

OBITUARY

JAMES M. GIBSON, B.A., M.A., PH.D.

Dr James Gibson died on 27 February 2018 at the age of 70. His career spanned a wide range of activities beginning as a university lecturer, undertaking very substantial and important original research to becoming a most accomplished historian and archivist for some of the oldest charitable organisations in his adopted home county of Kent.

Colleagues, while easily recognizing Jim's North American accent, were often unsure whether he hailed from Canada or the USA. The latter in fact, having been born in South Dakota. He obtained a B.A. in 1970 from Houghton College in Western New York; an M.A. in 1974 and his PH.D. in 1976 from the University of Pennsylvania. He lectured in English literature and writing at Houghton College before coming to Kent on a short sabbatical in 1984 to begin editing the Canterbury and Rochester diocesan volumes for the international research project *Records of Early English Drama*. The three volumes for the Canterbury diocese were eventually published in 2002 (and were reviewed in *Archaeologia Cantiana* CXXIV). It is thus very appropriate that this obituary is accompanied by an article in this volume by Dr Sweetinburgh on the New Romney Passion Play (see pp. 124-36) which draws heavily from his seminal work.

Having completed Canterbury *REED* volumes, he turned his attention to the drama records to be found in records from the Rochester diocese. Again, his research was meticulous and at the time of his death this work had been completed but not yet published. It is likely to become available on the *REED* website in due course.

He decided to settle permanently in Kent and began working as part-time archivist for the Rochester Bridge Trust in 1987. He also joined the Kent Archaeological Society in that year.

At the Trust he catalogued the bridge archive, created many exhibitions and helped write and edit the bridge history, published as *Traffic and Politics: The construction and management of Rochester Bridge AD 43-1993*, the first of the 10-volume Kent History Project (see review in *Archaeologia Cantiana* CXIV). He also catalogued the records and wrote the histories of the New College of Cobham and the Walthamstow Almshouse Charities. He served as part-time archivist for the Richard Watts and the City of Rochester Almshouse Charities and his work added greatly to knowledge of the lives of Richard Watts and Simon Potyn.

An achievement of which Jim was particularly proud was the 'City and Region' Project. Led by Dr David Ormrod of the University of Kent, this examined historic rents in London and the South-East. The estate records in the Rochester Bridge Trust archive were analysed taking the raw data from account books and leases and then all the estate maps and building plans were digitised.

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For the KAS Jim made two notable contributions to *Archaeologia Cantiana* which further demonstrate his wide range of interests. In CXII (1993) he analysed the 1566 survey of Kent ports and in CXXV (2005) published the findings of his work on the records of the Chantry College of Cobham. He was an energetic Secretary of the Publications Committee between 2002-2008 during which time he organised the preparation of the first digitised version of all the volumes of *Archaeologia Cantiana* on CD for sale to members.

TERRY LAWSON

NOTES ON THE CONTRIBUTORS

Gary P. Baker: Dr Baker is currently a Researcher in History at the University of Groningen (NL) and a Research Associate at the University of East Anglia. His research interests are maritime, naval, and military history from 1300-1650.

Frank Beresford: has been a member of the Kent Archaeological Society for over forty years. He retired in 2007 from a career in School Inspection and Improvement. Subsequently he assisted as a volunteer at the British Museum in the Sturge Room at Franks House which contains the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Collections and now continues to work there on a weekly basis as an Independent Researcher. He works regularly with the Shorne Woods Archaeology Group and has led Palaeolithic research there particularly in relation to old collections that have been given to the group.

Margaret Bolton: is a freelance researcher specialising in early modern demographics and epidemiology. She is currently working on a history of St Laurence church.

Alex Brown, B.A., M.SC., PH.D.: is Principal Geoarchaeologist at Wessex Archaeology with experience in palynology, environmental archaeology, geomorphology and sedimentology within a diverse range of terrestrial, coastal and marine contexts. His principal research interests are in the environmental archaeology of wetlands, and in particular, the environmental impact of conquest and colonisation in medieval Europe. He has worked extensively across Europe and is currently contributing to projects in the Baltic, France, Spain, Venice and Mauritius.

Matthew Brudenell, B.A., PH.D.: is a Senior Project Manager at Oxford Archaeology East. He specialises in the Bronze Age and Iron Age of Eastern England, with expertise on the region's prehistoric pottery.

Graeme Clarke, B.SC., PCIFA: after graduating from the University of Edinburgh in 1998, has worked with Oxford Archaeology East for the past 10 years, excavating later prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlement sites across the East Anglian region along with investigations into the Anglo-Saxon and medieval salt-making industry of King's Lynn, Norfolk. He has recently moved into a role as a Post-Excavation Project Officer and is now working on a range of publication projects.

