

# new sletter



Issue number 53

Summer 2002

## KENT'S GOLD CUP

FINDS AT RINGLEMERE FARM, WOODNESBOROUGH NEAR SANDWICH

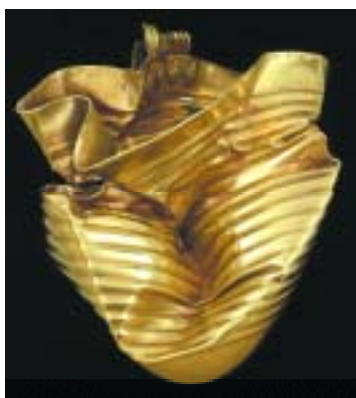
Founded by English Heritage, the Canterbury Archaeological Trust completed excavations at Ringlemere Farm, Woodnesborough near Sandwich, in April, following the discovery of a splendid gold cup there last November. The early Bronze Age vessel was discovered by local metal-detectorist Cliff Bradshaw. Although damaged by the plough, he was the first to recognise that the cup is very similar to the famous Rillaton gold cup, excavated in Cornwall in 1837. Paul Ashbee provides some further preliminary thoughts on its affinities on pages 4 and 5.

The cup was discovered on the northern edge of a low, but quite distinct mound, lying in the middle of what was then a recently harvested potato field. Mr Bradshaw suspected that this mound might be the remains of an otherwise unrecorded round barrow and examination by the writer suggested that this was probably the case. A subsequent geophysics survey by English Heritage succeeding in locating an enclosing ring-ditch and confirmed this as a very large round barrow site. Barrows that have not been completely ploughed flat are rare in the extensively farmed landscape of east Kent but at Ringlemere the base of the mound actually survived – the last remnants of a great barrow mound that must have originally risen to a height of perhaps twenty feet.

Following an extensive programme of field-walking, excavation work at the site began in March 2002 with the specific aim of determining the precise context of the gold cup. Initially it seemed likely that the vessel came from a Bronze Age grave within the barrow but this proved not to be so. We now think that the cup had been placed in the earth



Above top: Recording and sampling the great ditch that enclosed the barrow mound. Above: Trowelling over the pre-barrow land surface. Note the ancient animal burrows in the foreground.



The Bronze Age Gold Cup discovered by Cliff Bradshaw.

core of the mound – but not at its centre and not with a burial. Perhaps it was deposited here as some sort of offering to the Gods during the actual construction of the mound. However, the core of the mound had later been extensively disturbed by burrowing animals and it is possible that the cup has been moved from its original position.

Survival of the base of the barrow mound served to 'trap' evidence of earlier activity below it. Extensive collections of prehistoric struck flints and pottery indicate previous occupation on the site during both the Mesolithic and later Neolithic periods. The close proximity of a small fresh-water stream below the site may well explain the apparent popularity of the area with early settlers.

Keith Parfitt

### Acknowledgements

Thanks are due first and foremost to the owners – the Smith family – who readily allowed access to the site and took a great interest in the progress of the work. Thanks are also due to English Heritage for funding the excavation and providing substantial scientific back-up. The Staff at K.C.C.'s Heritage Conservation Group monitored the project throughout and provided assistance in a variety of different ways. In addition to the full-time excavators from CAT, teams of volunteers from the Thanet Trust and Dover Archaeological Group were able to make a valuable contribution to the excavation work. Cliff Bradshaw worked extensively on the dig, undertaking both metal-detecting and excavation. Overall, the Ringlemere story serves as an altogether splendid example of what can be achieved by detectorists and archaeologists working sensibly together.

NB: The site lies on private farmland, which is now under crop. There is no easy public access to the site.

### Inside

- 2-3 History Week and Events
- Library Notes
- 4-5 Gold Cup Affinities
- 6-7 Events Ancient Monuments
- 8-9 Notice Board
- 10-11 Ideas & Ideals! The Lollards
- 12-13 Richborough Results Anglo-Saxon Women New KAS website
- 14-15 Writing up of Past Excavations Letters to the Editor
- 16 Brian Philip



Summer 2002



The transfer print vase. Can any readers provide more information as to maker and date?

The week started on Sunday 5th May with an industrial history walk led by Dr Anthony Wilson. This proved to be so popular that Dr Wilson kindly offered to lead another walk on the morning of Sunday 12th May.

On Wednesday Frank Chapman, former editor of the Courier Group and current author of the Warwick column, gave an interesting talk on Tonbridge and its

## Tonbridge Historical Society Local History Week 5-12 May 2002

Newspapers in the refurbished Angel Centre, Tonbridge. Afterwards many of the audience enjoyed looking at some of Frank's archive copies of local newspapers and photographs. This event attracted an audience of about 90 including the Mayor, Mrs Joyce Oxley, her husband and our President, Dr Joan Thirsk.

