

KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY newsletter



Issue number 60

Spring 2004

WHITEFRIARS HIGHLIGHTS

Between November 1999 and December 2003, the Whitefriars area of Canterbury was the scene of the largest series of excavations ever undertaken within the city. Working behind the demolition contractors, and ahead of the construction teams, Canterbury Archaeological Trust was involved in a rolling programme of work investigating some 5% of the area contained within the city walls. Three major open-area excavations were undertaken, at times employing up to 65 archaeological excavators, together with numerous finds and support staff. In addition, the project was interspersed by a series of smaller site investigations and an almost continual watching brief presence.

Looking back over the four years of site work, it is not difficult to pick out some of the many highlights. The Roman town houses, with their evidence of under-floor heating systems (see overleaf), floors with mosaic panels, and fine painted walls, would rank highly. These were probably the residences of the town's elite and probably dated to the third century AD. Another feature would have to be the wall turret, abutted against the line of the Roman town wall, erected in AD 270-90 as part of the settlement's defences. Still standing some 1.50m high, it was a totally unexpected discovery. Perhaps the most intriguing Roman discovery, however, was the line of eight articulated bodies buried unceremoniously within a shallow ditch. The bodies had been placed in the ditch at different times, since some were intercutting, with apparently lit-



Cleaning the subterranean vaulted latrine.

tle care for their positioning: one was buried face down, another with its limbs tucked under the body. Of probable fourth century date, yet buried within the town walls, their nature and location appears to show scant disregard for the normal Roman burial practices.

Representing the Anglo-Saxon period would be the intact lengths of cobbled roads, possibly the earliest evidence for the origin of Canterbury's street plan, as well as the many sunken-floored structures which were located across the development area. Interestingly, these were nearly always located along or adjacent to the lengths of former Roman roads, suggesting some form of continuity for these early routes. Another Anglo-Saxon feature of note, probably of tenth century date, was a cellared structure which, after abandonment, had been partly backfilled and

the body of a young woman lain centrally within it. This is one of the many instances where archaeology can only tell part of the story: was this the burial of the occupant? We shall never know.

The most dominant medieval structure was the Austin friary, later called Whitefriars and so giving its name to this area of Canterbury. Documentary evidence indicates that the establishment, founded in 1324, finally covered an area of 1.5 acres, and a large part of this area was uncovered during the course of the Whitefriars project. Revealed were parts of the church, main cloister, possible infirmary cloister and significant elements of the southern range which included the kitchens, refectory, dormitory and the latrine. The latter (see above) was quite spectacular, being formed from a

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STOP PRESS

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

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Shiela Broomfield



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www.kentarchaeology.org.uk

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vaulted structure, set down into the ground to a height of some 5.50m, and containing



the most wonderful sequence of cess deposits. These will undoubtedly shed light on the diet and health of the friars.

Alongside the archaeological work was an ambitious programme of public involvement, principally taking the form of a 'Big Dig' visitor centre. This public involvement initiative enabled people to view the excavations in progress from an aerial walkway, where volunteer stewards were on hand to explain what was happening. Alongside was a visitor centre displaying some of the finds, together with information boards explaining previous and ongoing work. The visitor centre attracted many people during the course of the project, perhaps the most rewarding groups being the school parties, many of

whom will have left with a far greater understanding of Canterbury's archaeology than they had before.

With completion of the excavation work just before Christmas last year, a programme of post-excavation analysis is now in full swing. With thousands upon thousands of artefacts to process and analyse, paper records and plans to examine and photographs to study, this is no mean task, and it is not projected to finish until summer 2007. However, when complete, the resulting publications on the Whitefriars area of Canterbury will undoubtedly rewrite the history of this important city.

Alison Hicks

Whitefriars Project Co-Director

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CANTERBURY'S X-RAY UNIT PROBES BIG DIG FINDS

Canterbury Archaeological Trust's compact Faxitron X-ray analysis unit is working overtime helping to assess thousands of metal artefacts from the Whitefriars series of excavations.

The X-ray equipment was purchased last year following a £6,000 donation from the Friends of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. This was followed last November by a second donation to fund training for Trust Conservation Assistant Adrian Murphy. He spent two days at Bradford University's

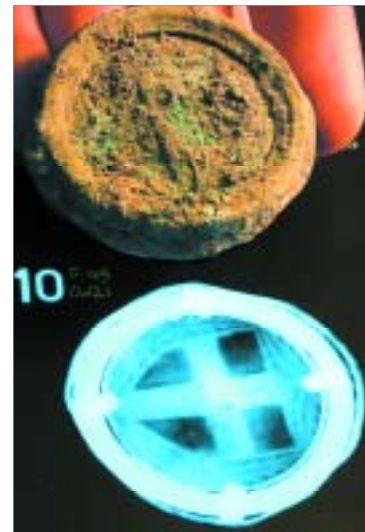
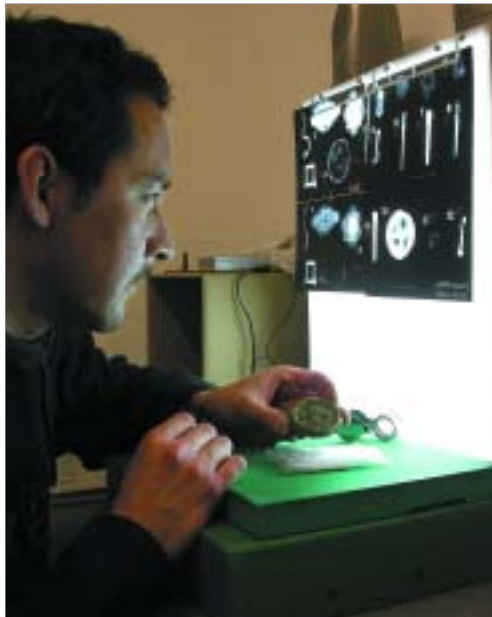
Archaeological X-ray Unit, deepening his understanding of the latest X-ray techniques for non-intrusive assessment of metal objects.