Gillian Draper, PH.D, F.S.A. F.R.HIST.S: is a Visiting Research Fellow at Canterbury Christ Church University and Associate Lecturer at the University of Kent where she teaches landscape and local history. She is the Events and Development Officer for the British Association for Local History www.balh.org.uk and a convenor of the Locality and Region seminar at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London. She researches and publishes on the history of Kent and Sussex from about AD 800 to 1550, with many publications available on <https://kent.academia.edu/GillianDraper>

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Stephen Draper, M.A., C.ENG.: graduated in Natural Sciences, Cambridge, 1974. Lifelong user of Knole Park and now a National Trust Park Walk volunteer. Starts his tours by introducing the House and emphasising its construction from local materials. The glass is striking and there was reference to glassmaking in the Park. Encouraged by his historian wife and archaeologist daughter, his researches have resulted in this, his first publication. A variety of Archive documents about Knole Park reveal connections between past activity and the Park we see today, and await future analysis.

Kevin Fromings, B.A. (HONS), M.A.: came to archaeology around 25 years ago. While studying for a B.A. in Archaeological Studies at the University of Kent in the 1990s he was involved in several excavation projects in Sussex, including Fishbourne Roman Palace. In the noughties he led a project at a Romano-British site in Nottinghamshire, during which he gained an M.A. in Field Archaeology at the University of Sussex. He co-founded Discover Roman Otford Project in 2015, primarily to study the building in Church Field and its environs.

Vera W. Gibbons, ARIBA (DIP. ARCH.. CANTERBURY), MBA;

Trevor K. Gibbons, ARIBA (DIP. ARCH.. CANTERBURY): both studied at the Canterbury College of Art, School of Architecture and qualified in 1963 as Chartered Architects. Early in their married life, as residents of Herne, they were founder members of the Herne Society and also participated as volunteers on the Reculver dig in 1965. At this time, Herne Bay librarian, Harold Gough introduced them to Antoinette (Tony) Powell-Cotton to assist with the Minnis Bay site. Recently they returned to the Powell-Cotton Museum as volunteer researchers with the archaeology collection. Over the last five years they have provided invaluable assistance in bringing the collection up to the standards set by current museum management practice. More recently, they have focused on research to re-evaluate the work undertaken through the mid-twentieth century by Antoinette Powell-Cotton. This has led to a series of in-house research papers detailing the material excavated from Minnis Bay from the Neolithic through to the Medieval period as well as the importance of Antoinette's role as a field archaeologist at the time.

Dan Graham: is a retired computer engineer and medieval history enthusiast. He is a member of the Rochester Cathedral Research Guild and has volunteered at the cathedral's Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions exhibition since 2016. (See also Jacob Scott.)

Duncan Harrington: is both a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and the Society of Genealogists and President of the Kent Family History Society. He is a freelance historian and compiles the Kent Records New Series for the KAS. With the late Patricia Hyde he produced two important books on the history of Faversham, *Faversham Oyster Fishery* and *The Early Town Books of Faversham*. He has recently published on CD *Collections for the History of Faversham Abbey* which includes a transcript and translation of the Faversham Abbey Leiger Book.

Paula Jardine-Rose: having originally trained in digital electronic engineering and prototyping, took up archaeology as a career in 2000. Before that time had been involved with many community and voluntary projects both locally and further afield and in 2010 formed the Wychling, Doddington and Newnham Historic Research Group. The group have successfully undertaken many important excavations locally, such as the formally unknown Castle at Newnham, a major Roman Road, Wychling Iron Age Enclosure and Shulland Manor. We have so much in our county just waiting to be discovered and local groups across Kent do some amazing work – long may it continue!

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Craig Lambert: is an Associate Professor in Maritime History at the University of Southampton. He has written extensively on naval logistics and maritime communities, c.1300-c.1600. His most recent research was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and focused on English, Welsh and Channel Islands merchant shipping, c.1400-c.1600. A free to access searchable database of over 50,000 ship-voyages was produced during this research and can be accessed at: <http://www.medievalandtudorships.org/>.

James Lloyd: M.A., PH.D. (CANTAB.), M.LITT. (DUND.): was born in Kent and grew up in Cranbrook, where he attended the local Grammar School. He read Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at Cambridge and wrote a doctoral thesis on the origin of the shrievalty. He has worked as an archivist at the Inner Temple and Kent History and Library Centre and is currently the librarian of Aylesford Priory.

Keith Parfitt, B.A., F.S.A., MCIFA: has been excavating in Kent for over 45 years. Hons degree in British Archaeology at University College, Cardiff, 1978. Employed with Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit between 1978 and 1990. Moved to Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 1990 and worked on the Dover A20 project, which culminated in discovery of the Bronze Age Boat in 1992. Running parallel with full-time career, Director of Excavations for amateur Dover Archaeological Group, also since 1978. Has served on KAS Fieldwork Committee since 1992 and acted as Director for KAS excavations at Minster Roman villa, 2002-2004. Elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London 2000. Co-directed joint project between Canterbury Trust and British museum excavating the complex Bronze Age barrow site at Ringlemere, 2002-2006. Engaged in overseeing major excavations in the centre of medieval Dover, 2015-2017. Presently undertaking fieldwork for the KAS Lees Court Estate project.

