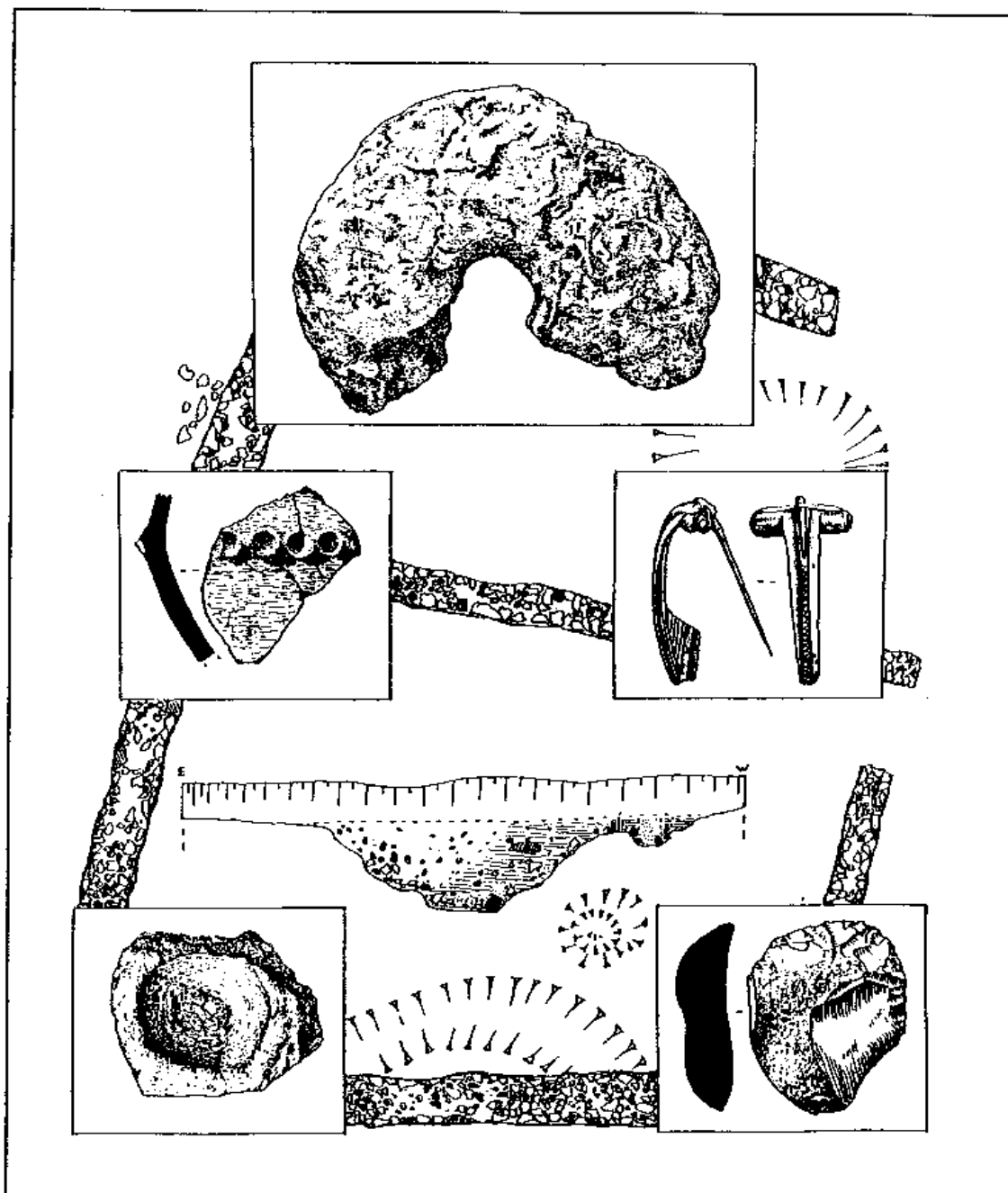


Unearthing our Past

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society 1906 - 1996



BRIGHTON AND HOVE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUB.

Report and Record

FOR THE

Year ending October 31st, 1907.

Unearthing our Past

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society, 1906 - 1996

The Early Years.

The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society had its origin in the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Club founded in 1906. Long before this, however, antiquarians had developed a curiosity about the remote past of man, and the frequent discoveries in Sussex of pottery, coins and other artifacts had stimulated an interest in what was later to become the study of archaeology. The *Lewes Typographical Dictionary of England*, published in 1831, describes the remains of circular encampments at Whitehawk and Hollingbury, and traces of lines and entrenchments along the coast 'bearing strong marks of Roman construction.' This had been a common assumption since the discovery in 1750 at Hollingbury of 'an urn containing one thousand silver denarii, of the emperors from Antoninus Pius to Philip.' The Dictionary takes a slightly more sceptical view of another suggestion 'by some antiquaries' that Brighton was 'supposed to have been the place where Caesar landed on his invasion of Britain.' Unlike coins, which could generally be dated, there were also remains belonging to some earlier period, such as the tumuli, or the numerous 'Druidical monuments' in the vicinity.

One man who did much to develop a more informed and scientific approach to the study of the past was Gideon Mantell, a Lewes surgeon who took up residence in Brighton in 1834 at No. 20 The Steine. The house was used to accommodate his geological collection and became known as the Sussex Scientific Institution and Mantellian Museum. Though Mantel's passion was for natural history and geology (he published *The Wonders of Geology* in 1838) he also took a keen interest in archaeology, and in his journal on 28th March 1837 he recorded his visit to the recently discovered Roman Villa in Southwick: 'Quantities of broken Roman Pottery, bricks, etc., were dug up near the foundations of walls. A brass coin of Vespasian was found. I discovered several fragments of the red Sarman Pottery - one portion of a vase had the potter's name, GRESIM.'

In 1846, nine years after Mantell's visit to Southwick, the Sussex Archaeological Society was founded with its headquarters in Lewes, but it was to be another 60 years before Brighton and Hove established their own Archaeological Club. This was however preceded by the founding in 1900 of the Brighton and Hove Natural History and Philosophical Society. The President, Mr. W. Clarkson Wallis, chose as the subject of his inaugural address 'The Amateur in Science,' and in March 1901 Mr. H. S. Toms, then Acting Curator of the Brighton Museum, read a paper on 'Early Pottery' at the Society's meeting. In 1906 Herbert Toms was to be the moving spirit whose enthusiasm brought the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Club into being.

Brighton was indeed fortunate in Toms's appointment as Museum Curator, and it was now the members of the newly founded Club who were to benefit, not only from his enthusiasm, but also from his knowledge of scientific archaeological techniques, gained during the 1880s as Assistant to General Pitt-Rivers at the time of the latter's excavations in Dorset.

As Dr. E. Cecil Curwen wrote in a tribute to Toms to mark the Diamond Anniversary of the Society, Pitt-Rivers set a standard of scientific archaeological technique which was far in advance of anything known in his time, and Toms was a keen and dedicated follower.

The inaugural meeting of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Club took place on 27th October 1906 in the Curator's office at Brighton Museum. Toms addressed the meeting on the subject of his idea of an archaeological club, and stressed that its object should be not only to foster an appreciation of, and interest in, the antiquities of the county, but also 'the proper recording and preservation of the same.' This would be effected, he suggested, by means of excursions to places of archaeological interest, visits to museums and private collections, and 'meetings for the reading of popular papers for the instruction of the uninitiated.' It should encourage reports to be written on the work done by members, and should annually give a full account of this work to the Sussex Archaeological Society. At a time when popular interest (including that of Toms himself) lay mainly in prehistory, it is interesting to note that the sphere of the Club's activities was to be divided between prehistoric sites and medieval buildings.

