



## WARRIOR BURIALS FOUND

The excavation of a Late Iron Age and Early Roman site at Brisley Farm, Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent.

In 1999 Archaeology South East, the commercial contracts division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, undertook an evaluation over an area c.350m by 250m in extent on a site (now known as "Chartfields") located c.3km to the south of Ashford town centre to be developed for housing by Ward Homes. The location is shown overleaf. Archaeological work on the site has been funded by Ward Homes.

The site is situated on poorly drained Weald Clay soils at 38m OD, (TQ 9920 4020). There are no rivers in the immediate vicinity, though it lies at the watershed between the rivers Medway and Stour. Immediately to the north-west of the site is a significant hill formed from an outlier of Greensand. The land has been ploughed during the last 50 years. The Westhawk Farm early Roman cross-roads settlement site, also with evidence for Late Iron Age activity, lies c.750m to the east of this site.

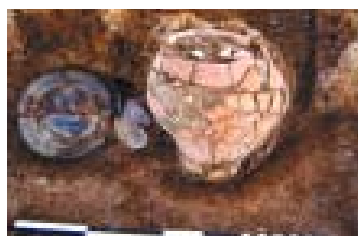
Four separate excavations (phased with the development programme) have been carried out by Archaeology South East at the site since 1999, of



The late iron age burial chamber.

which the latest (phases 3 and 4), completed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2002 following eight months of fieldwork covering an area of c.250m by 80m, is the largest so far. The machine stripping revealed a spatially extensive, intensively developed and relatively short-lived Late Iron Age site with evidence for activity continuing into the early Roman period. Initial pottery dating suggests occupation and activity on the site from c.200BC to 100AD with evidence for a possible Bronze Age field system beneath. Fig. 1 shows the

Part of the collection of broken pottery found in the graves.



pre-excavation plan of phases 3 and 4.

Initial results indicate woodland clearance in the Bronze Age followed by a series of separate enclosures of Late Iron Age date, defined by curving ditches and gullies and encompassing a number of possible roundhouse sites. During the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC and into the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD the boundaries of some of these 'enclosures' were re-defined, sometimes as many as four times, until the neighbouring enclosure was reached and no further space was available.

Into this Late Iron Age settled and cultivated landscape two high status extended inhumation burials were placed. The first of these warrior-burials was that of a young adult male with head to the south, within a possible 'coffin' and accompanied by a sword, spear, shield, brooch, butt beaker, cup, plate and pig's head. This grave was enclosed by a square ditch and possibly covered by a mound. The second square-ditched burial was also of a young adult male, head to the north, also within a possible 'coffin' and accompanied by a long sword, spear and shield with one butt beaker, (dated 10-30AD). It appears that this second grave, the more monumental of the two, became the focal point for the creation of a rectangular ditched enclosure with an entrance way onto a linear ditched trackway to the south. Large quantities of broken pottery, cremated and unburnt animal bone were deposited in the re-cut south ditches of the two burials and within the ditches that formed the sides to the rectangular enclosure. Other significant deposits of cremated animal bone, some within whole vessels have been

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### STOP PRESS

Your AGM information (and Annual Report) is inside - we hope to see you there!

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## WARRIORBURIALS FOUND

found outside this rectangular enclosure and it is probable that much of these 'offering' deposits date to the early Roman period when settlement activity in the immediate vicinity may have been significantly reduced.

Work on the post-excavation assessment has commenced. The assistance of Ward Homes and their staff (both from the main office and on site) is gratefully acknowledged, as is the advice and assistance of Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Unit and Dr. Sue Hamilton of UCL Institute of Archaeology.

Interim Report, February 2002

CASPER JOHNSON  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

## Do you know your fstops, focal lengths and filters?

**T**housands of listed buildings in Kent are being photographed this summer for English Heritage's Images of England project. By the end of 2002, a comprehensive collection of up-to-the-minute images of Kent's built heritage will form one of the world's largest free on-line picture libraries. The project is run by the National Monuments Record, the public archive of English Heritage, and aims to make information and images of England's 370,000 listed buildings accessible via the internet.

Listed buildings in Kent to be photographed include:

- Cannon on plinth, Maidstone
- Hubert Fountain, Victoria Park, Ashford
- The New Metropole, Folkestone
- The Royal Oak Hotel, Sevenoaks
- K1 Telephone Kiosk, Nevill Gate, Tunbridge Wells
- Monument to 41 Kentish Martyrs, Canterbury

Some of the early images taken for Images of England are currently displayed on the project's prototype website, [www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk). This seeks feedback from website visitors which will help to further develop the digital database.



The plan of the area

Visitors can send their comments to the project directly through an on-line feedback form.