Patricia Reid, PH.D.: carried out her post graduate archaeological studies at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL, and has for the last twenty-four years been involved in community archaeology. In 2005, she founded the Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group (FSARG) is building up an ever-increasing understanding of the past of this ancient town. She has recently published *Faversham in the Making: the Early Years* (up to AD 1550).

John (Jack) Russell, M.SC., AIFA: is the Archaeology Lead for the Thames Tideway Tunnel project in London. Jack grew up in Hawkhurst and studied archaeology at University College London. He began his commercial archaeological career working in Kent for the Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 1998 and has since worked for the Museum of London and Wessex Archaeology specialising in field archaeology, geoarchaeology, marine archaeology and project management.

Jacob H. Scott: has worked at the cathedral in the maintenance and events department for eight years and is director of the Rochester Cathedral Research Guild. An accredited member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, he has recently completed an Archaeology B.A. at the University of Leicester. The Research Guild is comprised of staff and volunteers at the cathedral and new members are always welcome.

Ruth Shaffrey, PH.D. MCIFA.: has been working across the south of England as Oxford Archaeology's worked stone specialist since 2001. She has written worked stone reports for a number of large archaeological projects in Kent, including the A2, the East Kent Access Road and High Speed 1 and has published extensive research on querns and millstones since she completed her PH.D. in 1998. Most recently, she has edited a book on Prehistoric stone tools.

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Victor Smith, B.A., F.S.A.: read history at King's College of the University of London where he specialised in War Studies. He is an independent historian and investigator of British historic defences on the mainland and in the Caribbean. He coordinated the KCC's twentieth-century Defence of Kent Project for the districts reported on to date in *Archaeologia Cantiana*, and was Director of Thames Defence Heritage from 1975-2011. He has 40 years' experience researching, restoring and interpreting historic defence sites, having worked in Southern England, Scotland, Gibraltar, Bermuda and the Caribbean. In 1989 he was General Manager of the Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park in St Kitts. His work in Kent has included, in partnership with Gravesham Borough Council, the restoration and re-armament of New Tavern Fort and the interpretation of a Cold War bunker, both at Gravesend. Current projects are advising on the restoration of Slough Fort at Allhallows, updated research on the sixteenth to twentieth-century defences of the Greater Thames, publication of Reigate Fort in Surrey and studies of the twentieth-century defences of Swale and Thanet districts as well as of the coastal forts of St Kitts and St Lucia. He is Chairman of the Society's Historic Defences Committee.

Felicity Stimpson: is a librarian and independent researcher with particular interests in book history and reading practices. She has worked extensively on National Trust libraries, cataloguing and researching the collections. Within the South East this work has included the libraries at Standen, Nymans, Polesden Lacey and Knole. Felicity's published articles include studies of the reading habits of George Otto Trevelyan, a study of an annotated book from the library of W.D. Parish, and the work of the National Home Reading Union.

Sheila Sweetinburgh, PH.D.: is a Principal Research Fellow at Canterbury Christ Church University and an Associate Lecturer in Medieval and Early Modern Studies at the University of Kent. She also works as a freelance documentary historian, primarily for the CAT. Her research focus on relationships and the ways individuals, and formal and informal groups used to negotiate religious, political and social relations. Her work employs a case study approach and makes use of Kent's rich archival sources. Her current project explores the fishing families of 15th-century Hythe for *Maritime Kent through the Ages*, to be edited by S. Bligh, E. Edwards and S. Sweetinburgh.

John H. Williams, M.B.E., PH.D., D.C.L., F.S.A., M.C.I.F.A.: now retired, is an Honorary Research Fellow in History at the University of Kent. After directing archaeological units at Northampton and the University of Lancaster he was for many years County Archaeologist and Head of Heritage Conservation at Kent County Council. He has a particular interest in the archaeology and documentary history of the medieval town.

Tania Wilson: began her career as a field archaeologist in 1987, working initially in the field and moving on to finds for the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. Moving to York in 2000 to take up a post at the Yorkshire Museum, she then studied for a Master's degree at the University of York, specialising in field archaeology. Returning to Kent, and to the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, she was a supervisor at the excavation at the Beaney Institute and directed the excavation of a prehistoric site and Anglo-Saxon cemetery at The Meads, Sittingbourne. Most recently, she directed the excavation at the site of the former Slatter's Hotel in Canterbury.

David Wright, M.A., PH.D., F.S.A., F.S.G.: has been a genealogist and historian for some forty years. He has written and lectured widely on Kentish records, and after translating the Faversham town charters produced a life of Bryan Faussett, the archaeologist and antiquary, in 2015. His doctoral thesis on Pliny's *Natural History* has led to much work on early documents and also to the teaching of Latin in London and Canterbury.