EDITOR'S NOTES
This is the last issue which I am editing. Having prepared the original specification for the Newsletter and produced it to that specification as far as financial and technical limitations allowed, I feel that a fresh mind is needed to develop it further. My successor is Alec Barr-Hamilton, 226 Hangleton Road, Hove, BN3 7LP (telephone, Brighton 776829), to whom contributions, etc., should now be sent. I am grateful to those members who have enabled me to produce the Newsletter, and I hope that members will as willingly support Mr. Barr-Hamilton. I will continue to be responsible for the Sussex Bibliography.

The Annual Report for 1971 recorded the redecoration and re-display of the Saxon Room at Barbican House. Adjacent on the first floor has now been completed a new Medieval Room which was opened in October. One rapidly forgets what the room was like before, and a glance at a photograph shows how great a transformation Tony Page has wrought.

The Library's collection of Sussex postcards and guide books (church and other) is very incomplete, and Mrs. Lamb will be pleased to receive any donations of such material.

Members are reminded of our sister, the Sussex Record Society, whose need for subscribers is ever more urgent as printing costs rise. The next volume, The Second Town Book of Lewes 1702-1837, edited by Miss Verena Smith, should appear in February and will be covered by subscriptions for 1972 and 1973 (at £2.10 per annum). A public edition will be available at about £5.50. The Honorary Secretary is Mr. G. L. Remnant, Barbican House.

Though many societies affiliated to S.A.S. are equally concerned with 'amenity' issues as with antiquarianism, I have avoided the former in this publication, because they are covered in Sussex Newsletter, published quarterly by the Sussex Rural Community Council and the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies and now available to private subscribers from 212 High Street, Lewes.

Chichester City Museum (29 Little London, Chichester) has inaugurated a series of Occasional Papers. No. 1 is The Nature of the Horsham Industry and its place within the British Mesolithic, by A. G. Woodcock, the Curator—price 20p, but, as an introductory offer, free to members who send 4p postage.

It is a pleasure to report a resurgence of interest in the history of Littlehampton. In September, an appreciative audience of some 250 saw an excellent slide presentation by Mr. H. J. F. Thompson, who will be pleased to hear of any Littlehampton material, especially pictorial, in private hands (15 Connaught Road, Littlehampton, BN17 6ER). Photographic material relating to Haywards Heath dating from about the turn of the century seems to be fairly plentiful; but Mr. W. K. Ford is finding it difficult to discover photographs earlier than about 1880. If anyone knows of older photographs, he will be very grateful to hear of them (46 Harlands Road, Haywards Heath).

The Newsletter's pages are now numbered, as if issue no. 1 started with page 1.

'ASPECTS OF MEDIEVAL SUSSEX'
The conference, organised for the Society by the Research Committee on 21 October, was a great success and attended by about 300 people. With Miss K. M. E. Murray in the chair, four papers were delivered after an introductory review of medieval archaeology in Sussex by C. J. Ainsworth; D. H. Hill on the origins of the pre-Conquest towns of Sussex, Dr. P. F. Brandon on aspects of medieval agriculture and settlement in Sussex, K. J. Barton on the medieval pottery of Sussex, and D. F. Renn on the medieval fortifications of Sussex.

Within this diverse range of topics, there were in fact many linkages. The excavations of medieval sites in Sussex over the past 20 years represent a very considerable achievement, and the point has been reached where archaeological findings can be fruitfully combined with more traditional historical evidence, and where analytic work yields dividends, as with Mr. Barton's work on the pottery. Indeed, it may be the documentary research which is lagging behind, though Dr. Brandon's studies show superbly what can be achieved in combination with fieldwork. His contrast between the prosperous, sophisticated agriculture of the coastal plain and the impoverished subsistence farming of the Weald was echoed, in Mr. Hill's paper, by the line of burghs which skirted it, and, in Mr. Barton's paper, by the fine, mass-produced, West Sussex ware and the crude, localised, pottery of the High Weald. But the seaboard of the Weald did produce the Rye pottery and 'Winchelsea blackware' which show Continental influences, just as Mr. Renn drew on French analogies to explain features in Sussex fortifications. And so on... All the speakers were full of suggestions for future work.

There is clearly a demand for conferences of this sort, but they involve a tremendous amount of organising. Mr. K. W. Suckling is to be thanked for his hard work as Conference Secretary, and congratulated on the smooth running of the occasion.