Adrian Murphy says: "The Bradford course was very valuable, especially the part of the programme concerned with digitising and enhancing images. This training came at just the right time as we are now very busy with objects from Whitefriars, which range from iron knives, household and architectural fittings, to bronze mounts, coins (for identification) and rather delicate cosmetic items such as tweezers and ear scoops.

We have two main tasks. The first is to examine objects and identify those which require assessment and conservation by specialists. Here, it is important to set priorities as funds for conservation are limited. Secondly, we are available to provide instant support for experts who may require X-ray photography of particular artefacts.

Thanks to the Friends' successful fund-raising, we no longer need to despatch these objects around the country for X-ray analysis. We have the equipment at our Canterbury headquarters. It is available at all times and is likely to

Adrian Murphy examines some of the recent X-rays of objects found in Whitefriars.



The 5cm diameter disc and its 'instant' X-ray showing the heraldic design.

continue to save money for the Trust for years to come."

The major advantage of X-ray assessment is that the technique is entirely non-destructive. It is also 'instant', revealing the original form of a metal object and any fine detail, such as decoration. One recent example is a disc, with a 5 cm diameter and 1 cm thick, found during the Whitefriars excavations. This copper alloy disc bears an heraldic design in relief (possibly part-enamelled).

* Membership of the Friends of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust has been increasing over the past six months. More members are needed, however, to support Canterbury's professional archaeologists in important tasks, including the processing of the Whitefriars finds. Contact Canterbury Archaeological Trust (on 01227 462062), or complete the form enclosed with this issue, to become a member of the Friends network.



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PILTDOWN RECOLLECTED

Skull fragments and a jawbone found at the end of the first decade of the twentieth century were for long believed to be the oldest human remains in Europe. They were found by Charles Dawson, FSA, FGS, an Uckfield solicitor, also an active antiquary, and endorsed by his friend Arthur Smith-Woodward, a palaeontologist and Keeper of Geology at the British Museum (Natural History) from 1901 to 1924. Indeed, the association of humanoid cranial fragments with the jawbone, which had simian characteristics, convinced them, and others, that the long predicted 'missing link' between apes and man had been discovered. Half a century ago, in 1953, the pieces were shown to be the elements of an elaborate hoax. The thick cranial fragments, human but medieval, had been stained to match the patchy ochreous Piltdown gravel, a modest, recent deposit. The jaw was that of an orangutan which had been broken, the teeth flattened by filing and all finally painted. Digging into the gravels produced faunal remains, a substantial bone implement resembling a cricket bat besides flint artefacts, also painted. Further and similar human remains were subsequently, and allegedly, found at Sheffield Park and Barcombe Mills, but their contexts and sites were never revealed.

The first decade of the twentieth century was the zenith of the 'Ightham Circle'¹ the enthusiasts who surrounded Benjamin Harrison². Because of the eoliths they maintained that Pliocene man had existed and that eventually his remains would be found. For them Piltdown was a vision of a humanoid living upon the high chalk of Kent and Sussex, at the beginning, or even before, the Palaeolithic period. From 1911 onwards, Charles Dawson instigated a correspondence with Benjamin Harrison of Ightham regarding the geological position of Piltdown, while sending him samples of flint and gravel. During May 1913, while motoring in Kent, Charles Dawson called upon Harrison with a small Piltdown flint implement. Harrison already had doubts regarding the Piltdown 'tools', illustrated in the Geological Society's journal, and thought most of them meaningless. Dawson's small flint was considered as natural and the best group of eoliths were shown to him³.

Harrison's concerns may have been written down and might still exist among his notes and papers, which were, in the 1950s, housed in Maidstone Museum.

F. K. Zeuner⁴ considered the Ouse gravels as much later than had been previously claimed and wondered whether or not the anomalies of Piltdown would ever be solved. A prescient footnote however, records the application of fluorine assay to the Galley Hill skeleton⁵ which emerged as recent⁶. The advent of the Swanscombe skull⁷ led indirectly to the displacement of Piltdown. It was after a palaeontological congress during July 1953, that J.S. Weiner realised that the organic content of the Piltdown mandible had never been examined and showed that the filing down of the teeth of a chimpanzee, breaking, and appropriate staining, portrayed it almost exactly⁸. It was also realised by Kenneth Oakley, when he drilled the Piltdown jaw for a dentine sample, that it was, below a thin surface staining, pure white and unaltered. Thereafter it was ascertained that simian teeth had been flattened by filing to resemble human wear. The cranial fragments had also been stained to match the gravel, and later, radiocarbon dating⁹ showed that they were medieval. The faunal remains, which included a radioactive piece from Tunisia, had also been stained, as had the flint implements. The cricket bat-like bone 'implement' had been shaped with a steel knife. At apposite junctures all these things were planted in the gravel for Charles Dawson, Arthur Smith-Woodward and Teilhard de Chardin, then a seminarist, to find. The skill of the hoax should not be underestimated, and its details could have been conceived by only a few active at that time.