The Committee, once elected, began to draw up a set of rules. The first Minute Book records the formal procedure 'for the selection of persons allowed to join': there was to be a ballot of candidates, with the proviso of 'three black balls to exclude.' The subscription should be 'not less than hail a crown.' The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Chichester was invited to become President and accepted. A programme of winter lectures was put together. The first of these was given on 5th December by Toms himself. Eager to begin the task of educating members in the rudiments of his discipline he spoke on 'An Introduction to Prehistory and Archaeology.' Members, young as well as old, quickly fell under the spell of Herbert Toms. In his tribute written many years later Cecil Curwen recalled his feelings of surprise and delight when in 1907 (he was then only eleven) he was proposed by Toms for membership of the Club. Toms no doubt knew that the young Cecil would also be encouraged by his father, Dr. Eliot Curwen, who was one of the first members of the Club, keenly interested in local antiquities and especially in the flint implements often found on the ploughed areas of the Downs. Cecil Curwen remembered how patient Toms always was with youngsters, and how fascinated he as a boy had been with Toms's 'trim beard, fiercely waxed moustache and flashing eyes.'



By 1908 the membership stood at 163, one fifth of whom were women. Excursions to places of interest were planned to take place each summer, but the keen new members in 1906 did not wish to wait until summer for their first expedition. On Boxing Day of that year twenty hardy souls set out in wintry conditions - there was snow on the ground - to get to Castle Rings, on the Downs above Edburton. With very few private cars at that time, and no country buses, most expeditions depended on local train services (the Dyke Railway was then in operation) and then a good deal of walking. Curwen recollected that members would normally expect to walk at least five or six miles. In April 1907, for instance, a large party of members and friends took the train to Shoreham, visited the churches of New Shoreham and Old Shoreham, after which, according to the *Sussex Daily News*, 'a pleasant stroll brought the party to Coombes church; after inspecting this they then visited Botolph's church and Bramber castle before returning to Brighton by rail from Bramber.' The following year there was a visit to Ditchling Beacon. Some members walked from Hassocks and back, and others from and back to Brighton - six miles each way. A few expeditions continued to be made during the war years. In 1915 there were visits to various tumuli, earthworks and churches, and in 1917 members went to inspect the remains of the Roman Villa found in Stanford Avenue.

Cecil Curwen, writing in 1966, noted that the meetings and excursions of the Club were fully reported in the local press. He quotes with amusement one report in the *Brighton Herald* on a lecture given in February 1908 on 'Some Sussex Castles' by Miss Russell Davies: 'Realising though they might the advanced qualities of ladies of the present day, the members ... were probably hardly prepared for so good a lecture from a lady as that which they had on Wednesday.' Surprise was expressed at the excellent delivery and her ability as a lecturer. Talks given in subsequent years included a series (1910-1911) on lynchets, marine shells, pottery and 'Modern Savage Cultures.' In 1913 Cecil's father, Eliot

Curwen, lectured on tumuli, and in 1914 Charles Thomas-Stanford spoke about Preston Manor, his family home. Between 1915 and 1916 the grim news from the Western Front may have been forgotten for a while as members listened to talks on French Gothic architecture, Sussex place-names, ancient trackways, glacial astronomy, Piltdown Man (the hoax had then not been discovered), Roman roads and the Flemings in Sussex. In 1918 Eliot Curwen lectured again, this time on the Hove Barrow.

During all these years the interests of members were constantly being directed by Toms towards the real work of archaeology. Around him he gathered a group of men (and at least one woman, his wife) who were seriously dedicated to research archaeology through excavation. Though not themselves professionals, they adopted a professional approach to the work (though in their lighter moments they were prepared to participate in social evenings that in 1913 required them to sing and dance in medieval costume, and in 1914 to appear in 'rustic dress". The first tentative excavations took place in 1908. The sites chosen were at Hollingbury, at the Devil's Dyke and on the Botolph Valley mounds near Bramber. These mounds on the flood plain of the River Adur, examined by C. W. Catt, yielded medieval finds. Curwen tells us that the expenses incurred in this work amounted to 4s. 6d. and these were refunded by the Committee. In 1908 the Club's income for the year was only £14 9s. These first excavations seem generally to have been one-day affairs, but however inadequate, they at least marked a beginning. More extended excavations were subsequently carried out at Whitehawk, Plumpton Plain, Itford Hill and other sites.

Toms and his fellow-workers never forgot the Club's Rule 2: 'to promote the study of local antiquities, with a view to the proper recording and preservation of the same.' In 1913 came an earnest plea for publication: 'Without a printed record of its work, this Club might as well cease to exist.' As a result, the following year, 1914, saw the publication of the *Brighton and Hove Archaeologist*. The editor, Frederick Harrison, expressed the hope that it might be issued annually, and invited contributions from members 'of notes and queries on subjects of importance within the limits prescribed - the Downland and district south of the Weald, and situated between the rivers Ouse and Adur.'

The articles in this first publication were all written, except for one, by men holding offices in the Club at the time. Toms, with the title of Hon. Director of the Earthworks Survey, contributed a detailed account of his survey of Hollingbury Camp. Familiar with Pitt-Rivers' earlier work on the Sussex hill forts, Toms supported his mentor's refutation of those earlier claims (still held in 1914) of its Roman origin. He also contributed 'Records of local and other Roman Coins, entered in the Log Book of the Club,' thus demonstrating by personal example his adherence to the Club's stated objectives: 'to apply archaeological skills to the study of local antiquities, and to record and publish the results of research.' Those who worked with him - W. J. Jacobs, W. R. Gregory, C. Brazenor, and S. Pierre Smith among others - received from him the systematic teaching he had himself had from Pitt-Rivers.

One particularly interesting article was contributed by the Hon. Secretary of the Club, William Law, some of whose spare time was given up to keeping scrap books of members' activities, invitations, programmes and press cuttings. The three volumes of cuttings may now be seen at Brighton Reference Library. In his published article, entitled 'Archaeological Record and Registration,' he set out to emphasise that 'although it is a good thing to have "finds," a properly authenticated record of the place and manner in

which they were found is of even greater importance.' To this end he stressed that 'we should acquaint ourselves with the best methods of observing, recording, drawing and preserving archaeological relics, so that they may be of use to those who follow after us.' The system adopted was of course that of Herbert Toms, though members were also urged to accept the need to adapt to the most up-to-date methods. Some of those who benefited by working with Toms were the students of Brighton Technical College who had been brought in by their tutor, L. J. Marshall. They began the plan of Hollingbury during the summer of 1913, and the work was completed later in the year by members of the Earthworks Survey, together with Toms and his wife. Already the Club was experiencing the difficulty and expense of securing proper instruments, and the Technical College theodolite was an essential tool for the 'delicate task' of preparing a serviceable and accurate plan.

Both Curwens, father and son, put their names to an article on 'Ancient Trackways near Saddlescombe,' though Cecil was still only seventeen. His father was by 1914 a member of the committee. Other committee members who contributed articles were O. H. Leeney ('Notes on the Church of St. Michael, Up Marden'), and T. G. Leggatt (The Forest of Anderida'). The Hon. Treasurer, J. S. North, wrote on 'The Ancient Parish Churches near the River Ouse' and Alderman Charles Thomas-Stanford, one of the six Vice-Presidents, produced an article on 'The Manor of Preston.' Thomas-Stanford was one of the two Vice-Presidents who were Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries. One article, by A. Stanley Cooke, Chairman of Committee, carried the somewhat whimsical-sounding title of 'The Poetry of Archaeology.' Referring to Keats' 'Ode on a Grecian Urn' and to a rather less well-known poem, 'To a Pair of Slippers in the Egyptian Exhibition, Piccadilly,' Cooke wished to bring together the power of 'masculine' science and the 'feminine' beauty of poetry. Archaeology, he suggested, is the 'outcome of the heart and head.' The last brief article in the collection is the only one by a woman, Mabel Russell-Davies - perhaps the same Miss Russell-Davies who had given such a surprisingly good lecture in 1908, and possibly the daughter or sister of G. Russell-Davies, who was on the Committee. Her article is a brisk account of 'A Seventeenth Century Document' - a tenant's 'copy of Court Roll,' by which his title to the occupation of copyhold premises in Brighthelmstone was secured. Since the document was set forth 'in legal Latin, much abbreviated,' Miss Russell-Davies seems to have been extremely competent in the head department, whatever the condition of the heart.