IRON ORE WORKINGS IN THE WESTERN WEALD
John Gibson-Hill's note on the excavation of a Roman bloomerly at Broadfields, Crawley (TQ 268335) said that the geology and geography of the site were covered in a forthcoming paper by B. C. Worsams. The paper has now appeared as 'Iron Ore Workings near Horsham, Sussex, and the Sedimentology of the Wealden Clay Ironstone', Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, vol. 83, pp. 1 (1972), pp. 37-55. The workings are the minepits, or bell-pits, between Horsham and Crawley, which seem to be of 16th and 17th century date. Mr. Worsam suggests that the quantity of ore removed from the workings was sufficient to supply, wholly or partly, eight known furnaces in the vicinity.

Wealden iron enthusiasts will also welcome the appearance of W.I.R.G. Bulletin, no. 4 (summer 1972), particularly for P. J. Ovenden's paper on 'Chemistry and the Wealden iron industry' and for a reprint of Sir James Hope's description of John Brown's gun-founding furnace at Barden, Kent (1846).
ARCHAEOLOGY AND LEWES

Lewes is proud that the Sussex Archaeological Society was born, and has its headquarters, in the town. Among the town's other archaeological highlights, this has led to the belief that archaeology is particularly well looked after in Lewes, without realising that the Society has a responsibility for the county at large, and in fact would be failing in its duty if it devoted more attention to Lewes than to any other part. Much help and advice has always been given to them by the Barbi- cane House, and still is, but until the formation in 1969 of a Lewes Archaeological Group, no special co-ordination of work or finds has been possible.

The L.A.G. was formed in anticipation of the considerable re-development taking or about to take place in the town and nearby area, and giving opportunities for excavation which might not otherwise occur. In several respects of the town, re-development is being planned, the present overlying structures do not have particularly deep foundations, and underlying occupation levels may remain relatively undisturbed. A great deal of the likely work is 'urban archaeology', and the organisation has to be able to cope with confined sites and the limited opportunities imposed in this type of work. The Group therefore decided that it needed, in addition to experienced excavators, a cadre of observers and research workers. The observer group was first organised, with the task of reporting works of any type being undertaken in the town, so that more experienced workers could examine and 'log' evidence. Their field reports are plotted on large scale maps, together with the annotations from the Ordinance Survey, Archaeological Division, maps, and with the details of previously published material. It would be foolish to pretend that this is yet comprehensive, if it can ever be, but already some patterns are beginning to emerge which may prove significant. At an early stage, under the direction of Richard Lewis, was started in the re-dorter of Lewes Priory. This enabled both the keenness and the capability of many members to be assessed. The Group is still very short of members capable of taking charge of an excavation, and observers are able to work to the ability of standards under direction, but a start has been made. There was a period during 1971 when there were three separate sites being worked on at the same time.

As time progressed, so the future re-development pattern became clearer, and the Group has now started to compile a guide for planners and developers, which will attempt to list all those areas considered to be archaeologically important, and to show how the Group can help by being brought in at an early stage, thus avoiding those last minute situations where the development programme and the archaeological needs come into conflict. At this stage it would be pointless to list all the observations made and recorded. Examples are given of work undertaken in four different sets of circumstances. In the first, a known feature was examined when an opportunity presented itself. In the second, an examination was made in the interval between demolition and re-development, of a site where it was not known what might be found. In the third, still in progress, a contractor's trench in an area known to be of importance has led to a major and particularly interesting excavation. In the fourth, an area study is being made of early industrial activity.

In many respects Lewes is archaeologically behind many other towns in the county, where local societies have flourished for many years. This fact, seen against the greatly improved standards now sought after, is not necessarily a disadvantage, and the L.A.G. hopes to advance the level of local archaeological knowledge considerably, as its programme gets under way.

Town Defences, Lewes: rear of 1 Keere Street

Upper Garden. A cutting at right angles to base of the existing wall disclosed a trench at base of wall. 3 ft wide and 2½ ft deep. The sides of the trench were lined with unworked chalk blocks roughly coursed, with a wall of similar blocks at right angles, roughly sealing off the southern end. The cutting was taken out to base chalk with finds almost entirely of 19th century pottery and fragments, well mixed top to bottom, indicating that the trench had been filled in 50-60 years ago. A further accretion of household and builders' rubbish overlay this fill, including bedsteads, cycles, prams, etc. It was not possible in the time allowed to make a further parallel cutting, to trace extension to the north. To the south it ended behind the 'rough block' wall. There was no deep staining or ashes in quantity to indicate a long period of burning, and a certain amount of burning had taken place previous to the filling. Possibly it was a midden or storage place for the Alms-houses adjacent to the site.

