

KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY newsletter

Issue number 80

Spring 2009

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE PAST



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**Projects
which
involve
locals in
their
archaeology**

STOP PRESS
Your AGM agenda and papers are included in this Newsletter
There will be a postal ballot and members will also
find ballot papers and guidance inside

www.kentarchaeology.org.uk



ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE COMMUNITY

Across Kent, local history and archaeology groups have for many years been doing great work investigating the heritage of the county. The Newsletter often carries brief reports of their work, whilst *Archaeologia Cantiana* presents more in-depth accounts. The groups are communities formed through a common interest in a local area or a subject; the KAS is itself a wider community of like-minded people.

The advent of developer-led archaeology over the last two decades has seen the rise of professional commercial units, contracted in to investigate sites often on the doorstep of interested locals. However, there has been recognition in recent years that people want more access to 'their' archaeology. These may be people who don't belong to a local group, but are enthusiastic about getting involved and finding out more. Local and national authorities are responding to this enthusiasm by finding ways in which people can take part.

This issue focuses on community involvement in various projects currently underway. The KAS is formulating a community project, in which it is hoped that many of you will become involved – see page 9 for more details.

DISCOVERING PERRY WOODS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

Per ry Wood

Perry Wood cover the slopes of three hills on the downland between Selling and Shottenden west of Canterbury. The Discovering Perry Wood project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and managed as a Countryside Partnership by the Mid Kent Downs Project and Swale Borough Council who own the wood. The project's aim is to help the local community to explore the natural and historic environment of Perry Wood and to develop a better understanding of the value of the woods to the Kent Downs landscape. The project is also interested in recording more recent memories from people who have experiences of living, working and relaxing in the woods and exploring the archaeological aspects of the woods.

The Archaeological Project

The archaeological project was launched in October 2008 at a 'Ghosts and Memories' event organised by the Discovering Perry Wood project at Selling. Volunteers from the local community were encouraged to join a research group to take on documentary research and field work, with the support of professional archaeologists from the Trust for Thanet Archaeology. An exhibition and talk from the Trust gave background information on the archaeological sites in Perry Wood and displayed maps of the area that show how the topography and geology has shaped settlement and the location of the archaeological sites in Perry wood. The first meeting of the research group was held in January 2009 where the volunteers decided to carry out an earthwork survey on one of the most important sites in the wood.



TOP: Walking the earthworks.

ABOVE: Exposition of the earthworks to volunteers.

RIGHT: Instruction on using survey equipment.

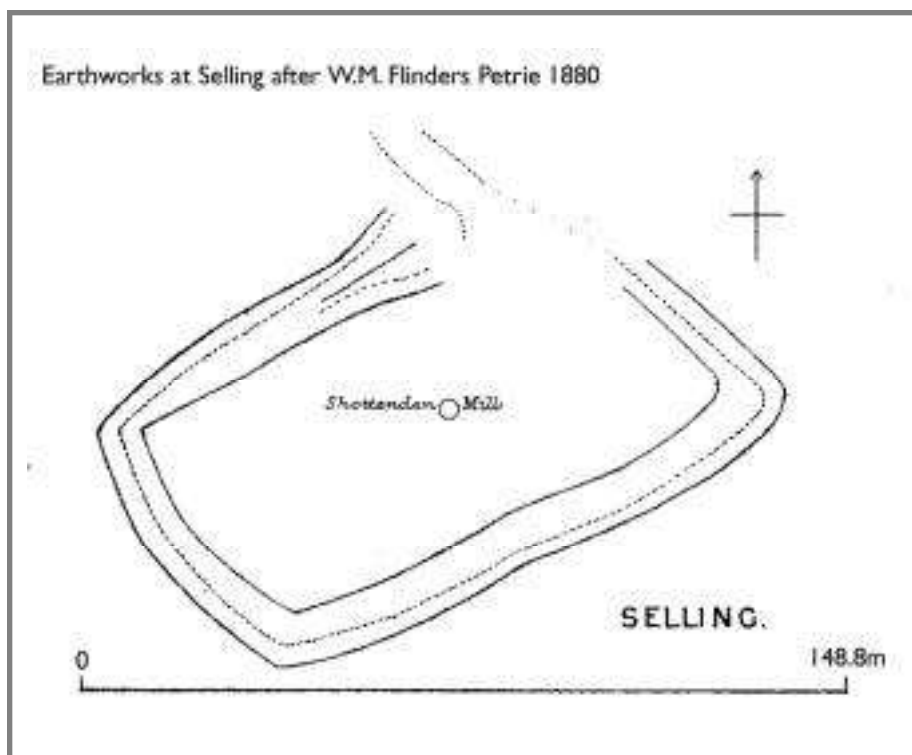
OPPOSITE: Study area: shaded relief and composite earthwork.