Kenneth Oakley was quite well known to the present writer, via the Prehistoric Society, as he always attended papers and conferences. He never spoke of Piltdown, but, more than once, the anomalies of Aylesford and the remains of a human cranium from Wagon's Pit, were discussed, as was the generality of sites. It has been claimed that at a dinner party he named C. P. Chatwin and Martin Hinton, assistants at the BM (Nat Hist) during the first decade of the twentieth century, as befiling Arthur Smith-Woodward because of his dictatorial regime¹⁰. Matters went too far and

they could not retreat. This is surprising as it is unlikely that Kenneth Oakley would have made such a revelation to an informal gathering. More recently¹¹ Chris Stringer of the BM (Nat Hist) considers that everything points to Charles Dawson as the author of the forgeries, because of his continued involvement which extended to other discoveries in the locality. Notwithstanding the question must be asked as to whether or not Dawson's antiquarianism was capable of concocting this ingenious fraud, which was so closely attuned to the notions of the earliest prehistory then current? Indeed, it is not impossible that Dawson and Smith-Woodward may have been carefully selected dupes, and the sophisticated masterpiece of scientific deception, which stood for four decades, the adroit handiwork of persons unknown, perhaps even for arcane political reasons? At that time, as Europe drifted into near-mortal conflict, the earliest European was the Mauer jaw from near Heidelberg. What better than remains of even greater antiquity from Sussex, the earliest Englishman¹².

Paul Ashbee

1. Weiner 1955, 71-2
2. Harrison 1928
3. Harrison 1927, 303
4. Zeuner 1950, 300
5. Jessup 1930, 28
6. Oakley 1964, 340
7. Oakley 1964, SV
8. Weiner, Oakley & Le Gros Clark 1953, 141
9. Walsh 1996, 79
10. Sunday Times Magazine 26 Oct 03
11. British Archaeology 74, Jan 04
12. Woodward 1948

Piltdown, further reading:

Harrison, Sir Edward 1928 *Harrison of Ightham* Oxford
 Zeuner, F K 1980 *Dating the Past* London
 Oakley, K P 1964 *Frameworks for Dating Fossil Man* London
 Jessup, R F 1930 *The Archaeology of Kent* London
 Weiner, J S, Oakley, K P & Le Gros Clark, W E 1953 *The Solution of the Piltdown Problem, Bulletin of the British Museum (Nat Hist), Geology, 2, No.3* London
 Walsh, J E 1996 *Unravelling Piltdown* New York
 Weiner, J S 1955 *The Piltdown Forgery* Oxford
 Millar, R 1974 *The Piltdown Men* St Albans
 Woodward, A S 1947 *The Earliest Englishman* London

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CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION GRANTS

The Society has limited funds available with which to support individuals researching the archaeology and local history of the Canterbury District. It is envisaged that grants would not normally exceed £500 and would be awarded annually. Preference will be given to work which will

lead to early publication.

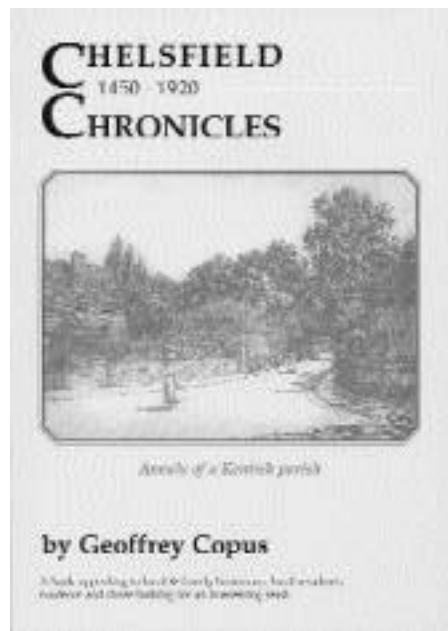
Please apply in writing to the Honorary Secretary by Wednesday 30 June 2004. Your letter should mention your qualifications, the nature and length of your research, the amount you are asking for, and any other funding anticipated and proposals for publication. You may be asked to name a ref-

eree whom the sub-committee making the grants could consult. If successful you would be expected to account for the money spent and give a copy of any article or pamphlet etc to the Society's Library.

For further details please contact the Hon. Secretary, Mrs Jean Crane, Dane Court, Adisham CT3 3LA.

NEW BOOKS

**Chelsfield Chronicles,
Annals of a Kentish parish,
1450 – 1920** by Geoffrey Copus.
1-872886-01-9 £10.00.



Based on original research over the past 55 years, this book contains much hitherto unpublished material and, although scholarly and well-documented, is written with a light touch that makes it interesting to the general reader. 180 pages with many line illustrations, plus 12 pages of plates and a fold-out map of the ancient parish in 1914. Amongst other topics, the 16 chapters include 'Scandal in the parish', 'Church, priest

and people' before and after the Reformation, 'The great Chelsfield inheritance case', the Manors of Chelsfield, Goddington and Norstead, 'Lilleys Farm – a well-documented history with a tragic end' and 'Mormon emigrants'.