In spite of the talks, excursions and even fieldwork which continued throughout the war years, activities were to some extent constrained. During these early years, however, under the guidance of Herbert Toms, the foundations had been firmly laid, and the work of instruction went on, through visits and lectures, and practical demonstrations of research techniques and recording. The Club must have been in good heart when peace returned in 1918.

Between The Wars (1919 - 1939)

By 1920, with 275 members, the Club was the largest in Brighton. A few years later, membership had risen to 300, and a proposal was made that the Club should become a Society. In 1935, therefore, its present title - the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society - was adopted.

The officers and committee during the 1920s continued to organise an extensive programme of lectures and excursions. By 1924 the committee Chairman was Frederick Harrison, the editor of the *Archaeologist*. A slightly enlarged committee now included one woman, Miss Julia Davis. William Law continued as Hon. Secretary, as did G. W. King ('Lanternist') and Henry J. Roberts ('Hon. Librarian'). Herbert Toms was now given the title of Representative of the Earthworks Survey. The Vice-Presidents included two new Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries: Dr. Eliot Curwen and A. W. Oke. The Earl of Chichester was still President and the Club (as it then was) continued to be affiliated to the Sussex Archaeological Society.

The Club at this time maintained its interest in the preservation of archaeological sites, and this became increasingly important with the building development that followed the end of the war. In 1923 a protest was mounted against the levelling of Whitehawk Camp, and in 1928 the Club made a proposal to excavate the site. Work began in 1929 under the direction of Dr. E. Cecil Curwen (now a young man in his thirties) and Charles Thomas-Stanford (now a baronet and President of the Club). The finds from this dig, including a skeleton, were sent to the Brighton Museum. The death of Thomas-Stanford in 1932 robbed the Club of one of its oldest, most knowledgeable and most enthusiastic members. In 1931 excavation began at Hollingbury, and in 1932 Cecil Curwen turned his attention to Thundersbarrow, near Shoreham, at the same time assisting George Holleyman with the work begun on Plumpton Plain. This was a particularly rewarding dig, revealing a Bronze Age village - only the second to be excavated in Britain. 1935 saw the third season of work at Whitehawk, and members also assisted the Worthing Society at Harrow Hill flint mines. In 1936 the Iron Age settlement on Mt. Caburn was excavated.



The records of the Club (alter 1935, Society) during these years show the vigorous enterprise of the active members engaged in excavation -though it was always recognised that only a small proportion of the membership in fact participated in the strenuous work on the sites. Again and again, though, the same names are found among those engaged in the digs, and one of the most prominent is that of George Holleyman. In the spring of 1981, he contributed to the first issue of the Society's newsletter, *Flint*. Then over 70 years of age, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, he looked back over 50 years as a member, and his reminiscences make interesting reading:

'I joined in 1929 as the result of hearing a lecture by Dr. Cecil Curwen on "Prehistoric Sussex." I attended lectures which were then given in the Brighton Museum Art Gallery. One was by Ralph Merrifield on "Old Brighton Customs," and the Chair was taken by H. S. Toms. Two outings remain in my memory, one to Oldlands Mill, Keymer, and another to Ditchling Beacon, where Dr. Crow described some excavations in a small hill fort. I also visited the Southwick Roman Villa which was being excavated by Messrs. Winbolt and Ward. In 1932 I helped Dr. Cecil Curwen survey and excavate the Early Iron Age hill fort and Romano-British village site on Thundersbarrow Hill, north of Southwick. This was the first of many digs and it was there I first met Philip Burstow.'

Burstow and Holeyman worked together for many years under Curwen and went on to form a famous partnership. On the death of Burstow in 1975 the Society's Annual Report recorded that his was 'a life of devotion to Sussex archaeology.' Holleyman's reminiscences were continued in the second issue of *Flint*

'After helping Dr. Cecil Curwen excavate Thundersbarrow Hill in 1932 I soon found myself involved in a series of digs in the Brighton and Worthing area. In the December of 1932 and January 1933 the second excavation of Whitehawk Neolithic Camp took place. A young man named Ben Hamilton took charge on the site under the supervision of Dr. Curwen. There was a team of paid labourers and Philip Burstow, James Stuart and I helped whenever we could. Neolithic "A" pottery, flint implements and burials were found in the ditches. Conditions were uncomfortable, the weather was wet and cold, and sometimes the water in the ditches was frozen. In the June of 1933 Dr. Curwen and I excavated the first of the important Late Bronze Age settlements in the county. This was on New Barn Down, Harrow Hill, and the work was done in the name of the Worthing Archaeological Society. We also discovered a Neolithic dwelling-pit, probably the house of one of the flint miners, and opened two Saxon barrows. In 1933 I commenced my survey of the Celtic Field System of the Brighton district. This was the first survey of its kind in South-East England and was published in *Antiquity* in 1935.'

The Club during the 1920s remained true to its earlier practice of publishing the reports of its work, and in 1924 and 1926 Nos. 2 and 3 of the *Brighton and Hove Archaeologist* appeared. These give detailed accounts by the members themselves of work carried out in the field. No. 2 (1924) contains an article by Eliot and Cecil Curwen (by now both practising as doctors) on the Hove Tumulus. H. S. Toms contributed one on the Valley Entrenchments west of Ditchling Road and, together with Robert Gurd and W. J. Jacobs, another on the surveys of Thundersbarrow Camp and Thunder's Steps. A. Adrian Allcroft, in an article on 'The Circus on Buckland Bank,' was able to bring up to date his ideas about the Circus first put forward in a paper he had read before the Club in 1918. Though much of the evidence was now destroyed for ever, he felt entitled to his belief that 'On the broad level of the ridge to the east of the circus there stood, in the Romano-British times, a town of which that circus was the moot, the place of all its municipal business. Within that circus met, for debate, for justice, for ritual and for sport, the men whose labour tilled the lynchets all around, whose ashes filled the urns that were laid in the cemetery 500 yards away ...' Here perhaps is the 'poetry of archaeology' extolled by Arthur Cooke in the first issue of the *Archaeologist*, with the fusion of heart and head in the imaginative interpretation of observations made in the field. A report by Reginald P. R. Williamson - 'Notes on the Celtic Road and Lynchets on Truleigh Hill' - is a very brief and more prosaic account of work undertaken in the spring of 1923 at the suggestion of Cecil Curwen. Other articles in the second issue of the *Archaeologist* were more wide-ranging and less field-oriented. W. Clarkson Wallis wrote on 'The Brighton Steine and the Danes in Sussex;' William Law produced an illustrated article on 'Our Windmills;' and Thomas-Stanford described the tomb of Edward Elrington at Preston.

Certainly the most entertaining contribution to this volume is that of Frederick Harrison about the unveiling of a memorial stone at Plumpton Cross on Wednesday 14th May 1924, to commemorate the 660th anniversary of the Battle of Lewes. One of the Club's objects, as stated in 1921, was 'erecting tablets at historic places,' and here was a splendid chance

to celebrate 'the freedom which it (the battle) brought to the citizens of the country.' The patriotic feelings engendered by the war not so long before were given full rein. The schoolchildren were given a day's holiday in honour of the celebration, and about 800 of the older pupils, after assembling at their different schools, 'marched to a spot on the Downs behind the Grand Stand, carrying flags and accompanied by their teachers.' A motor lorry belonging to Lewes Corporation served as a platform for the occasion, and the Union Jack fluttered over the animated scene. The Mayor and Mayoress of Lewes were present, supported by a large number of the great and the good. The morning (fortunately the day was beautifully fine) was taken up by a long address by Frederick Harrison himself (and reproduced in the *Archaeologist*), giving a blow-by-blow account of the battle. (The children were no doubt encouraged to pay attention by the offer of Mr. Harrison to present a copy of his book on the Battle of Lewes, 'inscribed with the Borough Arms', to the writer of the best essay of 400 words, and the Mayoress said she would give a prize of one guinea to the second best.)

When Mr. Harrison had concluded his address (he Chairman of the Education Committee said that he had no doubt that it would long be remembered by the scholars present) the children sang 'Rule Britannia,' gave three cheers for the King, three more for the Mayor and the Mayoress, and one cheer for the teachers, and then settled down to eat their picnics. In the afternoon the memorial stone - placed there by the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Club - was unveiled by the Countess of Chichester, wife of the President, on the site of the cross cut out of the chalk and thought to commemorate the battle. Many members of the Club (but not, it seems, H. S. Toms) were present on this happy occasion to join in the prayers offered, and to hear a public-spirited gentleman offer to make up the deficit on £5 required to complete the fund for providing the stone.