The earthwork survey project

The principal archaeological discoveries made in Perry Wood are two sites where important Mesolithic flintwork has been found in quantity and an earthwork enclosure located in the north-west area of the woods on Windmill Hill, which was also known in the past as Shottenden Hill. The research group is concentrating on exploring the earthwork for its first field work project.

The earliest description we have of the earthwork at Shottenden Hill is by Edward Hasted in his *History of Kent*. Hasted suggested that the enclosure was most likely to be the remains of a Roman summer camp or exploratory fort, possibly associated with the remains of a larger fort that he had seen as earthworks at Sellingham Wood, two miles to the south-east. Hasted noted the commanding view from the Shottenden Hill site over the county of Kent, reaching along the English Channel to the south and east as far as the North Foreland at the eastern tip of the Isle of Thanet. To the west and north the Essex coast and the North Sea could be observed. An early drawing of the earthworks at Shottenden Hill, as well as the Mill that gave it its later name, was published in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1786. Zechariah Cozens took a ramble up Shottenden Hill inspired by an interest in an Admiralty semaphore station that was built on the platform at the top of the hill near the Mill. He was soon intrigued by ditches and banks that surrounded the hill. Cozens suggested that the requirements of military technology linked the choice of the site for both the Roman and more recent signal tower structures.

In later years the camp at Shottenden Hill continued to be referred to in works such as King's Handbook for Travellers in Kent and



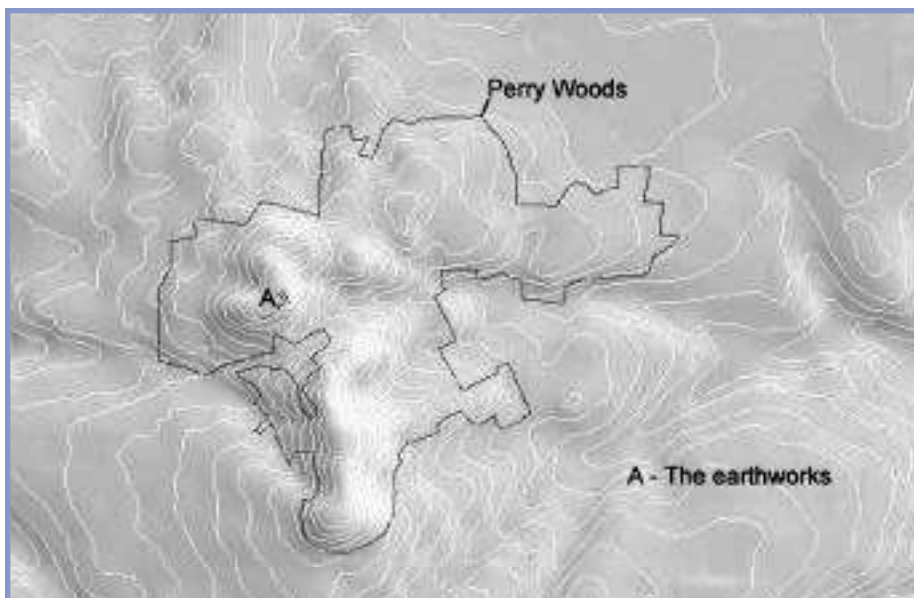
Sussex of 1858, but gradually the site was increasingly obscured by the trees and undergrowth. Today the commanding views described by Hasted are difficult to appreciate. In 1880 the ditches were surveyed and drawn by William Flinders Petrie as part of a general survey of earthworks of Kent, and a small scale drawing was reproduced in *Archaeologia Cantiana*. Petrie's drawing does not show entrances which Hasted had earlier described.

Later in the century the earthworks were examined by O.G.S. Crawford for the Ordnance Survey. Since 1953 only part of the south eastern corner of the enclosure has been drawn on the O.S. maps and recent records have even described the earthworks as having been largely destroyed, which aer-

ial photography and observations on the ground have shown to be far from the truth.

From the Trust's plots of previous surveys and the new aerial photographs it became clear that the earthworks on Shottenden Hill were not well recorded and were poorly dated. Early in February 2009 the volunteers of the archaeological project joined the Trust in a walkover survey of the earthworks, exploring their extent before the bracken that normally obscures them had started to grow. The archaeology research group were keen to get on with surveying the earthworks while they could still be seen. The next stage of the project got under way at an archaeological survey taster day where the Trust gave a hands-on demonstration of archaeological earthwork survey methods. The group were shown how to identify the features of the earthworks and how they would be taking part in the surveying and drawing process that will create the accurate plan the site deserves. A timetable was drawn up for the end of March when, with further training and support from the Trust, small groups of volunteers carried out the survey.