### Could you help?

Volunteers are needed in Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Maidstone, Shepway, Swale, Thanet and Tunbridge Wells. You will be asked to attend a briefing session held at a venue close to where you live, where you will be given advice on photographing listed buildings and identifying them in the field. You will photograph buildings in your local parish using a 35mm camera, taking one shot of each. You will receive a list of buildings the project would like photographed and a manual with all the 'do's and don'ts', also a photo-ID card enabling homeowners to identify you. The project covers the cost of all reasonable travel expenses and maps and also

supplies film & processing. You receive a set of prints and maintain copyright of your work, while English Heritage maintains usage of the digital images for the website.

For more details contact Jan Foster on 01793 414643 or email [joevolunteers@rchme.co.uk](mailto:joevolunteers@rchme.co.uk) or write to her at:

Images of England Project, English Heritage, NMR, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ

Below, left and right: some of the fascinating subjects already in the collection.



Spring 2002

# More mysteries

**W**e had a fantastic response to one of the 'mystery' photos in the last Newsletter. The 'church' was of course, the Archbishop's Palace at Charing, as many of you, either through personal experience, or through reading Sarah Pearson's excellent article in Archaeologia Cantiana, pointed out. Sarah writes "the blocked window lies in the west wall of the hall, the wing coming off the hall is the porch, all of this of early 14<sup>th</sup> century date. The octagonal brick turret with white stone quoins is a late 15<sup>th</sup> century stair turret and the low buildings (some of which I have never seen photos of before) are post-medieval farm buildings; those in the foreground have gone".

We were not so lucky identifying the other in age; many of you have remarked on the 'sign' and tables with seating provided, asking if it could have been a pub.

## DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS SPOT?

Please contact the editor at 55 Stone Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2QU



# Bill Penn remembered in Gravesend

**W**e were very lucky in Gravesend to have the services of a remarkable man who dedicated a tremendous amount of his time and energy to the excavations at Springhead. William S Penn, or Bill to his loyal band of amateur archaeologists, came on the scene in 1950 and

showed tremendous interest in the excavations at that site. Bill, a member of the KAS and Gravesend Historical Society, soon took up the challenge of scientifically excavating the site and did so in a very thorough manner until his untimely death in 1968.

As manager of the Milton Chantry Heritage Centre and cus-

todian of some of the artefacts from that time, I decided that it would be appropriate to name one of the rooms after him.

And so on the 12th November last year a number of eminent archaeologists and historians were gathered together to celebrate the dedication of the plaque. I would like to thank those members of the KAS who came to Gravesend and particularly to thank the Society for the contribution it made towards the bronze plaque.

Alan M Ridgers

The Heritage Centre is open from March to December on weekends and Wednesday to Sunday from April to September. Located in the Fort Gardens, Commercial Place, Gravesend. Small entrance charge. A visit also affords the opportunity to visit the New Tavern Fort, also open during the summer months.



The photo is of Mrs W Gee, (married to Bill at the time of his death), taken at the dedication.

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# New Books

Canterbury - 2000 Years of History - Marjorie Lyle  
Tempus Publishing £15.99 0-7524-1948-X

A revised edition of this archaeological history of Canterbury has been launched. The book takes the city's story from its origins around 50BC to the Big Dig in 2001. It is illustrated by 88 b&w maps, diagrams and pictures, mostly from the Canterbury Archaeological Trust's collections. Its 27 colour plates provide an overview of this unique city's Roman, Saxon, Norman, medieval, post-dissolution, wartime and modern phases.

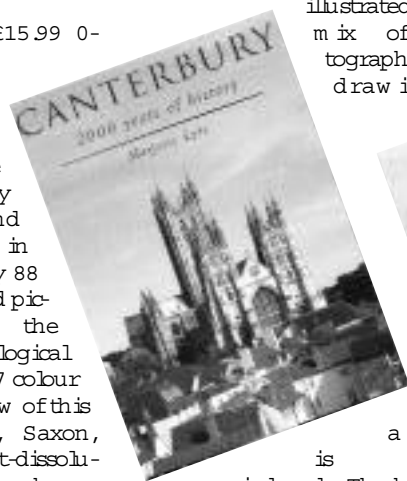
For today's visitors there is a walker's map and guide by period and an up-to-date reading list. But as they enter the Cathedral they will surely remember one colourplate showing the windowless nave piled pulpit-high with earth in September 1939 as ordered by Dean Hewlett Johnson to cushion the crypt and monuments against bomb damage!