This is such an enjoyable account that it is sad to have to record that *Flint* No. 31 for Spring 1994 carried an article by Ken Goodchild saying that the purpose of Plumpton Cross is unknown, and that there is no record or evidence to connect it with any historical event, especially the Battle of Lewes, 1264. Certainly everyone present at the ceremony in 1924 had a wonderful time (and it must have been good publicity for the Club, though it was very unlikely that such thoughts entered the minds of the Club's officers, who clearly took it very seriously) but on this occasion the hearts must have ruled the heads. Ken Goodchild's rejoinder must be closer to the spirit of scientific enquiry than Harrison's dramatic speech. The monument itself, vandalised in 1977, is no longer there, the only surviving piece having been given into the care of the Sussex Archaeological Society.

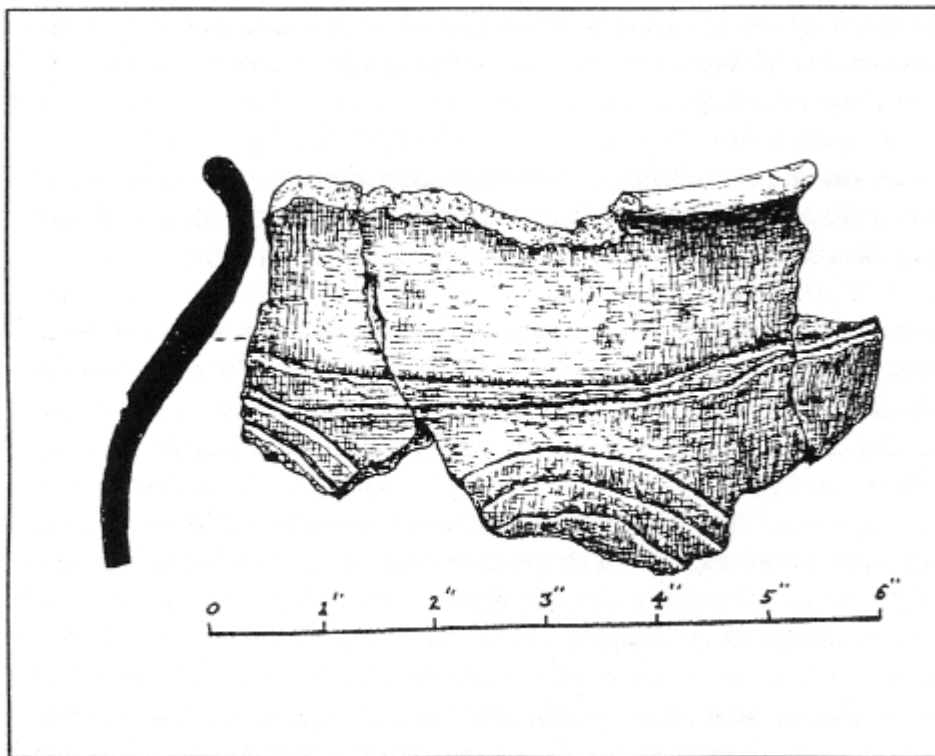
The third volume of the *Archaeologist* was published in 1926. Some of the articles are continuations of those which had appeared in Volume 2. Herbert Toms added to his discussion of the Valley Entrenchments off the Ditchling Road, but this time looking east instead of west. Alicroft had more to say about the circus on Buckland Bank. He and George Herbert also reported on the Roman Villa at Preston. The Curwens turned their attention to Port's Road, the ancient track linking Portslade and Hangleton, where road-trenching operations had been carried out during the winters of 1925-6. Further evidence had been uncovered on the Brighton golf-links and especially in the barrow near the top of Round Hill. Eliot Curwen also included comments on the Early Iron Age and Roman pottery found at Buckland Bank. This repetition of familiar names illustrates the degree of dedication and co-operation within a small group of Club members whose continuing passion was for personal involvement in the investigation of ancient sites and settlements in the vicinity.

Others concerned themselves more with documentary research directed towards buildings, monuments, and topics of historical interest. Frederick Harrison, for instance, contributed a useful summary of the role of constables and headboroughs and their relationship with the Town Commissioners before the formation of an organised police force. An article by H. S. North took as its subject the Bartholomew's Property, Brighthelmston, 1547-92, and W. Clarkston Wallis wrote about Brighthelmston Church and the Chapel of St. Bartholomew. The careful research and recording, the quality of the writing, and the wide range of interests, both archaeological and historical, represented was a mark of the Club's publications at this time. With Toms, the Founding Father, still active, the second generation showed how much could be achieved by amateurs, working under inspired leadership, who set for themselves the highest of standards. Alas, there were to be no further volumes published in future years, after that particular golden age of research and publication came to an end. The work of excavation continued into the 1930s, as has been seen above, but the reports must be sought, sometimes in occasional papers but generally in the Collections of the Sussex Archaeological Society or other journals of learned societies.

The majority of members who did not assist with the archaeological excavations continued to give their support to the lectures and excursions that were always an important part of the Society's activities. Two particularly eminent speakers during this period were Dr. Mortimer Wheeler - he spoke on 'Recent Developments in the Field in South-East Britain' - and, in 1938, Kathleen Kenyon. By this time, however, another war was imminent and after 1939 there was no access to the Downs for civilians. In 1940 news came of the death of Herbert Toms and the Society mourned the loss of the man whose inspiration and enthusiasm had brought it into being over thirty years before. Things would never be the same again. By the time the war was over and work could begin once more on digs and other archaeological investigation of sites still awaiting exploration, there were to be changes in ways of organising and conducting research and excavation that would affect amateur archaeologists, however dedicated.

The Post-War years 1. archaeology

The 40th anniversary of the Society fell in the first year of peace. Through most of those forty years the archaeological activities of members had been carried out under the leadership of Herbert Toms and the handful of pioneers who had been trained by him in the field. It is true that they were all amateurs, but they were, as individuals and as a group, seriously dedicated in giving their tune to archaeology, and their achievements often came close to professional standards. By 1946, however, Toms had died; Cecil Curwen, who had done so much to encourage archaeological work before the war, was no longer active except in an advisory capacity; and Dr. A. E. Wilson, who had conducted a number of important research excavations since 1937, moved away to Chichester. Now some of the young assistants to Curwen in the 1930s, notably George Holleyman and Philip Burstow, began to take over leadership roles in a world that was about to change for archaeologists, both amateur and professional. Whereas in pre-war days the archaeological projects of the Society were generally planned and developed through individual initiatives, there was in future to be more control from outside bodies, often at county but sometimes at government level. Also, as in many other fields at that time, there was an increasing degree of professionalisation among archaeologists and a consequent widening of the gap between themselves and the amateurs, however competent the latter might be.



In August 1975 Radio Brighton broadcast an interview with E. W. Holden, in which the discussion centred on the work of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society since 1946. In December 1976 Eric Holden wrote up his account of this interview and made some additions. This paper has been invaluable in providing a framework for the following section.

To begin with, after 1946, active members of the Society embarked on a number of

projects, some a continuation of work begun before the war. Probably the site with the longest history of major excavation was Mt. Caburn, the scene of Pitt-Rivers' activities in 1877-8, when 40 pits had been sunk in the hill fort. In 1925-6 the Curwens had opened up another 95 pits, and Dr. Wilson had dug there in 1937-8. In 1958-9 Holleyman and Burstow returned to make further investigations.

Before that, however, there had been some important developments affecting the organisation and funding of archaeological research. In 1947 the Sussex Archaeological Research Committee had been set up to decide on priorities and lay down conditions of working. It was decided that there was now less need for the numerous sampling projects carried out in the past. Instead there was to be a study in depth of one site: a Late Bronze Age settlement on Itford Hill, between Newhaven and Lewes, discovered by Holleyman before the war. This pioneer work, the first of its kind in the country, was to take place for two weeks each year from 1949 to 1953. The report (published in *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 23, 1957) proved to be a milestone in archaeological research and interpretation. The plans showed a pattern of enclosures, huts and corrals on the farmstead, and evidence emerged about the kinds of crops that were grown and crafts that were practised.