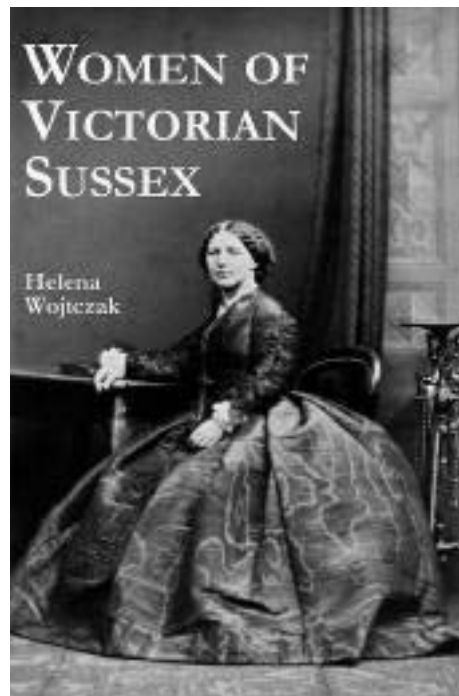
Currently available in Chelsfield from St Martin's church or the 'Kent Hounds', Well Hill, or at Bromley Local Studies Library. Available shortly from local bookshops also. Alternatively, it may be bought direct from the author at 17 Oakdale Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 8DS for £11.50 (includes UK p&p).

**Women of
Victorian
Sussex** by
Helena
Wojtczak.
1904-109-055
£9.99

The lives of the women in our neighbouring county serve as a microcosm of English life in the early to mid Victorian period. The first part details women's poor social, employmental and legal status between 1800 and 1870, giving real examples of how the law worked against women. The second part lists, in subheadings, many different occupations followed

around the mid 19th century, with much detail about working in each occupation and with special attention paid to women in commerce, richly illustrated with advertisements from female-owned enterprises. The third section, which includes many original press cuttings, relates to women's dealings with the law, as both plaintiffs and offenders, including poisoners and burglars. A short chapter about the emancipation movement and the Sussex women involved ends the book.

In bookshops or by mail order (post-free) from The Hastings Press, PO Box 96, Hastings TN34 1GQ tel: 0845 4585947 email: hastings.press@virgin.net.



NEW BOOKS &
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Spring 2004

Lectures, Conferences, Courses and Events

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KAS EVENTS

The KAS History & Archaeology Show Saturday 5 June 10am-5pm at Maidstone Museum

Come and meet the KAS Committees, Affiliated Societies and other guest groups with an interest in the past – over 40 exhibitors will be inviting visitors to find out about their work. Bring along that strange object dug up from the garden for identification by Kent's Finds Liaison Officer.

KAS Churches Committee Outing Monday 21 June

You are invited to visit the churches of Bearsted and Thurnham. We meet at Bearsted at 6.45 for 7pm. Tour £2 (£1 for students), £1 for tea. Please return the enclosed booking form by Monday 14 June.

Replies to Philip Lawrence, Barnfield, Church Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge TN12 5JJ tel: 01622 871945.

KAS Place-Names Group Day Conference Saturday 17 July 10am-3.30pm at the Free Church, Station Road, Staplehurst

Speakers for the day are Dr David Parsons, Director of the Institute for Name-Studies, Nottingham University, and Dr Paul Cullen, Institute for Name-Studies and Academic Advisor to the KAS Place-Names Committee. Sessions are:

Introduction to English Place-Names by Dr Parsons

Introduction to Kent Place-Names by Dr Cullen
Digital Place-Names and Distance Learning by Dr Parsons

Digital Place-Names – The Old English Bounds of Godmersham, Kent by Dr Cullen

A full programme, costs and catering arrangements can be found on the booking form which appears as an insert within this issue. Following the sell-out of the Place-Names day in February '03, this event looks set to be a repeat success, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Brattle Farm Museum will be open to visit after the Conference, displaying a collection of agricultural bygones showing the country life, skills and tools from rural trades and crafts of the last two centuries.

New Perspectives on Four Kent Towns Saturday 16 October at Charing Barn

This event replaces the traditional KAS 3 short excursions. Four expert speakers will contribute:

Keith Parfitt ~ Early Dover

Sarah Pearson ~ Faversham and Sandwich

Ken McGoverin ~ The History and Industrial Archaeology of Northfleet

Liz Finn ~ An Outline History of Maidstone

Further details of time and cost will appear in the July Newsletter. Enquiries to the Hon.Excursions Secretary at saynor.shoreham@amservice.com or 01959 522713.

OTHER EVENTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

COURSES

Archaeology with the University of Kent

Archaeology can be studied at various levels with the University of Kent on its well-established part-time programmes. The prospectus is now available. Applications are welcome from anyone who wishes to study for a university qualification in the subject.

The part-time evening programmes leading to the Certificate, Diploma or BA in Archaeological Studies (at Canterbury or Tonbridge) are recruiting for entry in September 2004.

Programmes in Classical & Archaeological Studies are also run in the daytime on the University's Canterbury campus. They can be followed on either a full or part-time basis.

Demonstrable aptitude and commitment are more important than formal qualifications for entry to the Certificate in Archaeological Studies.

For further information, contact the Information and Guidance Unit, the Registry, University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NZ Tel 0800 9753777 or e-mail info@kent.ac.uk

The Kent Archaeological Field School ~ Roman Holidays

Guided Field Trips during 2004 include visits to Imperial Rome in May, Roman Provence in June, Pompeii and the Bay of Naples in May & September, Roman and Medieval Spain in October and Roman Germany, the edge of Empire, in December.

For more details of the above and also information on short courses or excavation with the Field School tel: 01795 532548 email: info@kafs.co.uk.