Lower Garden. A trench was dug through the floor space of a pair of small cottages (demolished 1939) with a view to finding any further occupation levels underneath. Nothing of this nature was found but digging disclosed an original midden, probably the probable slope of a defensive ditch behind the houses on the east side of Keere Street. This was dug out to a depth of 12 ft. on a 15 ft. length without finding the centre of the ditch; excavation had then to stop, owing to building operations. The walls of the ditch were of apparent chalk-laid rubble from the Town Wall repairs or demolition. The fill contained no datable matter at all. Two pits were encountered, the first probably a midden pit as the fill contained well-mixed pottery fragments. The second pit or hollow had been filled with broken chalk, pieces being up to 5 lb. in weight. If a further dig is possible, another 6 ft. approx. would be needed to clear the centre and start on the return slope, from the evidence of the grading of the rubble towards the centre. The work was carried on under the direction of Mr. F. E. C. Bowley.

The existence of this ditch, west of the Town Wall, is well recorded, and is ascribed to the Saxon period in most published accounts. However there is no hard evidence of the date of construction, hence the importance of further excavation in this area, which will be undertaken when a further opportunity occurs.

Edward Street, Lewes

The demolition of the old Co-operative Dairy provided an opportunity to carry out a limited excavation on this site, which overlies what is believed to be part of the medieval town; its close proximity to the Naval Prison site, which has been patented in the north of the town, suggests that valuable evidence of earlier occupation might be found. The excavation, under the direction of Mr. Anthony Page, revealed a group of pits containing late 13th century pottery and some copper waste. The largest of the pits also contained the remains of three small furnaces and quantities of slag. A sample of the latter is being analysed.

Lewes Priory

During the digging of a soakaway within the eastern area of the re-instate known as the infirmary chapel of the Cluniac Priory of St. Pancras, Lewes, a stone-lined well was found at a depth of 3 ft. The drainage work was stopped, excavations began in February 1972 and have since continued every weekend. The first trench to be opened extended over the whole west end of the chancel and took in part of the transept crossing. Trenches have since been dug in the north and south apses, in front of the main altar, in the south-eastern end of the chancel and in a central area of the nave.

Work is still proceeding at the time of writing (October 1972) and conclusions, dependent as they will be on much research, including x-ray examinations and the comparative analysis of building materials, plasters, mortars and so on, are not yet possible. A summary of the discoveries can however be given. These include a series of 14 burials, all with the heads to the west. Most of these were in the second third of the 12th century. Eleven were in cists built from Caen stone or chalk blocks mortared into position at the bottom of the grave trenches, and three in wooden coffins.

The construction of the cists varies in style from roughly shaped chalk blocks placed only at the head and feet to sophisticated structures built from blocks of well-dressed stone. In one instance, burial in a quite simple box coffin of the main altar, the cist was paved with stone slabs, the others being floored only with subsoil, levigated to remove its flint component. Head rests of stone and chalk were provided. In almost all instances, the cists had been closed with wooden lids, of which only decayed fragments and iron nails have been recovered. Of the three wooden iron-bound coffins nothing but the decayed outline and ironwork remained.

TQ 410494
The natural soil of the site is acid in nature and this has had an injurious affect on the human remains. However, in nearly all instances, except where one body had been disturbed by a modern trench, the bones were in good condition. In a few cases, they were found buried in a shallow grave, and in one instance, a skull was found buried in a shallow grave, and in one instance, a skull was found in a shallow grave, and in one instance, a skull was found in a shallow grave.

Throughout the summer Mr. Richard Lewis has been working on the site, and has discovered a number of interesting features. The most significant of these is a burial chamber, which he has identified as belonging to the Early Bronze Age. This chamber is rectangular in shape, and is made of stone. It contains a number of artifacts, including a copper axe, a flint knife, and a stone bowl.

A bv-product of this study has been the identification at Sadlers Way (now re-developed) of an occupation site with evidence of Romano-British and 14th century occupation, with further R.-B. occupation to the south east, seen in service trenches at a new housing development at West Gote Farm.

Work is continuing and it is hoped to plot, and in due course publish the findings, which may lead to a clearer understanding of the early origins of Ringmer village, and of the importance (or otherwise) of its pottery and tile-making industry in the medieval period.