A number of other research excavations followed, under the auspices of the Society, but increasingly with the co-operation and assistance of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit. This was financed by the Department and the Institute of Archaeology of London University and partly supported by voluntary donations. Hence the involvement of local societies was sought for both financial and practical assistance. One of its main concerns at this time was to conduct rescue operations before sites of archaeological importance disappeared under road and building construction, the laying of pipelines or any development making future investigation impossible. On many of these projects students from the Institute of Archaeology received instruction. One of the most interesting and rewarding rescue excavations had taken place from 1952, prior to the development of the Hangleton Estate. This, it was known, would obliterate the site of a deserted medieval village. The importance of adding archaeological to documentary evidence relating to vernacular medieval buildings, and not just the churches and castles in which historians were interested, was only then beginning to be acknowledged. This shift of focus resulted in an increasing archaeological interest in medieval sites, in addition to the more common investigation of prehistoric and Roman settlements. Holden noted this with approval, for, as he wrote, 'At that time archaeologists knew less about medieval dwellings in the chalk than they did about Bronze and Iron Age villages.' Some, indeed, had been known to discard all layers above the Roman - an attitude which happily underwent significant change, partly at least thanks to the work at Hangleton. Over the years a number of salvage and rescue operations continued to be organised under the auspices of the Society. Many of the names associated with excavations during this period are well known to present members: R. Hartridge, F. Witten, M. Ball, C. Yeates, E. W. Holden, A. Barr-Hamilton, W. Gorton.

During the 1960s the Society was involved in a number of projects. One was at Renscombe Camp, near the Caburn, and another at Middle Brow, between Ditchling and Stanmer. In 1967-9 John Holmes, ex-Treasurer of the Society, organised the work at Hollingbury Iron Age hill fort, and this added considerably to the current knowledge about hill forts in Sussex. The report was published in the *Collections* of the Sussex Archaeological Society, Vol. 122 (1984). Preparations were now being made to begin operations on two sites where major excavations would take place over the next few years.

From 1969 Martin Bell, working with the Field Unit, directed extensive investigations at Rookery Hill, Bishopstone, a site occupied from the Bronze Age to Saxon times. This was both a research and a rescue operation. The Bishopstone excavation overlapped with work at the nearby site at Newhaven. Both Bishopstone and Newhaven were conducted as joint ventures between the Society and the Field Unit. The work at Newhaven was completed and the final report prepared in 1974 for publication in the *Collections*. The pottery report, still to be written, was prepared by C. M. Green, whose salary for six weeks was paid directly by the Field Unit.

Work at Bishopstone was expected to go on for another year. Finance was always difficult, and Martin Bell produced a report for the Excavations Sub-Committee showing that by the end of 1974 both accounts, for Bishopstone and Newhaven, were in balance, but no money remained to pay any further bills. Managing these finances was no easy matter, especially with funds coming from so many sources. The Department of the Environment made a grant of £1000 to Bishopstone in 1974 (Newhaven, finishing up its work, got £140) and there was support from a number of archaeological and other societies in the county. The Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society contributed £50 and appeals and donations brought in some additional income. Martin Bell had the task of preparing estimates for 1975. These give an interesting insight into the organisation of such an excavation, the staff required and the costs of the work for one year. The excavation staff included the Assistant Director (C. M. Green), the Administrator, the Administrator (Finance), two Finds Assistants, a Site Draughtsman, a Photographer and Reports Assistant and three Site Supervisors. The estimate of expenses included plant hire, £350; subsistence and accommodation, £900; farmer, £70; travel and transport, £50; stationery and drawing expenses, £50; photography, £25; postage and duplicating, £10; insurance, £20. This came to a total of £1500. Bell applied to the Field Unit for £1400 and requested a grant from the Society for £50. Volunteers worked on the sites, many being students who were prepared to help pay for their instruction. During this excavation students came from the Universities of London, Nottingham, Sussex, Cambridge, Heidelberg and Idaho. The Society's Minutes record in 1975 that a booking had been made at the Youth Hostel in Aifriston for ten beds for five weeks, at a cost of £550. The volunteers themselves paid one-third of their expenses. By the time that the work at Bishopstone was completed, twenty Anglo-Saxon buildings had been revealed, at least eight of which were large rectangular 'hall' structures. This was one of the major pieces of work in which the Society was involved during those years.

In his notes, Holden had stressed the urgent need for reports to be completed and published as soon as possible, but however good the intentions of Directors the expense of publication was an additional problem. During the 1970s there were many references in the Minutes and Annual Reports to the work that had been going on for some time at Stretham Moated Site, near Small Dole, under the direction of Alec Barr-Hamilton. (Their volunteers often camped on the site.) Years later the committee was still trying to find the money to cover a shortfall of funds required to pay for publication of the pottery report for Stretham. (See *Flint*, No. 31, 1994).

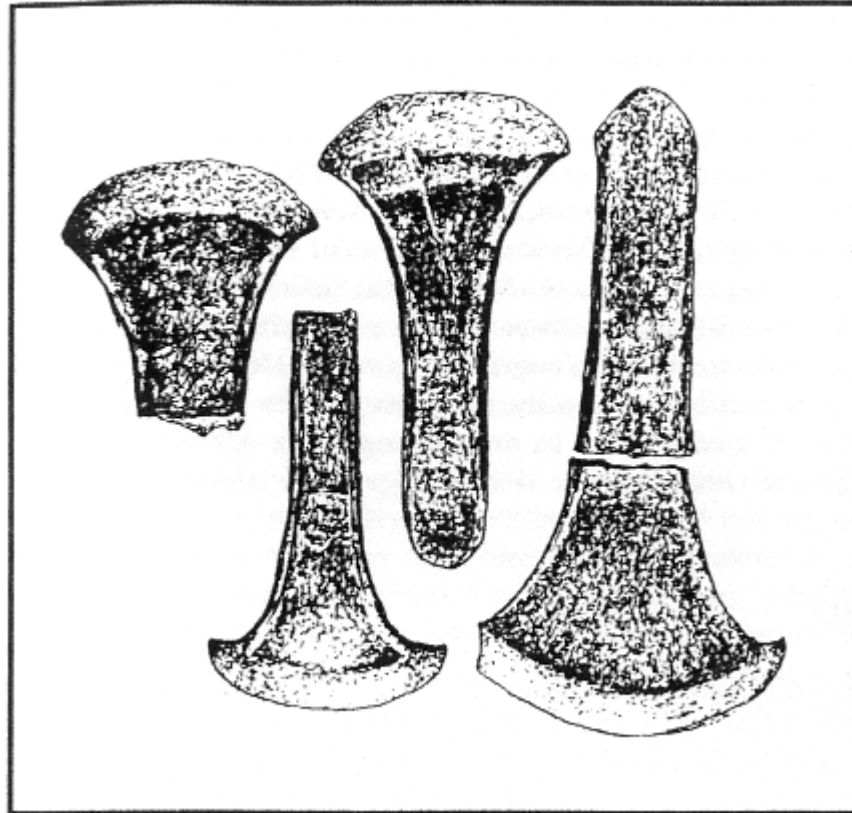
In spite of these financial problems the 1970s were in many ways a second Golden Age for the Society, with a number of important achievements in the field. In the 1980s much valuable work continued to be done. There was by now, however, a growing recognition that the members wishing to take an active part in excavation projects needed more of the knowledge and expertise that could only come with more formal training. Hence the very

first copy of *Flint* published in 1981 put two questions to members: 'Do you want to be a real archaeologist and help with this summer's digs?' (those interested were directed to write to Clive Skeggs) and 'Are you interested in training for archaeological work?' Training courses were being offered by Dr. Owen Bedwin of Southern Archaeological Services. This same issue of *Flint* also began one of its main news items by saying 'You have all heard of the proposed by-pass.' The route of the by-pass was of course to be the scene of many of the Society's activities during the 1980s. In the second issue of the newsletter, which came out in the autumn of 1981, Ken Goodchild contributed his observations on the proposed line of the new road, noting that many barrows and other archaeological features made the whole area one of great importance. 'It is,' he wrote, 'evident that our Society must watch carefully when road works commence and make the utmost use of all facilities for rescue excavation and recording.' He added that it was equally important that all work be properly co-ordinated and organised.