The Whitefriars Dig Uncovered on 24 April with Mark Houlston (Co-director of Whitefriars Excavations).

A Regional Dayschool from the University of Kent, at the University campus, Canterbury. Cost £25.00, concessions £12.50. Further details on freephone 0800 975 3777 or email: information@kent.ac.uk

LECTURES

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society

10 May

St Mary's Church by Malcolm Green

12 July

Inland Waterways of Kent 1740-1850 by John Elderton

13 September

The Life of Edward Hasted by Shirley Black

8 November

A Roman re-enactor by Leslie Allman

All on Mondays at 8pm in the Village Hall, South Darenth

Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society

17 September (Eynsford Hall)

The Anglo-Saxon Jutes in Kent by Andrew Richardson

12 November (Farningham Hall)

A Journey along the River Cray by Denise Baldwin
Both at 8pm.

EVENTS

Church Coach Tours

Led by John Vigar, Trustee of the Friends of Friendless Churches and Field Officer to the Churches Conservation Trust.

Wednesday 26 May

Preston-next-Wingham, West Stourmouth, Wickhambreaux & Fordwich.

Pick-ups in Tonbridge & Canterbury

Wednesday 30 June

East Peckham, Capel, Tudeley, Leigh & Chiddingstone

Pick-ups in Rochester & Maidstone

Tuesday 27 July

Capel-le-Ferne, West Hougham, Temple Ewell, Alkham

Pick-ups in Rochester, Maidstone & Ashford

Each tour costs £18.50. For bookings & enquiries tel: 01622 718118 or 07958 409336, or www.johnvigar.com

Finds Identification

Saturday 17 July at **Minster-in-Sheppey Museum, 10am-4pm** with Andrew Richardson, Finds Liaison Officer for Kent.

National Archaeology Days 2004.

This annual event will be held over the weekend of **17-18 July**. A full listing of events in the area can be found on the Council for British Archaeology website at www.britarch.ac.uk.

Life & Death In Saxon Kent

Sunday 18 July, 11am-4.30pm. National Archaeology Days event in the Museum of Kent Life, Cobtree, Maidstone.

North Downs Young Archaeologists' and the Museum of Kent Life invite you to a family fun day! All children go **free**. A large contingent

of the Saxon re-enactment group, Regia Anglorum, will demonstrate combat and ancient craft skills, with the opportunity to have a go at many of these. Timed talks on Saxon life



from archaeological evidence throughout the day. Lots of 'make & do' activity stalls and games for children, artefacts of the period for handling and food for tasting, finds identification and exhibition of local history & archaeology groups.

EVENTS ELSEWHERE

The Sutton Hoo Society Conference 2004 on Saturday 16 October, 9am-5.30pm

Anglo-Saxon Landscapes: Real and Imaginary
The Royal Hospital School, Holbrook near Ipswich
Chaired by Professor Martin Carver (Uni of York) & Angela Care Evans (Brit Mus)

Speakers:

Dr Andrew Rogerson (Norfolk Museums Service)

Prof. Peter Fowler (Prof Emeritus Newcastle Uni)

Dr Helena Hamerow (Uni of Oxford)

Prof David Dumville (Girton Coll, Cambridge)

John Newman (Archaeological Services Suffolk County Council)

Dr Tom Williamson (Uni of East Anglia)

Price (lunch included), Soc members £17.50,

non-members £20.00,

students £10.00

Contact The Treasurer, Sutton Hoo Society, 2 Meadowside, Wickham Market, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 0UD

Ancient Crafts & Technology

12 - 16 July at the Iron Age Activity Centre, Michelham Priory, Upper Dicker, Hailsham from 10am to 5pm each day.

A unique opportunity to explore ancient crafts & technologies from a practical and hands-on point of view; pottery, textiles, metal & woodworking, building technologies, boat building and flint knapping.

Fee £148.00, concession £64.00, Sussex Archaeological Society members £143.00 (does not include accommodation or materials).

Information from Centre for Continuing Education, Sussex Institute, Essex House, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QQ,

tel: 01273 877888

email: si-admissions@sussex.ac.uk

Annual Open Day of City Churches 8-9 June

Further information from friendsoflondonchurches@yahoo.co.uk.

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KAS 2004 SUMMER EXCURSION 14-18 JUNE

There are only a few places still available for this exploration of the historic landscape of Dorset. Coach pick-up points are throughout Kent. Cost is £249 inclusive, with no single room supplement, staying at the 3 star Cliffside Hotel in Bournemouth. Enquiries to Hon. Excursions Secretary, Joy Saynor, Friars, 28 High Street, Shoreham, Seveonoaks TN14 7TD, tel: 01959 522713 email: saynor.shoreham@amsolve.com



One of Shiela's cats, Fred, enjoying Arch.Cant. (see Back Page People)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

If you haven't already sent me your renewal please do as soon as possible to ensure that you will receive your copy of *Archaeologia Cantiana* at no extra cost.

If you are going to conferences, meetings etc. please help to publicise KAS by putting out a pile of application forms in a prominent position. I have plenty here so do get in touch for your supplies.