MESOLITHIC SITES ON PORTLAND—COMPARISONS WITH BELLE TOUT

In a recent paper Bradley (1972) draws comparisons between the Mesolithic industries from Belle Tout, Sussex, and the Isle of Portland, Dorset. In the interests of accuracy I would like to point out that two different sites have been excavated at the Isle, namely Site 1 near the Old Lower Lighthouse and the Culver Well site, about a quarter of a mile away, where work is still continuing (Palmer, 1970). Mr. Bradley does not appear to differentiate between the two sites and in his otherwise interesting paper, unfortunately ascribes some of the published data from Site 1 to the Culver Well site. The assemblage of which he gives statistical details came from Site 1 (Palmer, 1971) and not from the disturbed site at the spring of Culver Well, as stated by him. There are important differences between the assemblages from the two sites. Details of the assemblage from Culver Well have not yet been published as work is still not completed and only brief interim reports have been issued. The stratigraphical situation at the two sites also differ completely, as well as details of the structures and site lay-out. The charcoal samples for the date quoted came from the base of a thick well-stratified shell-midden at Culver Well and not from the shallow deposits at Site 1; there are therefore no valid grounds for questioning the date of 5200 ± 135 B.C. apart from the accepted inherent uncertainties of this age determination method and the usual possibility of contamination by the ash of burning plants and animals. The date is just as acceptable as the single determination from Oakhanger, for instance. It is hoped that further dates will be obtained from a second hearth recently excavated. The comment that picks (for picking) should be described as 'pointed core tools' or 'irregular core tools' in order to avoid confusing them with 'tranchet axes' only adds to the existing confusion of nomenclature. I can think of several other artefacts which can equally vaguely be described as pointed or irregular. My objection (1970) was against the use of the meaningless term 'tranchet axe' to describe a form of axe, as quite obviously an axe is not a pick, regardless of the regional adjective, which is also superfluous; this objection does however still permit a pick to be called a pick and an axe to be called an axe! The differences between these two types of tools are discussed at length in a forthcoming publication.

Susann Palmer

References:


Richard Bradley writes: I am grateful to Mrs Palmer for the opportunity to clear up the confusion embodied in this passage of my paper the more so since it has clearly led me to undervalue the importance of her results. I hope that my comments will contribute to a fuller understanding of the problems involved. The 'Thames Pick' is now too well rooted to be displaced. If Mrs. Palmer's paper can upset this misgiving I shall be a delighted convert.

The natural soil of the site is acid in nature and this has had an injurious affect on the human remains. However, in nearly all instances, except where one body had been disturbed by a modern trench, the bones were in good condition. In a few cases, they were found buried in a shallow grave, and in one instance, a skull was found buried in a shallow grave, and in one instance, a skull was found buried in a shallow grave, and in one instance, a skull was found buried in a shallow grave.
A POSSIBLE ROMAN ROAD TO FISHBOURNE

Although the extent and magnificence of the Fishbourne Roman Palace could never have been envisaged, there was some earlier evidence that a Roman settlement existed in the area (1). There is one fact, however, which seems to have escaped recent writers; in 1953, W. E. P. Done (2) described a straight road which ran from Bracklesham to Birdham, and concluded that it was of Roman origin. By continuing the road three miles out to sea, reaching a possible Roman coastline, (3) or mouth near the (then) mouth of Chichester Harbour was suggested. To the north, the road apparently ended at Birdham (SU 826011); it was assumed that from there a ferry to Longmore Point formed the link with Bosham, 'traditionally associated with Vespasian'. If, however, the straight line of this road is continued northwards (ignoring the fact that it crosses the waters of the Chichester Channel), it passes over Coppers Point (SU 829018), near which a Roman tile clamp was found, (3) and continues towards the western end of the Chichester By-pass, passing closely by the south-east corner of the Palace.

The excavations at Fishbourne brought to light a road which ran north-south along the east wing of the Palace, (4) this being a separation of the road from Chichester into north and south components; the latter was shown to pass the south-east corner and continue towards the sea. A brief surface examination of the above features by the present writer revealed little of further value. Clearly it would be premature to theorise before a complete field examination is made, and more known of the structure of the Harbour in Roman times; but the coincidence of the two features is striking, and Done's discovery may be of greater importance in the light of the present knowledge of Fishbourne.