The Society had tried over the years to adapt to changing conditions and demands, at the same time not losing sight of the injunctions passed down from the time of Toms to keep careful records and to make sure that such information should be made available to members. There were going to be plenty of opportunities for active involvement as work on the by-pass developed. Both research and rescue excavation would be needed, and there were other non-excavational techniques which could yield important information. In his 1976 paper, Holden had seen one way forward for ordinary members to participate, by concentrating on non-excavational fieldwork. As amateurs, they would leave professional work to the professionals, but they could still make an important contribution to archaeology by taking part in organised surveys for the recording of flint and pottery spreads in arable fields, searching for unrecorded earthworks, checking the state of scheduled ancient monuments, and documentary research.

These recommendations were reflected in comments made by Ted O'Shea, the then President, reported in *Flint*, in 1982, when he contributed an article entitled 'The Gentle Art of Field Walking.' Field walking was in fact to prove a very rewarding activity for members. In 1984, the second season of field walking on Falmer Hill recovered about 2000 worked flints representing many different kinds of implements from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age, and including arrowheads, awls, blades, knives, and a complete chipped axe, as well as 'the ubiquitous scrapers'. Field walking took place in many locations but the building of the by-pass gave opportunities to explore fresh sites. Walking the proposed route in 1987 with the Worthing Archaeological Society produced a number of finds - prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval.

Even more important than the finds themselves was the fact that these surveys revealed much information about agricultural practice over several periods. A report in *Flint* suggested that 'Further insight into the agrarian, economic and settlement patterns during the last five thousand years should be gained when excavations are undertaken at the prehistoric and Romano-British settlement complexes north-east of Blatchington and north-east of Patcham, both of which will be destroyed when the road is constructed.' These surveys could therefore provide the preliminary information that would indicate where more extensive work should be carried out. Such work at Old Boat Corner and near Varley Hall not only produced evidence of Bronze Age settlement but also raised important and interesting questions about the extent and nature of the settlement.



The main interest of many members continued to be in the excavations going on in the area, whether as volunteers or as observers. It was possible to visit sites to see the professional archaeologists at work, and learn by observing such directors as Mark Roberts, David Holden, David Rudling, Robin Holgate, Peter Drewett, and Mark Gardiner, all of whom were working in the county during the 1980s. The sites themselves were varied in nature and by period. They included Early Palaeolithic (Boxgrove), Late Neolithic (Bullock Down), barrows and pillow mounds, Bignor Roman Villa, Romano-British (Maresfield), Lewes and Hastings castles and a deserted medieval village (Broomhill, Camber).

The Society had tried over the years to adapt to changing conditions and demands. One attempt made in 1976 has been a proposal to set up a Local Sites Research Group. The Minutes record that 'At least 90% of our knowledge of archaeology is now derived from fieldwork and air photography rather than from excavations. Yet members of our Society clamour to take part in excavations while, at the same time, admitting that they do not know much about archaeology...' The members of this Group would each carry out personal researches into local archaeological sites, and meet regularly to present and record their findings. In this way, it was thought, a body of knowledge would be put on record and made available to members of the Society. This particular idea does not seem to have come to anything, but perhaps it prompted the setting up the following year of the Excavation Sub-Committee, which was asked to investigate ways of promoting local excavation and fieldwork. Meanwhile, the techniques of investigation were developing, and it is at this time that we began to hear of the use of Resistivity Meters.

The gap between amateur and professional archaeologists was still an important and sensitive factor, and in 1987 representatives of the Sussex Archaeological Society, the

Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society and other archaeological groups in the county attended the second Congress for Independent Archaeologists. There was much discussion about the relative roles of amateurs and professionals, and it was agreed 'that the non-professional archaeologist had an important role to play, and there are areas where amateurs having the time and enthusiasm could often carry out tasks for which the professional was unable to spare resources.' It was, however, important that amateur archaeologists as well as professional be seen to be working to high standards.

In 1983 Ted O'Shea had recommended that provision of more training classes for members, in surveying, processing and drawing finds, recognition of coins, bone recognition, and 'aspects of local history and industrial archaeology which could link up with fieldwork.' Throughout the 1980s many members did attend such courses - on surveying, pottery, flints, the identification of faunal remains, and the recognition of other artifacts - with Ted O'Shea stressing always that students must be prepared to accept serious involvement in the work. In addition to these courses for members, it was now possible for the most committed people to work towards recognised qualifications. In 1988 David Rudling taught a new GCSE course, as well as a non-examination course, in the Archaeology of Roman Britain. The following year a second GCE 'A' level course in archaeology was offered. Thus the way was now open for amateurs to begin to acquire the knowledge and skills of the professionals.

The Post-war years 2. Membership Activities

Although only a small proportion of the membership has ever taken an active part in fieldwork, others have shown their interest by lending financial and moral support to current fieldwork projects, and all have continued to enjoy the monthly lectures in the winter and a varied programme of excursions in the summer. Membership in the 1960s was around 250-300 and then included seven Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries. By 1976 it was possible for Holden to express his disappointment that the membership - then fluctuating between 400 and 450 - did not keep pace with the rise in population in the area. Sadly, by 1980 the membership was closer to 200.

A smaller membership means less income from subscriptions unless these rise to keep pace with inflation. In 1975 the Annual Report called attention to the fact that 'This year, out of every £1 subscription, we had to spend 85p. on postage, printing, room hire, insurance and bank charges, leaving only 15p. to spend on lectures, excavation, excursions and donations.' The following year, with postage rates going up, the situation would inevitably be worse. The Committee discussed the matter. There was already a deficit of £34. If the subscription was raised to £1.50p., the Society would still be in the red; 'if it was £2 we should be just out of the red.' With 413 members on the books, the subscription was increased to £2. By 1983, with fewer members, it was raised to £3.50p. and in 1993 it went up again, this time to £6, at which it still stands.

Every society needs to encourage new, and especially young, blood, and strenuous efforts have been made from time to time to attract more junior members. In 1983 the work on the reconstruction of the dovecote at Hangleton was expected to appeal to young people, but in 1985 the junior membership had shrunk from fifteen to six in less than a year. Soon after the Hangleton project was completed there were further attempts, this time initiated by the Sussex Archaeological Society, to interest young people in archaeology. In the autumn of 1988 the 'YAS' was set up. Under Paul Smith a programme of activities was organised for the Young Archaeologists of Sussex. The activities were designed to appeal to boys and girls of 8 to 12 years and from 13 to 17. The Brighton and Hove Society co-operated in some of these and itself succeeded in attracting some young archaeologists to take part in field walking and other projects. Much interest was generated by the work going on at the site of the Beddingham Roman villa, and many children accompanied their parents or teachers to see the excavations taking place. Perhaps the best hope for stimulating a real interest among young people lies in the increasing introduction into schools of examination courses in archaeology for older pupils.

The winter series of lectures has always been a central activity of the Society. In the very early days these were often given in the Museum, and many events, and all committee meetings, were held in the Royal Pavilion. No doubt Toms and Law, who both worked at the Museum, were able to assist in making these arrangements. However, when fees for hire of rooms became more than the Society could agree to, the venue for lectures and meetings changed a number of times. Lectures have been given in the Saffis Benney Hall, and at the English Language Centre or All Saints Hall in Hove. Since 1986 meetings have been held in the Unitarian Church, New Road. Over the years members have enjoyed talks from visiting experts and from members reporting on developments on local excavations. It would be tedious to attempt to list the many lectures presented - some examples of programmes have been reproduced elsewhere in this report. The same must be said for detailed lists of excursions undertaken. The Society has reason to be grateful to

members of the committee, Lecturers and Excursions Secretaries, who have taken on the task of finding speakers, many of them distinguished in their particular fields, and for making the often complicated arrangements for visits to places of historical or archaeological interest.