I am pleased to welcome the following new members:

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Bearsted & District Local History Society, Legood, Mrs A, 52 Madginford Road, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 8LB
Herne & Broomfield Local History Group, Bundock, Mr M, Gilmour Gates, 91 Selsea Avenue, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 8SE

JOINT MEMBERS

Smith Briggs, Mr 1, & Miss, 1 Cubitt House, Black-Bull Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5SH

JUNIOR MEMBERS

Underdown, Mr L, Little Tortworth, Busbridge Road, Loose, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 0ES

ORDINARY MEMBERS

Davis, Major M C J, 1 Rookwood Way, Great Missenden, Bucks, HP16 0DF
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ABBEY FARM EXCAVATION

The KAS, in conjunction with the Trust for Thanet Archaeology, will be holding an eighth season of excavation at Abbey Farm, near Ramsgate. Settlement here spans from prehistoric times through to the Anglo Saxon period. As most members know, the site is dominated by a large Roman Villa complex. Work will commence on Sunday August 15 2004 and continue for two weeks.

The excavation is open to people aged 16 years and above. Participants can attend for the two week period or for one of either weeks.

Registration fee for members of the KAS or the Thanet Archaeological Society is £35 for one week (non members £50) or £50 for two weeks (non members £70).

For enrolment or further details please contact:

Chris Pout, Sunnysdene, Boyden Gate Corner, Marshside, Nr. Canterbury CT3 4EE. Tel: 01227 860207

You and Your Society



Spring 2004

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A CALL TO ARMS

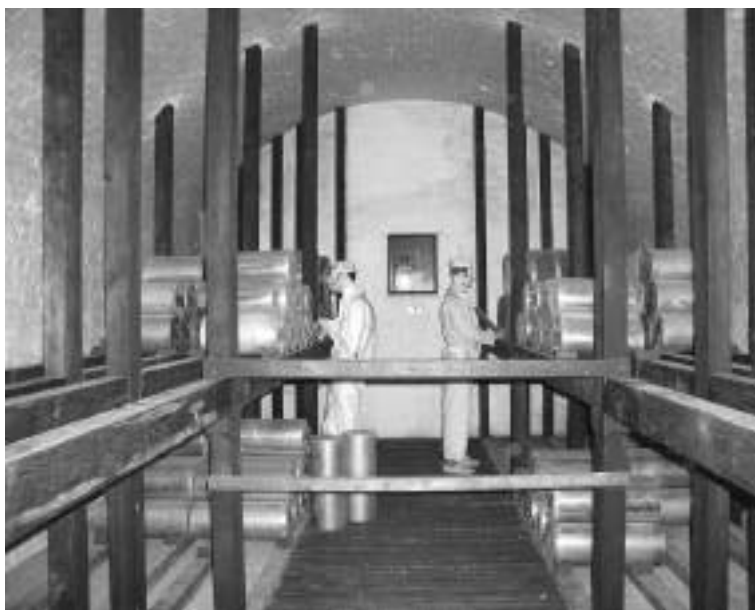
In keeping with London's vital strategic importance, from the mid-16th – mid 20th centuries, its Thames river approaches were protected by a powerful group of shoreline gun positions. These formed a system-based approach to defence. The continuing development of this system was driven by an imperative to counter the risk of attack or invasion during war, the need to keep pace with innovation in military technology and by a requirement to incorporate changes resulting from strategic decision making.

As individual elements, several of the Thames forts have been successfully displayed to visitors for educational and heritage tourism purposes. But there is scope for doing more to enhance an understanding of all of the Thameside sites as a defensive system involving forts and batteries crossing their fire from both sides of the river in staged layers of defence - as well as to encourage an appreciation of other networked methods of defence which emerged during the later 19th and 20th centuries. Paradoxically though, the very existence of the Thames itself, which gave these defensive systems meaning, has been a problem as a psychological barrier and a perceived impediment to reciprocal visiting. These difficulties were noted as ones for solution in Andrew Saunders and Victor Smith, *Kent's Defence Heritage*, Kent County Council et al (2001).

Thames Defence Heritage* has formed an informal partnership with Gravesham Borough Council in Kent and Thurrock Council in Essex to explore possible ways forward. An early result in 2003 was the creation of the Crossfire Trail which utilised the Gravesend/Tilbury Ferry, to visit forts on both sides of the water. Even more popular and, indeed, oversubscribed, was *Sailing through History*, an all day boat trip from Gravesend and Tilbury down to the estuary, viewing the forts as a system and as an enemy would have seen them.

This approach will be repeated in subsequent years but it can be regarded only as a start. The creation of a defence heritage trail leaflet covering the Greater

Thames seems a logical next step. As well as this, Thames Defence Heritage has begun a re-examination of the origins, rationale and evolution of the defences of the Thames. This study embraces an historical span extending outside



the era of artillery fortification from the first century AD to the present day. Its scope is from London itself to the extremity of the estuary. Building on earlier work, which was supported in various ways by the Kent Archaeological Society, this involves archaeological investigation and recording, documentary research, interviewing and analysis.

In addition to the usual focus on military architecture and weapons, a greater consideration will be given to the role of the navy and there will be enhanced coverage of the technological, political context, as well as the effect on Thameside communities and the influence of London's own government and of the river management organisations on the schemes for defending the river. Recently completed research by a TDH member on a British garrison in the Caribbean has strongly underscored the potential for taking a more holistic view of forts, batteries and the other sites along the Thames, to include much more about the regime of daily life which went on within them. The

results of research will be synthesised into a range of outputs, such as a complete revision of the publication *Defending London's River* (editions 1985 and 2002), and monographs on particular topics and themes for *Archaeologia Cantiana* and other journals. An informational web site is in the process of creation and, in time, a publicly accessible paper research archive may be created.