On Thursday Pat Mortlock led two very popular walks around historic Tonbridge. These walks attracted many local residents who were delighted to learn more about the history of the town and its buildings.

The Pictorial Records and Archives Group, in association with Tonbridge Library, mounted a display of archives and photographs relating to Tonbridge's past. This was scheduled for Thursday and Friday but was extended, by kind permission of the reference librarian, Andrew Lister, until Saturday morning. Approximately 160 people attended this exhibition and seemed appreciative and the displays sparked many discussions. We are grateful for the help given by our members and the Library staff. On Saturday we were fortunate to be able to offer free conducted tours of Ightham Mote and about 150 people took

advantage of a fascinating insight into this lovely house. Due thanks go to the National Trust and the guides.

The week was rounded off with a Bygones and Memorabilia session at the Council Chamber, Tonbridge Castle when people were invited to bring along their treasures which had a local interest. About 40 people came along - items included a school medal, a collection of clay pipe fragments retrieved from a small area of someone's garden in Bourne Lane and a vase (see pic). One of the members, Shaun Jeffery, brought along a small exhibition of bottles, prints, postcards etc which drew much discussion. Also, a scrapbook belonging to Mrs Brenda Bentall and some early examples of local papers attracted much interest. Chris Bromfield provided an opportunity for visitors to view a copy of the LDS 1881 Census Index on his laptop computer and was able to make a positive link with a photograph of the Stonestreet family amongst others.

We are very grateful for the time and help given by many members of the Historical Society which helped to bring local history alive to so many.

Shelia Bromfield

## The Kent Archaeological Field School hosts a BBC History Magazine Event

From humble beginnings only four years ago the Kent Archaeological Field School has grown to the point that over a thousand people interested in archaeology sign



Participants in a previous BBC History Magazine event excavate at Deerton Street Roman Villa.

up each year to the twenty-five courses and over one hundred days of archaeology available. Talking to people who attend our courses the same message is heard time and time again. They are excited by what they have seen on television, it either awakens a latent interest or motivates them to participate for the first time. Television is the prime mover for people to seek out courses and our most recent event was a weekend of discovering archaeology organised in association with the BBC

## New Books

Front-line Kent - Victor Smith £7.95 including postage 1-901509-64-8 From the introduction of gunpowder artillery in the 14th century to measures against air attack in the Cold



War, this book covers a vast range of time and sites. Profusely illustrated (mainly colour) with drawings, photos, maps and plans. Gazetteer of sites to visit cross-referenced with specific time periods. Copies can be obtained from Environmental Management, Strategic Planning Directorate, Kent County Council, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

The Churches of Romney Marsh - Joan Campbell The Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust (to whom cheques payable) £3.00. Romney Marsh is the setting for a group of churches dating back to medieval times when the land was still being



# LIBRARY NOTES

## ACQUISITIONS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

In addition to publications on topics concerning the History and Archaeology of Kent and on subjects of wider archaeological and historical interest which the KAS is constantly adding to its Library, it is in regular receipt of publications from other County and research organisations in the UK, and also from learned societies and other organisations in Europe. Most of these are supplied to us free, in exchange for the volumes of KAS publications which we send free to those societies with which we are in mutual "corresponding" membership. Many of these relationships date back more than 100 years, some to the foundation of the KAS, and the Library consequently holds complete runs of the annual publications of a good many of the Societies corresponding with us, as, no doubt, they do of ours.

It may be of interest to note the following selection of other societies'

publications received by us in the last 2 to 3 months—

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society vol.95, 2001.

English Place Names Society, vol. LXXVIII, 'Place Names of Leicestershire'.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland vol.130, 2000.

Worcester Recorder no.65 new sletter. Journal of the British Archaeological Association vol.154, 2001.

Records of Buckinghamshire vol.42, 2002.

Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society new sletter 114.

Sussex Archaeological Society 'Past and Present' no.96.

Fornvannen 2001/1 to 2001/4 (Journal of Swedish Antiquarian Research).

Archaeologia Cambriensis vol. CXLVIII 1999. (Cambria; Wales and the Marches).

Landesdenkmalt Baden-Württemberg; Materialheften Zur Archäologie, Heft 62

PreHistory Society new sletter no.40 2002.

Medieval Archaeology Society new sletter 26 2002.