A recent obituary of Joyce Parker, past President and holder at some time of almost every office on the committee, noted her carefully prepared arrangements for such visits. Spending the day with a relative during the time that she was Excursions Secretary would give her a useful opportunity to investigate possible outings for the 'Arch. Soc.' which played such an important part in her life: 'It was quite hard work; we had to take her by car to her quarry, usually the vicar of an interesting church who had been warned in advance we were coming. We went round the church while Joyce analysed the interesting features... Joyce also took notice of the state of the roads, could a coach get down and turn round at the end, where were the nearest toilets, and the availability of refreshments.'

Visits in recent times have often been made to current digs, to the Iron Age Farm at Butser and The Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton. Some trips have involved a good deal of travelling; to York, St. Albans, Salisbury and Maiden Castle. Not since the 1970s have members been so far afield as Normandy. In 1976, with the 70th anniversary coming up, there were discussions about suitable ways to celebrate it. These varied from a day trip to Dieppe or the Isle of Wight to 'more sophisticated expense-minimizing efforts involving taking sheets and pillowcases to France and sleeping in school dormitories at night.' It was then realised that this would have to be a reciprocal arrangement, accommodation having to be found in this country for a similar number on the return visit, so the idea was abandoned. In the end a group visit to Normandy was arranged, overnight from Southampton to Le Havre, with one night bed and breakfast in France, and overnight home. The cost was £30 per head, and the three day outing included visits to Bayeux, Caen, Honfleur and the invasion beaches. A full account appears in the *Brighton Gazette*.

Over the years other social events were important dates in the Society's year, especially the 'Spring Conversazione,' which often included a visit, and the 'Autumn Soiree.' Social occasions held during the winter months were likely to offer lectures by members, a buffet supper, some entertainment (songs from Gilbert and Sullivan, perhaps, or, on one occasion, 'The Merrie England Mummers') with a literary or historical quiz to finish up the evening. It is long since the Society could afford to entertain its members in the Banqueting Room at the Royal Pavilion, but one of the pleasantest and most memorable social events of recent times was a summer party held in Lewes at Anne of Cleves House. Summer, of course, is the time for walks, and many members remember with pleasure visiting Hollingbury with Ken Goodchild, who had been involved with excavations there in the 1960s or John Funnel pointing out the archaeological features in the landscape of the Downs. Summer and winter Geoff Mead has led members on explorations of the streets of Brighton and Hove, or round the new suburb of Patcham.

There has always been a historical component in the Society's basically archaeological programme, whether in the lectures, excursions or local walks. This has helped to fill a surprising gap in a town whose early and more recent history is everywhere about us as we walk through its streets or out into the nearest countryside: there appears never to have been a Local History Society in Brighton or Hove. In 1983, however, an important development in the Archaeological Society's activities was to give birth to a Local History Group. In his President's letter, published in *Flint*, No. 7, Ted O'Shea wrote, 'When I

suggested that we might form a historical group, I had in mind a back-up team to investigate historical records for our current projects,' but this had in fact, under the guidance of Dr. Sue Farrant (now Sue Berry), developed into a full-scale historical section, adding greatly to what the Society could offer, and bringing in a number of new members.

O'Shea added that the Local History Group would also 'provide further interests for our armchair archaeologists.' This may have been true, but the first members of the newly-formed group were far from being armchair historians. With its own Secretary and Sub-Committee, the Group organised a series of seminars conducted mainly by the members themselves, and occasionally by outside speakers, actively engaged in their own research projects. A number of papers written by early members of the Local History Group were published. Sue Farrant herself published *Changes in Brighton and Hove Suburbs: Preston and Patcham 1841-1871* and Adrian Peasgood produced *The Horse-Buses of Brighton and Hove*. In 1985-6 some members, under Dr. Farrant, also assisted in a project based at the then Brighton Polytechnic, feeding census enumerators' schedules for 1851 into computers for analysis. At about the same time, Dr. Farrant handed over the organisation of the Group to Douglas Betchley, and his place has since been taken over by Eileen Telford.

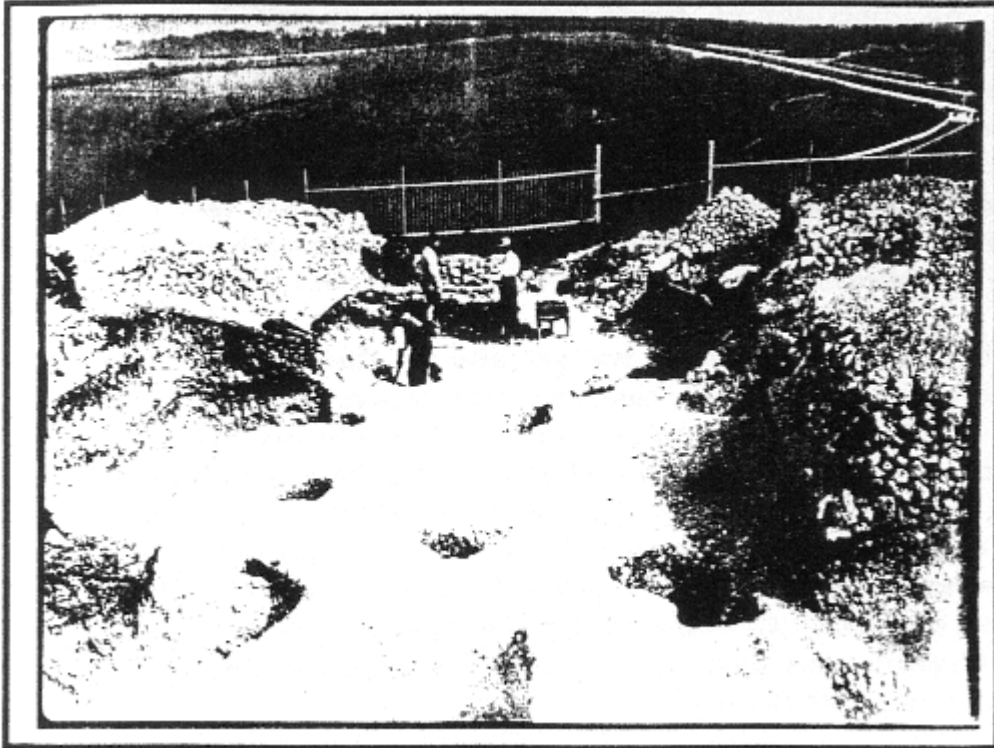
A further stimulus to research, both in history and archaeology, was given in 1989 following the death of Ethel Garratt, Secretary from 1976 to 1981. The Ethel Garratt Prize Competition was set up 'to encourage people in Brighton and Hove to take an interest in the past, and to make a contribution to the study and recording of sites, buildings and monuments in the county.' The first topic proposed for the essay in 1989 was 'Churches and Chapels in Sussex', in 1991 the subject set was 'Transport and Communication in Sussex up to 1837,' and in 1993, 'Parks and Promenades in Brighton and Hove.'

The Society in the 1990s

The death of Ray Hartridge in 1989 robbed the Society of one of its most active and devoted members. As Hon. Secretary for Archaeology, he had initiated and organised a number of important projects. John Funnel, taking over these responsibilities, set out to pursue, and where possible complete, the work begun by Ray Hartridge. The programme outlined for 1990 included the Ovingdean Survey, then in its fourth year, by members training in surveying techniques with the use of a resistivity meter; a Survey Day School; field walking at Peacehaven and Woodingdean; completion of the pottery dating analysis of the Stretham Moated Site; further excavation at Coldean and along the route of the Brighton by-pass; investigation of lynchets and a possible medieval enclosure at East Wick barn; and further excavations at Mile Oak and at the newly-discovered Bronze Age site at Old Boat Corner. The organisation of such an extensive programme would make heavy demands on any leader, but in addition the Hon. Secretary of Archaeology is expected to maintain links with other societies and to keep a watch on planning applications and building developments in and around the town. Contacts have to be made with officers in the Planning Department and other authorities, new archaeological techniques have to be mastered, equipment bought and maintained, and active members kept informed and directed on site. The Society was indeed fortunate that an Hon. Secretary has been found willing not only to take over but to devote so much of his time and enthusiasm to building up the field activities. His own knowledge and expertise have enabled the present members to extend greatly their understanding of archaeological techniques and discoveries.