Contributions to the process will be sought from those already

Interior of the restored Victorian main cartridge store in the magazines of New Tavern Fort at Gravesend, managed by Thames Defence Heritage in partnership with Gravesham Borough Council.

working in this field and from others. There are opportunities for interested members of the Kent Archaeological Society to participate. If they wish, they may also become involved in the restoration and display of New Tavern Fort, the Gravesend Blockhouse and a Cold War bunker, managed by Thames Defence Heritage in partnership with Gravesham Borough Council. For all these activities, a genuine interest in the subject, staying power and willingness to be a team player are qualities needed.

Enquiries to Victor Smith, Director of Thames Defence Heritage, 65 Stonebridge Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 9BA (Tel: 01474 323415).

* Formed in 2000 and incorporating the New Tavern Fort Project, founded in 1975.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SPRING 2004

Dear Editor

A FAMILY HOME?

I would be really pleased if any member of the KAS can recognise this house and especially as to where it is. The photo was in a chest of drawers which I inherited from my great-uncle, Montie Maylam, who was born in the 1870's at New Shelve Farm, Lenham. He had relations around Throwley and the edge of Romney Marsh. He moved to the Tonbridge area in 1897.

Richard Maylam
Yalding

Please contact the editor at the usual addresses if you have any information for Mr Maylam.

Dear Editor

KENT COUNTY CHURCHES

For many months, I have been searching on the internet and in bookshops, for the first volume of J.A.Syms three books on Kent churches. Its title is *Kent Country Churches*, published by Meresborough Books.

I have had no luck at all. If a member of the KAS has a copy that he/she is willing to sell to me, I shall be very pleased to hear.

John Physick

Please contact Mr Physick direct at:
49 New Road, Meopham,
Nr Gravesend, DA13 0LS
Tel: 01474 812301

Dear Editor

WESLEY & METHODISM

Joy Saynor's article on Wesley and Methodism (winter 2003/4 Newsletter) makes a point of its appeal in the Wealden area of Kent, which she rightly describes as having "remained a centre of dissent" from earlier times.

However, surely it is inaccurate to trace this simply, as she does, to its responsiveness to earlier Protestant teaching brought across the Channel. The radical reformers of the Kentish Weald in the 16th century, who paid so dearly for their beliefs during the Marian persecutions, were surely the inheritors of a local tradition of Lollardry, which had been strong in this part of Kent before Protestantism arrived from the Continent.

This tradition of radical non-conformism appears to have still been a factor in the early 20th century, contributing to the remarkable victory of the Wesleyan Minister, Reverend R M Kedward in Ashford as a Liberal at the 1929 general election. The Ashford constituency was then more rural, extending further into the Weald, than the present parliamentary division.

I wonder whether the connection of this dissenting tradition over some five centuries has been traced by any local historian, and whether there are still signs of it in the 21st century amongst the indigenous people of Wealden Kent.

Michael Steed
Canterbury



Kent Records New Series Volume 4

Volume 4 in this series has commenced with a calendar of the Kent Feet of Fines for Edward VI compiled by Dr Michael Zell. Combining material from the main CP25/2 series at the National Archives and those Kent fines to be found in 'diverse counties' and 'cities & towns' the calendars provide an extremely important finding aid for this county. Kent is way behind most other counties in its publishing of such important calendars and indexes from our national records and this publication will be greatly welcomed by both local and family historians.

Volume 4 parts 1 & 2 are available

for £6 (post free) from the Kent Archaeological Society, Ashton Lodge, Church Road, Lylinge, Folkestone, Kent CT18 8JA. Part 1 is currently with the printers and part 2 will be published later in the year completing the reign of Edward VI and including those for Jane, Mary and Philip & Mary.

For back numbers see the website. Volume 3 part 10 is the index to the whole of volume 3 and although compiled is currently being consolidated because of its size. Those patiently waiting this part will have two parts for their

money and we hope to be able to send it shortly.



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CRUNDALE LATE BRONZE AGE HOARD

As promised in the last issue, here are further details of this large hoard.

On consecutive weekends in September 2003, a metal detectorist on farmland at Crundale made three scattered finds which suggested dispersal from a hoard in the vicinity. He reported these to Andrew

Richardson, Finds Liaison Officer for Kent. Returning to the site in early December, he pinpointed and uncovered the hoard in a shallow pit just below the ploughsoil.

The hoard consists of 185 pieces of metalwork, comprising both fragments and largely complete objects. The pieces of cast copper 'cake' were mainly deposited in the bottom of

the pit, with the other artefacts mixed above. These artefacts include rings and gouges, whole and fragmented razors, axeheads and spearheads, fragments of swords and daggers and cast copper cake fragments.

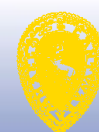
The socketed and looped axeheads, short lengths of sword and dagger blade and 'cake' are typical of late Bronze Age hoards from the south east. Traditionally described as 'Founder's Hoards', they have been interpreted as representing collections of scrap metal stored by a smith and intended for recovery. This interpretation has been challenged recently (for example by Martyn Barber in *Bronze and the Bronze Age*). There are certainly examples of deliberate breakage and damage within the Crundale hoard that are hard to reconcile with a simple interpretation of 'random scrap'. In one instance objects have been inserted into the socket of a broken axehead, which was then squeezed tight to hold them in. In another, several objects have been forced tightly into the socket of a spearhead. The impression is one of deliberate acts of breakage in order to put them beyond use, rather than objects broken or worn through everyday use. However, detailed analysis by specialists will be required to confirm this impression.