KAS members can buy the book at a £2 discount either at the AGM or by communication direct with [MarjorieLyle@care4free.net](mailto:MarjorieLyle@care4free.net) tel: 01227 765745 or 25 Rough Common Road, Canterbury CT2 9DL

Hollingbourne - The History of a Kentish Parish - Helen Allinson

Synjrn Books £14.00 inc p&p. 0-904-37306-1  
The author is an established local historian, hav-

ing already produced two successful histories of the parishes of Borden and Bredgar. 255 pages long, the book is illustrated with a mix of photographs and drawings



The Bootshoe Boys - Betty Coton  
£9.95 + postage of 87p 0-9502423-9-X

A fascinating account of the history of the Elham Charity School from its foundation in the 1720's to the present day. Illustrated with many b&w photographs and fully indexed.

Available from Betty Coton, 10 Kirby's Lane, Canterbury CT2 8AG or from all good book-sellers. (Also now held in the KAS Library - see page 14).

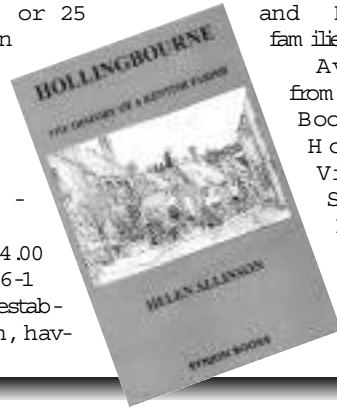
is fully indexed. The history

of the village is traced from the earliest times to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Topics include life on the medieval manor, paper mills and water mills, education, the struggle for survival in the face of motorway and Channel Tunnel Railink. There are chapters on the Culpeper family who lived at Hollingbourne

Manor, also the Thomas and Duppa families.

Available from Synjrn Books, 5 Homestead View, Borden, Sittingbourne ME9 8JQ

Cheques payable to H. Allinson.

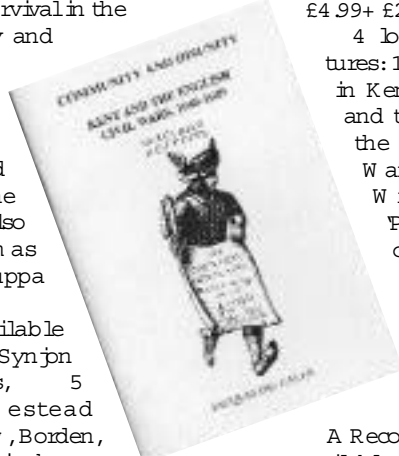


Community and Disunity - Kent and the English Civil Wars 1640-1649 Jacqueline Eales 1-904163-00-9

Keith Dickson Books £4.99 + £2.00 p&p.

4 local history lectures: 1) The Civil War in Kent 2) Tonbridge and the Outbreak of the English Civil War 3) Thomas Wilson and the 'Prophane Town' of Maidstone 4) The Most Hated Man in Kent? Richard Culmer (c1597-1662): A Reconsideration.

Available from Keith Dickson Books, Unit 9, The Shipyard, Upper Brents, Faversham ME13 7DZ tel: 01795 597800



# The Victoria History of the Counties of England

All available backlist volumes in this series, renowned for its

reputation as a work of reference for English local history, are now being distributed by Boydell & Brewer Ltd. Begun in 1899, the publication of about 3 new volumes each year is gradually creating an encyclopaedic history of the counties. For each county there is, or is planned, a set of volumes, containing general chapters on subjects such as prehistory and ecclesiastical and economic history, and topographical chapters giving a comprehensive, fully referenced account of each city, town and village in the county. 14 county sets have been completed; work

is in progress on a further 13.

The backlist volumes on Kent 1-3 (0712906061/07X/088) are £35, as are all the other available counties volumes. From the beginning of this month volumes currently distributed by Oxford University Press will be available. A complete list, including the transferred volumes and forthcoming new titles is available from:

Boydell & Brewer Ltd, PO Box 9, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DF

Tel: 01394 411320 e-mail: [boydell@boydell.co.uk](mailto:boydell@boydell.co.uk) website: [www.boydell.co.uk](http://www.boydell.co.uk)



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destroyed Nagden Bump at Faversham Creek are at least based upon a physical feature rather than a philosophical idea.

'What are those interpretations?'

Arthur Percival suggests that it is a Roman beacon site to guide ships. Due to the difficulty of seeing Faversham Creek from the Swale I think this is rather a good idea although I would prefer a medieval context, when we know there was a port at Faversham, rather than any conjectured Roman harbour. Paul Wilkinson would like us to believe it is the burial place of Beowulf. Others who witnessed its destruction have stated it was a natural hillock or, due to the clay pipes noted, of relatively modern date; the clay pipes may of course have been on the surface rather than within the matrix of the mound.

'So how do we find out its date now that the Bump is destroyed?'