Since 1990 the list of sites investigated has continued to grow, and volunteers have had to learn more new techniques. Geophysics was employed at the Old Boat Corner, while at Whitehawk the resistivity survey was accompanied by 'an instruction course on the set up and use of the dumpy level.' Special attention has been given to the encouragement of young recruits, and members participated in a YAS Day at Bignor Roman Villa. On one field walking day nearly 40 people took part, among them many children. At Rocky Clump a special area was set aside for young archaeologists to work in. In 1994 excavations began there again and tuition was offered to all corners who arrived with the three essential requirements: 'tetanus protection, a 4" trowel ... and a happy disposition.'

As early as 1991 John Funnel was expressing concern about the trend, already discussed above, towards phasing out amateur archaeologists. A scarcity of sites and shortage of funding has led to greater competition from the professionals. In Sussex new sites were being put out to tender and taken up by field units from outside the county. Yet the need for volunteers continued, particularly when a rescue operation had suddenly to be undertaken. *Flint*, No. 25, noted, 'These occur quite frequently, and the Field Archaeology Unit often requires a rapid response from volunteers when archaeological sites are in imminent danger of being destroyed.' This situation is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.



There is, however, another side to this. Mention has already been made of the increasing provision of courses available for people to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in archaeological activity in a competent and efficient way, albeit within certain limits. The introduction in 1990 by the University of Sussex Centre for Continuing Education of a Certificate in Field Archaeology is a further example of an increasingly serious interest in the subject. This must in time have the effect of raising standards among those wishing to take an active part in excavation and other forms of exploration. This particular course, taught by David Rudling and Peter Drewett, was to cover 'all aspects of archaeology, including techniques of excavation and field work in general, as well as studies of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods.' For those wishing to specialise in a smaller area of expertise, Sussex University was in 1991 offering a course in Archaeological Illustration. This involved learning techniques of drawing archaeological finds for recording and publishing purposes. The Centre for Continuing Education also offers a number of Day Schools open to all, and the programme for Autumn 1995 included study days on Community Archaeology; Archaeological Fieldwork; and Archaeology: what it can tell us about Hunter-Gatherers. Autumn 1994 had already seen the introduction in one local school of a GCSE in Archaeology in which Part 1 was devoted to archaeological skills, and Part 2 to the archaeology of the British Isles, prehistoric to medieval. In the Autumn Term 1996 the University is offering a new one-year Certificate Course in Practical Archaeology. The team of tutors is headed by David Rudling, Director of the Field Archaeology Unit of the Institute of Archaeology (London), who is now Organising Tutor in Archaeology for the Centre for Continuing Education. Courses with an archaeological component have also been offered by the Booth Museum of Natural History.

It has been said that Archaeology has never been so popular as it is today, and there is

certainly a strong following among Society members for the winter lectures which range over a wide field. A typical programme was that arranged for 1995-6: Archaeology and Historic Gardens; New Excavations at Sutton Hoo; A Report on the Excavations at Rocky Clump; Historic Coastal Landscapes; Excavation at Nets Knowe, Dumfries; Cannibalism in the Archaeological Record; and Reflections on Fishbourne. There appears then to be a future for archaeology as a field of interest, but what future is there for the amateur archaeologist? And what indeed is the future role of the Society? In the Annual Report for 1993, the then President, Dr. Fred Hamblin, drew attention to what this might be: 'When the Society was founded in 1906 its main activity was in organised excavations by its members, but today with the increasing sophistication of excavation techniques and the growth in the number of professional archaeologists, the Society is unlikely in the future to be able to operate independently on any large scale. It can, however, give valuable support to work being carried out by professionals and assist in many ways such as sorting and classification of "finds." It can also help maintain public interest in archaeology and keep a watch on any development work likely to damage archaeological sites.'

John Funnell, aware of the questions and uncertainties, chose to take a positive view of the future. In 1994 he proposed to the Committee that the Society should form an active field unit (to be known as the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Field Unit) which should continue with the work of archaeology through field walking, surveying and excavation. Under the direction of the Hon. Secretary for Archaeology, records would be kept and results submitted to the Sussex Archaeological Society and other appropriate bodies. Members would be encouraged to take courses, specialising in areas of particular interest. The Unit would not be in competition with professional units, but its long-term projects could be expected to contribute to and complement their work.

It is with such questions raised, though with the answers not yet known, that the Society looks forward to its 90th anniversary. Anniversaries are normally times for celebration, and in the past the Society's milestones have often been marked in some special way. In 1976 the Society, aged 70, planted a small-leaved lime tree (*tilia cordata*, cost £15) on the West Lawn of the Royal Pavilion and went on to a tea party and talk in the William IV Room. The 75th anniversary in 1981 was a rather different affair, but a social evening was held, when six past Presidents were present. The 80th anniversary in 1986 took the form of a tea-party at the Grand Hotel. Members enjoyed a 'full cream tea' of sandwiches, scones and pastries, and a talk to follow on the history of the West Pier. In 1996 we are looking both backwards and forwards. We have already seen an excellent display by our Secretary, Sarah Mills, depicting the history of the Society.

Anniversaries are times for memories as well as celebrations, and with pride in achievement goes sadness at the passing of old friends. In the course of time the Society has inevitably lost many of its prominent members, officers and researchers, whose contributions are recorded in its archives. Some have been mentioned above. Others remembered with gratitude and affection include Charles Sadler, Ted O'Shea, Charles Yeates, Lilian Candler, E. W. Holden and Ray Hartridge. Walter Gorton, one of the longest serving members of the Society was always active in the field. For over thirty years he worked on the site of Rocky Clump in Stanmer Park. More recently the Society has lost Norman Norris, Joyce Parker, John Harben, L. V. Grinsell and Anthony Dale. Thanks to them and many others, the Society has a proud record of work undertaken and achieved in the interests of archaeology in Sussex.

The best tribute we can pay to them, and to the many from earlier days whose names appear above in this brief account of our history, is to look to the future and what the Society may hope and rightly expect to achieve. We can be sure that its members will continue to support the excellent lectures and excursions arranged for their instruction and enjoyment. Additionally they will look forward to getting the latest news of the Society's activities from the lively, informative and aptly named *Flint*, now published twice a year. But we know above all that the full range of archaeological activities, already firmly established, will go on attracting a number of them to give time and energy to building up an increasing knowledge and understanding of our past. This was the object of the founders of the Club in 1906, and, as we approach our 90th anniversary, it continues to be the purpose for which the Society exists today.

Photographs

Page 3. First Flint Hunt of Brighton and Hove Archaeological Club, October 1921.

Page 7. The Trundle Skeleton, Goodwood 1928.

Page 21. The Trundle, East Gate 1930.

Drawings

Page 11. A Curvilinear Ornament from The Caburn the 1925 excavation.

Page 15. Hoard of Flayed Axes from barrow, Coombe Hill, Jevington.

Inside Front cover:

Extract from report and record of Brighton & Hove Archaeological Club, 31 October 1907.

Front Cover

Drawings depicting;

Flint Scraper from Whithawk 1929;

Chalk Cup from The Trundle 1930;

Early first century Bronze Brooch found at The Caburn

1936 an Iron Age Pot from Highdole Hill

Research by Joyce Collins.

Editing and typesetting Stanley Bernard.

Drawings by Gary Bishop.

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Brighton & Hove



Archaeological Society

Excavation
Lectures
Social Events
Excursions
Local History Group
Competitions
Publications

"The society was established and continues to promote the study of archaeology with particular reference to the recording and preservation of antiquities."

Established 1906

Annual programme:

The programme runs throughout the year with a programme of:-
Excavations including field-walking - Lectures on archaeological and historical subjects - Social Events - Excursions during the summer - Local History Group has lectures in the winter and walks in the summer - Publications the half yearly newsletter "Flint" and annual report & accounts

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