## OTHER ADDITIONS

We have recently bought—  
Victoria County History of Surrey Vol. II,  
Victoria County History of Sussex Vol. VI,

identification with Trevor Anderson, and field-walking with Paul Wilkinson. Lunch was served at the Field School with a photo-opportunity with Julian Richards and his TV Landrover. BBC executives who attended were so pleased with the day that more regional events are being planned in association with the Field School for next year.

Dr Paul Wilkinson  
Head of School

parts 1, 2 and 3. acquisitions which complete our collection of this great publication covering these counties.

### Walking the Walls

Collaboration between Kent County Council and the local authorities of Cote d'Opale, France, and of the Province of Flanders, has produced a well researched and splendidly illustrated volume on Walking the Walls - Historic Town Defences in Kent, Cote d'Opale and West Flanders'. For serious minded tourists wishing to discover, compare and contrast town defences on either side of the Channel, this is a valuable presentation, and it contains much information useful to historians.

### Planarch

We are grateful to the Kent County Council for presenting to the Library six volumes representing the fruits of collaborative work in 2000 and 2001 by representatives of local authorities from England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands on aspects of archaeology from the standpoint of planning, legislation, decision making processes, and the protection of the past and the environment. A listing of the titles of the six volumes reveals the wide scope of the work, (which covers each of the four countries' somewhat different approaches in each volume, and attempts to suggest a way forward for the region in the 6th volume) - Organisation of Archaeology; Archaeological Evaluation Strategies; Archaeological Legislation and Planning; Evaluation of Archaeological Decision Making Processes; Protecting the Past in the Present for the Future, SMRs in the Planarch Region.

This work should guide the philosophy and actions of Planners involved in Archaeology, but it may be of greater assistance to the Archaeologist in understanding Planning.

History Magazine. Four archaeologists were on hand to take classes of various aspects of archaeology and the sixty parents and children who attended had a wonderful time. Julian Richards of Meet the Ancestors' fame was on hand to introduce the day and Julian took one of the groups to Stone Chapel and the site of Durolevum to watch geophysical survey in progress whilst the other groups were introduced to flint knapping under the expert tuition of John Lord, human bone

reclaimed from the sea, each with its own character and all but one still in regular use. With an authoritative text and an introductory piece about the history of the Marsh, this is an essential companion for any visitor.

Beautifully illustrated with high quality colour photographs. Available from The Hon Secretary RM HCT, Mrs E Marshall, Lanswell House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook TN17 4LW. Please add 50p p&p or £1.00 for larger order.

Kent Census Summary Indexes - Gillian Rickard  
£2.50 0-9530968-0-7  
A list of those available for Kent parishes, both published and unpublished. Available from 99 Strangers Lane, Canterbury CT1 3XN email GRKentGen@aol.com. Please add 45p p&p inland, £3.35 world surface & Europe, £3.85 airmail rest of the world.

The Roman Channel Crossing of AD 43: The constraints on Claudius's naval strategy - Gerald Grainge

Archaeopress (BAR British Series 332) £30.00 1-84171-297-3  
Did the Romans land at Fishbourne or Richborough? A published version of a PhD thesis, exploring the evidence for the type of ships available to the Romans and their performance, maritime conditions likely to be encountered in the Channel two millennia ago and the skills of mariners of the time. 159pp, 50 illus. Available from Hadrian Books Ltd, 122 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7BP, email bar@hadrianbooks.co.uk.

BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES  
BOOKS & LIBRARIES







# Conferences, Lectures, Events

CONFER-  
ENCES  
LECTURES  
EVENTS  
CONFER-  
ENCES  
LECTURES  
EVENTS  
CONFER-  
ENCES  
LECTURES  
EVENTS  
CONFER-  
ENCES  
LECTURES  
EVENTS  
CONFER-  
ENCES  
LECTURES  
EVENTS  
CONFER-  
ENCES  
LECTURES  
EVENTS  
CONFER-

Romney Marsh Through the Ages conference on Saturday 14th September at Imperial College, Wye 10.30am-5pm. Organised by Romney Marsh Research Trust.

Landscape change on Romney Marsh: recent advances - Dr Martyn Waller

Romney Marsh and coastal change in the UK - Dr Antony Long

Recent Archaeological research on Romney Marsh - Luke Barber

Romney Marsh ports - Dr Helen Clarke & Gustav Milne

The origins of the pastoral economy of Romney Marsh 1200-1550 - Andrew Butcher

The evolution of the agrarian economy of the Romney Marsh region 1550-1850 - Dr Stephen Hipkin

Summary & discussion - Dr Stephen Rippon

Cost £30, including tea, coffee & lunch.