Whatever the case, the hoard is certainly important, not only because of its size, but also the large number of unusual items, including copper alloy rings with lead(?) cores. It is hoped that further fieldwork at the site will provide the find with a more detailed context.

Andrew Richardson



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Anyone interested in the history and archaeology of the south-east must be aware of Shiela Broomfield's name recurring frequently on committee lists in various publications. Shiela is one of the cogs without which the mechanisms of many local societies would grind to a halt, and is currently the Membership Secretary of the KAS, sitting also on the Fieldwork and Membership Committees and on the KAS Council. She also represents KAS on the Standing Conference for London Archaeology.

Her father took great glee in telling everyone that Shiela's great grandfather 'had built Stonehenge!' (He was in fact Clerk of Works on the Antrobus Estate at the start of the twentieth century and did help to re-erect one of the fallen stones). As a child she accompanied her parents, or sometimes just her father on the back of his tandem, to various museums and sites. This kindled an interest which found an outlet when she attended summer courses in 1964/5 at Wroxeter run by Birmingham University which was "indefinitely preferable" she feels, to her other option of going to Benidorm with the girls from the Australian bank where she worked!

Excavation at the Staines Moor causewayed enclosure followed, a five minute bike ride away from her home in Stanwell, Middlesex. Over the next few years she dug whenever possible with the City of London Excavation Group under Nick Fuentes, mainly Roman sites, although a day's excavation was often followed by crossing the river to help the Southwark group sort pottery, usually seventeenth century tin glaze. This was before the Museum of London was created so most of the tools were stored in Peter Marsden's office in the Guildhall and Shiela has pushed wheelbarrows through most streets in the City.

Newly-wed in 1968, Shiela moved to Kent; "we drew circles around a map of London until the circumference reached affordability." She joined the Maidstone Archaeological Group and subsequently the KAS in 1969, although commuting to London left less time for practical archaeology. However, she still managed to do some digging in Barming and Cranbrook.

Moving to Hildenborough in 1973 after the birth of their daughter, she and husband Chris now share their home with four cats named after composers, reflecting another of her passions, classical music. You can see Fred (Delius) enjoying *Archaeologia Cantiana* on page 8. As the Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Shiela is heavily involved with Tonbridge Music Club which puts on six concerts a year, and she and Chris also attend concerts in

SHIELA BROOMFIELD 40 years an 'amateur'



London, especially at the Wigmore Hall. It was music that brought she and Chris together, as they met in the arena, "most appropriate...", of the Royal Albert Hall.

Holidays, not surprisingly, tend to have an archaeological/historical theme linked with food and wine with France as a regular destination. Shiela's map reading often puzzles Chris, until on the horizon looms a megalith, roman villa, hillfort or cave (of both kinds). Her linguistic powers are tested to the full when collecting the output from the rows of vines dotted around France, some of which they have rented for over ten years.

She joined the Tonbridge Historical Society and its archaeological group run by Andrew Webster (one time treasurer of the KAS) and has been its Secretary for the last nine years. Excavation with the group included the medieval pottery site at Lower Parrock and the Iron Age hillfort at Garden Hill, both in Sussex. The medieval site of Huggetts Farm near Buxted followed and she became joint director with Dot Meades, the site owner from 1980. Dot, a founder member of the Wealden Iron Research Group, persuaded Shiela to join the WIRG committee, and she became Secretary from 1987 to 2002,

and is now Treasurer.

This added further to her responsibilities, having been Subscriptions Secretary and Treasurer of the *London Archaeologist* since 1978. Her acceptance of the LA role came on a day when she had already allowed her arm to be twisted to join the PTA committee at her daughter's school. Packing the quarterly LA magazine takes place in her home, cats amongst boxes, envelopes and labels. Feline 'help' notwithstanding, at least new computer technology enables greater efficiency, the former three-day task of addressing envelopes with a roller spirit duplicator now but a memory.

The KAS sponsored excavation of the Sedgebrook Roman Villa coincided with a long held wish to add to her practical skills with an academic qualification. The Diploma in Archaeology, being run for the first time at the University Centre in Tonbridge in 1987, gave her the ideal opportunity.

The input of people like Shiela, organising quietly and efficiently behind the scenes, often goes largely unrecognised by the majority. But the appreciation of those with whom she works closely is evident; displayed on her desk is a plaque of polished bloom in honour of her work with WIRG. She was recently elected an honorary member of the CBA, in recognition of her work in London and the South East.

She dislikes the word 'amateur' as having derogatory overtones, but what do you call someone who is as knowledgeable, capable and hard working as any professional, yet unpaid? Having had the opportunity to work in the field alongside professionals, including the Oxford Archaeology Unit at St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks, she has always felt their total acceptance, and sees recent pressures for excavation only by 'qualified' persons as a move towards reducing the opportunity for 'amateur' involvement. As for her many administrative roles, "I'm a practical person in the lucky position of being able to contribute to the archaeological world in so many different ways".

Her contribution to archaeology is to be applauded... and Fred would agree!

Copy deadline for the next issue in July is Wednesday June 2nd

The editor wishes to draw attention to the fact that neither she nor the Council of the KAS are answerable for opinions which contributors may express in their signed articles; each author is alone responsible for the contents and substance of their work.

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