For an early Anglo-Saxon context at least I would have thought that is a very simple problem to resolve. Assuming there's no building on it, and that permission can be obtained, just excavate the site. With exposure of the area immediately below and around the Bump I would be very surprised if no secure dating evidence was obtained. Certainly for the robbed Anglo-Saxon barrows and the areas around them at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk a considerable amount of evidence was recovered. As it has been suggested that the site has so much potential I am amazed it hasn't been excavated already. If the landowner is reluctant for an excavation to take place just bribe him; £3000 ought to be enough, a small price for Kentish archaeologists to pay if the site is so important. True?'

'True. Will you be contributing to such a fund?'

'No way.'

'As always you are attempting to confuse the issue again. We are getting away from the point.'

'Me, confuse the issue?'

'It has been pointed out that the monumental triumphal arch at Richborough was in the centre of the settlement and commemorated the landing place of the Roman army.'

But this implies we know the extent of either the initial military encampment or of the later town. The whole point is that because erosion has taken place we have no way of knowing where the centre was. Also as far as I am aware there is next to no decipherable

inscription from the monument. Therefore we do not know what it commemorated.'

'If not the landing place of the army, what?'

The traditional account has been that it was erected to commemorate the final conquest of Britannia by the governor Agricola in c. AD 86.'

'But why at Richborough?'

Presumably because at that date it was the main port on the Kent coast, which would be first seen by visitors, it was propaganda. There is another possibility in that it was commemorating the landing place of Claudius.'

'So you are saying the Roman army landed at Richborough.'

No, I am saying that the Emperor and his entourage may have landed at Richborough, which is a completely different thing.'

But why should he land at a different place than the army?'

As stated in my previous article, because of the elephants. Does anyone know how much damage a sea-sick elephant can do? Now there's a real specialist (experimental?) challenge for someone.'

'Stop being silly.'

I think it's rather a valid point. How many elephants were there? Were they all in the same ship? Were they calm? What happens if one, two or more elephants begin to be sea-sick and panic?'

Do elephants get sick? Like horses they may suffer from colic.'

Even worse, the cure for colic is to keep a horse on its feet and walk it around. How do you walk an elephant around a ship?'

'Oh, you are such a pain.'

True; but it is still a valid point.'

'Why?'

Let us assume that the evidence for a Sussex landing is valid. The Roman army land in Sussex, defeat the Britons on the River Arun and then march up to the Thames, where they stop and wait for Claudius to arrive. The keepers of the elephants want to get them across the Channel as quickly as possible and therefore a landing was undertaken at Richborough. A series of forts would be constructed in Kent from the Thames down to the coast, not the other way around. We have no idea where, nor how many, but let us assume they were at Noviomagus (traditionally Crayford, but long term research by Brian Philp now supports West Wickham), Vagniacae (Springhead),

Durobrivae (Rochester), Durolevum (Ospinge), Durovernum (Canterbury) and Rutupiae (Richborough).

There is a secure base for the Emperor to land and a series of defended supply depots up to the Thames.'

'Evidence?'

None. Merely an idea. As stated in my original article no matter what gloss is put over it, all the evidence whether documentary or archaeological is ambiguous or merely personal opinion. We can put forward ideas from now until the day of judgement, but the actual physical evidence as to whether the Roman army first landed in Kent or Sussex (at least at the present) is just not there. Those who suggest the classical written evidence is not ambiguous have to offer explanations (not merely their opinions) as to the validity of the documents.'

There are the other later documentary sources that have been quoted to you, Gildas, Bede, Nennius and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, all of which provide evidence.'

All are totally irrelevant.'

Com on.'

Let's take these documents one at a time. Gildas is writing sometime in the sixth century, traditionally c. AD 540, but possibly as early as c. 500, he tells us nothing worthwhile. He knows less about the Roman Invasion than we do. Bede is writing c. 730 and tells us nothing, other than Claudius landed and that, "within a few days, without battle or bloodshed, he received the surrender of the greater part of the island." Totally untrue. Nennius is writing even later in date, early in the ninth century, and tells us that Claudius, "fought a great and bloody battle, not without loss to his troops ..." The only landing place mentioned is the Thames Estuary which he associates with the landing of Julius Caesar ninety years earlier. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle merely copies and misquotes Bede. Then we have that well known chronicle by the sixth/seventh century saint, Tysilio, Bishop of Powys.'

'Who?'

You mean to tell me you have never heard of the Chronicle of Tysilio, which also tells us that the Romans landed in the Thames Estuary. If it's any consolation neither had I. I've been lecturing on the fifth, sixth and seventh centuries for a decade and had never heard of this chronicle. That of course is a reflection of my pro-