Sunday 15th September, field trip by coach 10am-4pm to view recent & ongoing research on the Marsh. Cost £10  
SAE to Mrs D Beck, 27 Station Road, Lydd, Romney Marsh, TN29 9ED.

The Dover Bronze Age Boat in Context: Society and Water Transport in Prehistoric Europe Conference 2002. Thursday 31st October - Saturday 2nd November in the 14th century Maison Dieu, Dover.

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the excavation of the Dover Boat, the Boat Trust has organised a prestigious international conference. 17 eminent speakers, over a third from the Continent, will lecture on a range of topics relating to the Bronze Age, providing a forum for stimulating debate into issues relating to the Boat and its place in international archaeology. Cost £80.00 per delegate, excluding accommodation but including light buffet lunch each day.

Wednesday 30th October - welcome reception in the Boat Gallery in Dover Museum.

31st October - informal dinner at a specialist marina-side fish restaurant.

2nd November - two optional study trips, one to France, the other to review east Kent archaeological sites.

To register contact Denise Ryland, Conference Co-ordinator, Tours of the Realm, Hammond House, Limkiln Street, Dover CT17 9EE.

Kent Archaeology along the Thames Foreshore on Saturday 2nd November 2-5.30pm at Christ Church University College, Canterbury. Organised by the Council for Kentish Archaeology.

Maritime Archaeology on the

Foreshore... - Gustav Milne, UCL

... and the Prehistoric Forest at Eritih - Dr Sophie Seel UCL

Defending London's River - Victor Smith, Thames Defence Heritage

Roman Recliver: the Changing Coastline - Brian Philip KARU

Tickets £3 (cheques to CKA) from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, TN15 8HP

Meet the Romans at Crofton Roman Villa, Orpington on Sunday 18th August 10am-5pm. Secundus, a Roman soldier and his sister Agrippina will give displays:

10am & 2pm Clothes, Make-up & Jewellery

11am & 3pm Armour, Weapons & Battle Tactics

12pm & 4pm Entertainment: Gladiators & Games

Entry £1.50/£1.00 Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit 020 8463 4737

Isle of Thanet Archaeology Society - Talks

A Hidden Treasure - Quex House and The Powell Cotton Museum by John Harrison, the curator, on Wednesday 11th September

Recovering Thanet's Past; A round up of the work carried out this year in Thanet by the Trust for Thanet Archaeology's Director Dr David Perkins and his team on Wednesday 20th November

Talks take place at St Georges School, Westwood Road, Broadstairs from 7.45pm. Doors open at 7.15pm. Ample free car parking. Tickets £3.50 on the door or £3.00 in advance from Events Secretary, Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society, Crampton Tower Yard, High Street, Broadstairs CT10 2AB.

Also: Meet the Romans! on Saturday 26th October at the Village Hall, Minster, Thanet. Further details from the contact address above.

Excavations at Scadbury Mooted Manor, Chislehurst - Open Day on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September from 2 - 4.30pm. Self-guided trail around the excavations; see work currently being carried out as well as the remains of the foundations of the buildings associated with the Walsingham family. Members of the Orpington & District Archaeological Society will be on hand to answer questions.

Admission free, limited car parking available close to the site by ticket only. Ticket application, enclosing a s.a.e. and stating required day to ODAS, 27 Eynsford Close, Petts Wood, BR5 1DP.

Also from O D A S:

Wednesday 4th September - Medieval/Elizabethan Garden Design, by Deborah Kemp

Wednesday 2nd October - Archaeology of the Hebrides, by Janet Clayton & Michael Meeum

Wednesday 6th November - Current Archaeology by Andrew Selkirk

All talks start at 8pm in The Priory, Orpington. Admission free, open to everyone (although space is limited and priority will be given to ODAS members if necessary).

**NATIONAL  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
DAYS 2002**

**Events for the whole family; bring your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews too!**

North Downs Young Archaeologists with KCC Heritage present an 'Iron Age' Family Fun Day at White Horse Wood Country Park, Thunham (off the A249 through Detling) on Sunday 21st July from 12-4pm. Meet the tribe of the Cantiaci, make edible torcs, taste prehistoric food, try wattle & daubing, be painted with woad!

Further details: Lyn Palmer 01892 533661/Susie Lee 01732 810556

Crofton Roman Villa, Crofton Road, Orpington on Sunday 21st July from 10am-5pm. Excavate a 'finds' tray, discover hidden artefacts, make a plan & draw your discoveries, make mosaics, dress up as Romans & play Roman games.