Armed with an accurate plan, the group will have a guide to the priorities for further exploration, possibly leading to a small excavation later in the year. With better information on the earthworks, the wider Discovering Perry Wood project will be able to create a management plan for them. They will also be able to develop resources such as reconstruction drawings that can be used to ensure that this important site is given the status it deserves in Kent's historic environment.



PIONEERS POWER BROKERS & SAINTS

The Churches Committee is always keen to emphasise that its remit encompasses beliefs and people as well as ecclesiastical buildings and artefacts. Accordingly this new series focuses on people in our own county whose impact has been noteworthy. The contributors will be those knowledgeable in their areas of interest. The series will run to about ten articles.

ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

There were Christians in Kent in Roman times and later, long before St Augustine arrived. His mission was to bring Christianity to the pagan Anglo-Saxons living in south-east England, starting with the Kentish royal household. Christian communities had been established in northern England by missions from Ireland and in the west survived as a result of continuing Roman Christian practices. Augustine was prior of the monastery of St Andrew in Rome when he was chosen by Pope Gregory in 596 to lead a group of 30 monks and head north. The date of Augustine's birth in Italy is not known but we do know that he died in Canterbury in about 604 having landed in Kent in 597. There was at least one Christian church in Canterbury before 597 and the Frankish princess, Bertha, practised her Christian faith there after her marriage to King Ethelbert of Kent sometime before 580. Indeed, she brought Bishop Liudhard as her personal chaplain, although the fact that he was a bishop indicates that it was intended that he should be more than simply Bertha's chaplain. The marriage is only one indication of the close links between Kent and Frankish Gaul, and evidence of trade is provided by archaeological finds.

Augustine and his monks landed on or near the Isle of Thanet, most likely at Ebbsfleet but possibly either at Stonor or the former Roman port of Richborough. According to Bede writing some years after the event, Ethelbert went to meet the party, which by this time had been augmented by monks from Gaul and interpreters. We know that Gregory had written to Ethelbert in advance of Augustine's arrival and Kent was chosen as the mission's destination not just because it was close to Gaul, where there were already Roman Christian com-

munities, but also because Ethelbert was a powerful ruler whose influence extended north on the eastern side of England to the Humber and even to the West Midlands.

It is clear that Gregory envisaged that archbishoprics should be established in London and York (the capitals of the Roman British provinces) but, although Augustine did establish a See in London as well as in Rochester – both places within Ethelbert's sphere of influence – he did not choose London for his seat as archbishop. Gregory had given Augustine clear authority over all the bishops of Britain but it is possible that the Pope was unaware of the independent Christian communities in the west of the country. Rome is a long way from Canterbury and Augustine was in better position than Gregory to determine what was possible and what was not. There has been speculation that Ethelbert discouraged Augustine from leaving, but that is not borne out by Bede's references to Augustine's visits to Gaul nor from the early successes in Rochester and London. It is more likely that Augustine quickly realised that Ethelbert was a powerful king and that his support would be vital to the success of the mission.

Augustine not only made an impact on the spiritual life of Kent but also on buildings and cultural developments. At first, Gregory had written to Ethelbert ordering the destruction of non-Christian centres of worship but he countermanded that almost as soon as Augustine left Rome with the new proposal to 'cleanse' and use the places where people were accustomed to worship as churches. There is archaeological evidence that that happened in Canterbury, including the building that became the first cathedral. Housing for the monks and other buildings were also erected. While it may be fanciful to assume that

the existence of the King's School Canterbury has been continuous in some form since the arrival of the mission, Augustine would have needed to train natives to be priests and deacons and there is documentary evidence that there was such a 'school' at Canterbury in the 630s. There would certainly have been a requirement for books and we know that Ethelbert's laws were written down so there were scribes in Kent during his reign. Gregory sent presents to Ethelbert and Augustine would certainly have brought some texts for use in services as well as study. Bertha and Liuhard would also have had Frankish books for their use and so there was probably the start of a library in Canterbury. The gospels used in Canterbury today on occasions such as the enthronement of an archbishop may have been brought by Augustine. They are known as The Gospels of St Augustine but their provenance is not known for certain. This volume is now lodged at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Augustine's achievement in establishing a base for Roman Christianity in south-east England in less than ten years should not be under-estimated. Throughout a period of uncertainty following Ethelbert's death in 616, Christianity continued to be the official religion of the court and was enshrined in law. Augustine gained influence in East Anglia and some of the areas in the south-west in addition to the bishoprics of Rochester and London but it was in Kent that his success was clear for all to see.