C. G. Searle

References:

BOOKSHELF


It is a pleasure to amend the review of the East Grinstead Official Guide in Newsletter no. 4 and to report that Godfrey's Official Guide to Lewes has reappeared. Basically the previous edition is reprinted, but without E. J. Bedford's notes on natural history, the General Information section and any advertisements, and with appropriate updating. An important addition is the reference to a procession and pope-burning on 5 November 1579—considerably antedating the earliest reference previously known. The photographs are mainly new and well chosen, though more of individual buildings and fewer of general views of streets might have been beneficial.

The production is to Baxter's usual high standard, and the Borough Council are to be congratulated on their policy of sponsoring a series of local books, this volume following L. S. Davey's works on the civic regalia (1967) and street names (2nd ed. 1970).

James Carley (compiler), Public Transport Timetables 1838, part 1, Kent and East Sussex ( Gravesend: Fourteen Pelham Road Ltd., 1971), 23 pp., illus., folding map, price 25p.

The pamphlet is intended to be the first of a series to cover the whole of S.E. England, giving as complete a collection of timetables as possible, of passenger transport services in 1838. The western limit is the London to Brighton road through Reigate. The information is derived principally from commercial directories. As the exact dates of their compilation is not known, there is perhaps a danger of exaggerating the number of services: for instance, two directories may name operators who replaced, rather than compared with, each other. Nevertheless the timetables reflect the system of stage and Royal Mail coaches at its highest development in East Sussex: the London and Brighton Railway had been authorised in the previous year but was not completed until 1841. Van services are included, but carriers only sensitively. Not only students of transport history but this reviewer finds this a useful work of reference, but readers of early 19th century diaries (such as Gideon Mantell's) will be able to fill in the details of the writers' journeys.

'John Benet's Chronicle for the years 1400 to 1462,' edited by G. L. and M. A. Harris, in Camden Miscellany, vol. 24 (Royal Historical Society, 1972) contains references to two Bishops of Chichester:—

1. Reginald Pecock (1395?-1460?; see D.N.B.), Bishop of Chichester, 1450-1457, author of Repressor of over much Blaming for the Clergy and other works, is mentioned on pp. 156, 163, 156, 172 (introduction), 219 and 220 (text). The last two pages give a transcript of Pecock's public abjuration and confession at Paul's Cross, 4 December 1457; the significance of Benet's version of this document is discussed on p. 163. After resigning his bishopric, Pecock was sent to Thorney Abbey in Cambridgeshire. See also E. F. Jacob, 'Reginald Bishop of Chichester', in Proceedings of the British Academy, vol. 37 (1951), pp. 121-53.

2. Adam Moleyns (d. 1450; see D.N.B. under Molyneux, Moleyns, or Molens, Adam de), Bishop of Chichester from 1445 until his death, is referred to in the text, pp. 190, 191, 196, of Benet's Chronicle as Keeper of Henry Vith's Privy Seal; his death is mentioned on p. 207. See also S.N.Q., vol. 2, p. 27.

Other casual references of Sussex interest in the Chronicle include those to William FitzAlan, Earl of Arundel (1438-1487), pp. 203, 223, 229; Pevensey Castle, p. 210; Sussex (general), pp. 205, 231; the Lords of the War, pp. 191, 228.

F. W. Steer

FRITH'S POSTCARDS

F. Frith & Co. Ltd., of Reigate, publishers of postcards since the late 19th century, recently went out of business and some local libraries have been purchasing items from the firm's stock. Through the kindness of the firm and Messrs. C. W. Goolden and M. J. Leppard of East Grin­ steel, the following table is published. It gives the serial numbers which appear on the cards and the year in which photographs for each block of numbers were taken. Given that the Post Office did not relinquish its monopoly when it included the use of picture postcards in England, until September 1895, these facts that the lowest number is 18521 and that photographs were being taken well before 1895 suggest that the firm was printing pictures in some other form than postcards. The serial number against any given year is the first number appearing in that year.

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THE MAGNUS INSRIPTION

In S.N.Q., vol. 16, No. 6 (1965), p. 181, appeared a photograph of the Magnus inscription on the exterior of the present church of St. John-sub-Castro, Lewes. The following issue contained a note (pp. 247-8) by me pointing out that this photograph did not represent the inscription as it was at that time (1966) and asking for some ex­ planation. None was forthcoming; but it now appears that the chancel, in the side wall of which the inscription is placed, was not built until 1884. The Magnus inscription must therefore have been in some other part of the church from 1839, when it was built, to 1884.