Entry £1, YAC members free. Further details: Kent Archaeological Unit 020 8462 4737 or Bromley Museum 01689 873826

Digging Up the Park 2002 on Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st July in Central Park, Dartford from 1-5pm during the Dartford Festival. An exhibition 'dig' as part of a display featuring the work of the Dartford District Archaeology Group. Further details: Chris Baker, Director of DDAG, 01322 224739.

The Museum of London & LAAR have many events going on over the weekend with a shuttle bus running between the 2 venues. Of special interest is the Societies Fair on Saturday 20th July from 10am-5.45pm and on Sunday 21st July from 12-5.45pm, giving the opportunity to meet many representatives from numerous local archaeology societies and find out more about their activities. Further details: 020 7814 5777



Summer 2002







**FESTIVE DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

This year's Christmas Lunch will be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> November at the Hop Farm , Paddock Wood. Further details in the October Newsletter.



**CONTACT ADDRESSES**

The contact addresses of the Hon Membership Secretary and the Newsletter Editor appear within this publication. Other useful addresses include:  
Hon. General Secretary, Andrew Moffat, Three Elms, Woodlands Lane, Shome, Gravesend DA12 3HH. Email: secretary@kentarchaeology.org.uk  
Hon. Treasurer, Robin Thomas, 1 Abchurch Yard, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BA. Email: treasurer@kentarchaeology.org.uk

**ABBEY FARM: ROMANO-BRITISH COMPLEX - EXCAVATION 2002**

The villa, located by aerial photography in 1979, had a commanding view of the Wantsum Channel and the Saxon Shore Fort of Richborough (Rutupiae). Since the start of the project, the extensive villa, a latrine to the north-west, an impressive bath-house and a fourth building to the south-east have been excavated. In August the K.A.S. plans to return to Abbey Farm, Minster-in-Thamet for the sixth season of fieldwork and excavation at this Romano-

British villa complex. The programme of work will be in conjunction with the Trust for Thanet Archaeology. It will be directed by Keith Parfitt of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust who will be advised by Dr David Perkins. It is envisaged that the fieldwork will include; continuation with the resistivity survey begun in 2001, a metal detector survey and field-walking survey on land close to the complex. Pot washing and initial attention to artefacts will also be undertaken.

The programme of excavation will seek other buildings and the boundary of occupation. The dig, which is open to people aged 16 years and above, will be held over a two week period and it will start on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2002. To participate, there will be a registration fee for members of £20 for one week and £35 for two, or £25 and £40 respectively for non-members. To register for the excavation please fill in the form below.

Abbey Farm Excavation . I should like to register for the planned excavation for one/two week(s) (delete as applicable).  
State dates:.....  
(25/08/02 to 30/08/02 or 01/09/02 to 06/09/02 or 25/08/02 to 06/09/02)  
I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to the Kent Archaeological Society.  
Name ..... Age .....  
Address ..... Tel.No. ....  
..... Email .....  
.....  
Send Application to: David Bacchus  
Telford Lodge, Roebuck Road  
Rochester, Kent ME1 1UD  
Tel: 01634 843495  
Email: d-bacchus@talk21.com  
I am /am not a member of the KAS or the Thanet Archaeological Society

NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD  
NOTICE BOARD

**Events and Diary**





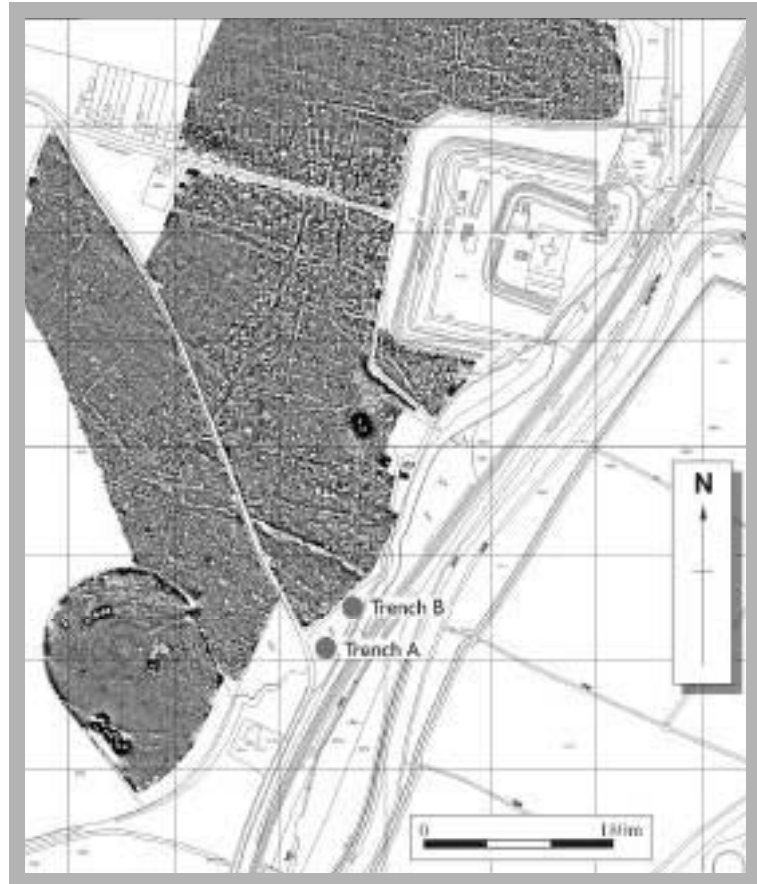
# RICHBOROUGH

## Results from Survey and Excavation, 2001

RICHBOROUGH  
-SURVEY RESULTS  
RICHBOROUGH  
-SURVEY RESULTS  
RICHBOROUGH  
-SURVEY RESULTS  
RICHBOROUGH  
-SURVEY RESULTS  
RICHBOROUGH  
-SURVEY RESULTS  
RICHBOROUGH  
-SURVEY RESULTS  
RICHBOROUGH  
-SURVEY RESULTS  
RICHBOROUGH  
-SURVEY RESULTS  
RICHBOROUGH  
-SURVEY RESULTS  
RICHBOROUGH  
-SURVEY RESULTS  
RICHBOROUGH  
-SURVEY RESULTS  
RICHBOROUGH  
-SURVEY RESULTS  
RICHBOROUGH  
-SURVEY RESULTS  
RICHBOROUGH  
-SURVEY RESULTS

**T**he well-known site of Richborough has long been characterised as a military site. Its history is, however, more complex than this. Ever since Leland, it has been apparent that the hill around the walls of the Saxon shore fort had been occupied. The terms *vicus* and *civilian settlement* have been applied to this area, implying that the settlement was at all times an adjunct to a military installation. The excavations undertaken by J.P. Bushe Fox in the 1920s themselves suggest otherwise, as the Claudian bridgehead and supply base were overlain by streets and buildings of urban character, around the great quadrifrons arch. The fortification of the arch with triple ditches, and the subsequent Saxon Shore fort, were apparently superimposed upon the street pattern in the mid and late third century. The quadrifrons marked Richborough as the official gateway to Britain.

Over the last few years a partnership project involving the Universities of Kent, Southampton and Cambridge, Kent County Council, and the Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage has been established to look at Richborough in new ways. It has several aims relating to the landscape of Richborough island, changes in the palaeogeography of the area and the infilling of the Wantsum Channel. It seeks to understand Iron Age, Roman and early Medieval settlement, and subsequent landscape development along the shores of the Wantsum Channel, and to enhance our knowledge of Iron Age, Roman and early Medieval settlement along the southern side of the Wantsum Channel between Sandwich/Worthing in the east and Ickham and the River Stour in the west, in order to gain a fuller understanding of the context within which the Roman settlement was situated. Not least of the aims is to characterise the settlement surrounding the excavated Saxon Shore fort, to



obtain a detailed understanding of the ancient topography of Richborough island and to try to locate and investigate the harbour. It is this final aim which has been addressed by the work in 2001.

Thus far three main techniques have been used. The work has been undertaken by various parts of the Projects Division of English Heritage. In January 2001, magnetometry and resistivity surveys were conducted on the amphitheatre. Resistivity proved to be the most effective technique here, and the identity of the amphitheatre was confirmed. It was of classic elliptical shape, with entrances at the ends of the ellipse. Unusual features were a pair of opposed circular masses on each side of the short axis. Radar survey conducted in July showed that these features were more deeply founded than the rest of the amphitheatre. They are tentatively identified as towers, though the possibility that they might be shrines or elaborate

entrances still remains. Magnetometry proved successful in identifying streets and buildings around the amphitheatre, and was extended through September, to cover 21ha of the area around the fort and amphitheatre. Additional data were produced by aerial photographic analysis. Both techniques showed streets, buildings and enclosures. Watling Street was one of two principal roads, along which buildings were ranged. Watling Street was apparently the axis of a street grid, four insulae of which were taken to build the Shore fort. Behind the street frontage was a complex pattern of enclosures, which may be field systems, and are conceivably Iron Age in date. Much more analysis is needed.

Finally, two small excavation areas were opened up. Trench A was designed to re-examine one of two small temples excavated by Bushe-Fox in 1926. This area



Summer 2002

demonstrated that the temples were probably built early in the history of the site, but were demolished, and lay in an area of rubbish pitting by the mid-fourth century. This has implications concerning the early ritual status of the gateway to Britain, but may also inform the decline and shrinkage of the settlement. A feature which pre-dated the temples may have been a prehistoric field boundary. Trench B was situated on the edge of the cliff to the east of the island. It showed that the land-form today is very different to that of the early Roman period, with 800mm of Roman strata (much of it make-up dumping) underlying 1.20m of colluvial deposits. The reason for the depth of colluvium is hard to find - possibly the area of the trench occupied a natural gully in the side of the island. At all events, it seems at least possible that the flank of the island was originally a shallow slope down to a sandy beach. This will be further explored this year, but suggests that the Claudian ditches, far from being the western side of a large, and much eroded fort, were actually the defences of a linear strip of beach upon which the Claudian vessels were drawn up.

Tony Wilmott

## Women in Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Society

This conference was the second in a series of (hopefully) five and was as interesting and far-reaching as the first. Alan Ward, the main organiser of the series, succeeded in asking five female lecturers to present papers on the subject of Women in Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Society.

Barbara Yorke, professor of Early Medieval History at King Alfred's College, Winchester, gave the first paper on The Royal Nunneries of Anglo-Saxon Kent. There are many problems associated with the dating and founding of the five royal nunneries of Kent (Minster in Thanet, Lyminge, Minster in Sheppey, Folkestone and Hoo) as any surviving documents are riddled with inaccuracies. The Venerable Bede did not refer to any of the nunneries which is another major problem. Many of the institutions were double communities housing both monks and nuns. The lecture ended with some illustrations of traces of Anglo-Saxon masonry to be seen at Lyminge, Minster in Thanet and elsewhere.

Caroline Baron, professor of History at Royal Holloway, University of London, took Women in Medieval London as her subject. Documentary evidence is

much more available and the City records make it clear that women in London were accorded more status than their rural counterparts. On the death of their husbands they were allowed to continue the business and also to employ apprentices in their own right. This brief period ended after 1500 because of shortage of work and the growth of capitalism.

The morning session ended with Sheila Sweetingburgh, a freelance historian and part-time teacher, who spoke on *Joining the sisters: female inmates in Kent's late medieval hospitals*. She discussed the probable criteria for selection of the sisters and also how they may have spent their time as part of a semi-religious community. She ended her lecture with an assessment of the provisions and bequests the inmates made in their wills with mention of their pious and charitable concerns and their relationships with family and friends.

After lunch Toni Mount, part-time teacher for the WEA, spoke on *What of the Medieval Housewife?* She treated us to a witty and informative look at the everyday life of the medieval housewife making extensive use of original source material such as the *Goodman of Paris* and *How the Good Wife taught her Daughter*. Her lecture explained many probabilities concerning dress, etiquette and recipes. This was an erudite yet light-hearted lecture and so appropriate for the session after lunch.

The day ended with Charlotte Behr, senior lecturer in Roman and Early Medieval History at the University of Surrey, Roehampton, going back to the Anglo-Saxon period speaking on *High Status Women and Pagan Images*. She concentrated on the high status graves of females in east Kent, discussing the interpretation of the grave assemblages and asking to what degree the interpretation of customs of death and burial are meaningful for our understanding of the world of the living.

The conference provided us with a fascinating insight into this interesting period which benefits from both archaeology and history. I look forward to next year's conference with heightened anticipation and suggest that you book your places as soon as the programme is announced! My thanks to Alan Ward for his notes which have proved invaluable.

Sheila Bromfield

## New Website for KAS

The KAS is to set up a new Website, in order to take further the Society's declared intention to make as much material as possible from KAS archives and publications available for posting electronically. Initially, the website will consist of a series of administrative pages; a members section containing on-line searchable catalogues of the Library's books and papers, and of Visual records; and a Publications section with downloadable publications, papers, reports, articles, and records. The publications section will afford

the KAS Hon. Editor and the KAS Publications Committee an electronic outlet which is at present lacking, and which will be open to contributions from other committees and members of the KAS. Contributions from universities and other research organisations will be welcome. The content of publications will be controlled by the Editor, who will, drawing on the expertise of experts as necessary, ensure quality control. The new website will be hosted by nVeracity and will be cross-linked and complementary to the existing website hosted by Medway Internet.

It is hoped that the new Website will be operational by the autumn of this year.

For further information, contact Denis Anstey  
Email: d@degian.demon.co.uk  
Tel: 01634 240015.

WOMEN IN  
ANGLO-  
SAXON  
AND  
MEDIEVAL  
SOCIETY  
WOMEN IN  
ANGLO-  
SAXON  
AND  
MEDIEVAL  
SOCIETY  
WOMEN IN  
ANGLO-  
SAXON  
AND  
MEDIEVAL  
SOCIETY  
WOMEN IN  
ANGLO-  
SAXON  
AND  
MEDIEVAL  
SOCIETY  
WOMEN IN  
ANGLO-  
SAXON  
AND  
MEDIEVAL  
SOCIETY  
WOMEN IN  
ANGLO-  
SAXON



Summer 2002

# THE WRITING UP AND PUBLICATION OF PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AND FIELDWORK IN KENT

WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP

Just over two years ago, the KAS Council decided that the Society should take the initiative and try to do something positive about the writing up and publication of some of the past archaeological excavations and fieldwork carried out in the Ancient County of Kent. It recognised that this would be a formidable task but that it should try and do something before more records and results are lost. This brief review aims to summarise what has happened. A special sub-committee of the Society's Fieldwork Committee was set up, with the brief to progress the project. Its members were widely drawn for their experience and I was asked to act as its Chairman. The sub-committee met on four occasions.

Anyone involved in any way with archaeology will know of excavations and fieldwork, which have not been written up, let alone published. Depending on the extent of an excavation, once it has been done, then the results, particularly the stratigraphy, cannot be replicated, so, unless the results are written up, they are effectively lost to future archaeologists, historians and the general public.

The sub-committee made extensive enquiries and using the National Monuments Record (NMR) Event Records, and their own experience, found that only about 25% of the excavations carried out by amateurs since 1945 had been published – a frightening figure. The sub-committee's final estimate was that in the whole of the Ancient County of Kent, including the four London Boroughs, about 600 amateur excavations had been carried out post 1945, which had not been published. The sub-committee recognised that many of these would never be written up for a whole variety of reasons, but that many could be, given the right spirit, reasonable resources and good organisation.

Plans were considered for publicising the initiative throughout the course of the project, in order to ensure a flow of information about sites and results from them and the basis for prioritising the writing up of results was set down.

It was recognised that because of the magnitude of the task, it would be impractical for it to be done on a volunteer basis, so it was decided that it could only realistically be considered if an experienced archaeologist, with a good track record of writing up reports, be engaged. The cost of such an approach would be well outside the financial reach of the KAS, so discussions were held with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to see if they could help. We were given every encouragement and a detailed budget costing just under £100,000 – 90% of this would be funded by Grant from the HLF and 10% from the Society, who would also pay for the reasonable costs of publication (much of the material for publication would be offered to *Archaeologia Cantiana*, the primary medium for publication of archaeological material in Kent). The project would last between 2.5 and 3 years, depending on various factors. In order to ensure good progress, a Project Advisory Committee would be set up, to include independent experts, including the County Archaeological Officer and English Heritage.

A detailed proposal was then submitted to the HLF, with reasonable expectations that it would be accepted, subject perhaps to negotiations on points of detail. Sadly it was not. Much correspondence has ensued. This is not the place to try and summarise it, but the proposal was not supported for a number of reasons, despite the earlier encouragement which we were given. One reason was that we were unable to say specifically how many sites would be written

up, the basis for their specific selection and their specific heritage benefits – we could not do any of these things without first collecting detailed information (i.e. the results of the excavations & fieldwork) on all of the sites. From a practical point of view we had seen this as an ongoing part of the project, gathering momentum as it progressed. To complete such an exercise in isolation would be a very time consuming and expensive project in its own right, which we would be expected to fund 100% out of our own financial resources before a project with HLF support could be started. Clearly we could not contemplate such an exercise. Another reason was that the HLF wish to widen popular access to our heritage to develop new audiences. In other words, presenting results in such a way that précis of them could be read and understood by a much wider audience. At first sight this seemed a laudable objective but when thought through, we recognised that it would be expensive in time and effort and would significantly detract from our primary objective i.e. the writing up and publication of as many excavation reports as possible.

So, despite an enormous effort by members of the Society, the project file has been closed. That in itself is sad, but even more sadly, it means that the results from many of the 600 or so excavations and fieldwork identified will now never see the light of day and be available to a wider audience.

Before closing this very brief review, I would like to thank those members of the Council, Fieldwork Committee and its sub-committee who gave freely of their time to progress the project and in particular Paul Oldham, our President, who has been 100% supportive throughout.

Tom Holbome OBE