Mary and Peter Berg

Further reading: St Augustine and the Conversion of England, ed. Richard Gameson (Sutton, 1999) provides good bibliographies by subject area.

A HISTORY OF LYMINGE

A Community Project

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING TO COMPLETE A HISTORY OF LYMINGE?



We realise that in a parish, which has existed some 1600 years as a settlement from the Romans to the present day, this is not going to be a simple task. It is important therefore, that we plan the production of the history in a way which will:

- Gain your support along with such institutions as the Lyminge Association and the Historical Society.
- Involve everyone who has an interest in the parish, its history and is willing to help.
- Produce parts of the history quickly – this will help sustain momentum and interest.
- Make each part available at the least possible cost.
- Design the publication in a flexible way which can capture current interests whilst forming a coherent historical whole.

We are actively seeking researchers, writers, proof readers and helpers to get the project going and produce the initial chapters. Whether you wish to contribute your labour, expertise or just offer support please contact Duncan Harrington, Ashton Lodge, Church Road, Lyminge, Folkestone CT18 8JA, email: history.research@btinternet.com.

The history will be published in instalments; some of the intended topics are:

- What has already been written about Lyminge from Domesday and beyond.

- Anglo-Saxon Lyminge including translation of charters.
- The Parish Church, its origins and subsequent buildings.
- Rectors and vicars – including details of past ministers & church and churchyard monuments.
- Non Conformist Ministries, their churches and chapels.
- Churchwardens and the vestry – the records of the parish officers.
- The manors of Eastleigh and Lyminge, including a survey of the registered land and a translation of an early Lyminge manorial book.
- Topography, environment, geology and the boundaries of the parish.
- The Victorian enclosure of the waste lands and their sale showing documents and maps.
- Transport and toll roads.
- Farming, markets and business.
- Forest, park, flora and fauna.
- Sports, associations and clubs.

- Public houses.
- Biographical sketches and reminiscences.
- The modern village.

Each part will be 96 pages of A5 in a card cover and will contain one or more chapters including the main text, illustrations and appendices. The appendices will contain transcriptions of the original documents and translations of material relating to the parish, property and people of the village. It is hoped to include A3 and A4 maps and illustrations, with perhaps some in colour. The parts will be organised such that the whole will be able to be bound and the indices and page numbering will coincide.

To subscribe to Part 1 of the History of Lyminge (due out in the autumn) at a cost of £5.00, please contact Lyminge History Society, John L Carr, Korf House, Canterbury Road, Lyminge CT18 8HU, tel: 01303 862972, email: jon@serenitas.co.uk.

ARCHAEOLOGIA CANTIANA DVD

- There are still a few copies left of the DVD containing volumes I-CXXV of *Archaeologia Cantiana* at £30 for individual members and £75 for institutional members plus £1 postage and packaging.



- Copies may be ordered by sending a cheque, (payable to KAS) to James M. Gibson, 27 Pine Grove, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2AJ.



KAS EVENTS

KAS CHURCHES COMMITTEE VISIT

Monday 29 June

A visit is arranged to St Margaret's Church, Addington and to St Martin's Church, Ryarsh. We meet at St Margaret's at 6.45 for 7pm and go on to St Martin's at approximately 8pm.

Tour £2. Tea and biscuits £1 extra.

A booking form for the visit is included in this Newsletter (to be returned by 22 June please). Further details from Philip Lawrence, Barnfield, Church Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge TN12 5JJ. Phone: 01622 871945.

Email: p.lawrence.801@btinternet.com

KAS CHURCHES COMMITTEE STUDY DAY

'A Nation in Turmoil'

Saturday 11 July

An all-day study day entitled 'A Nation in Turmoil' (Crown Mitre and Presbyter in the 17th Century) is planned for 11 July in the United Reform Church, Week Street, Maidstone. Doors are open from 9.15 am.

Four key personalities of the period are the subjects of our four speakers:

Archbishop William Laud by Professor Kenneth Fincham.

Sir Roger Twysden by Dr Sue Petrie

John Milton by Professor Larry Lerner

Richard Baxter by Professor William Lamont

Tea and coffee will be available at the church and there are many nearby restaurants. Packed lunches may be eaten in the church.

Admission by programme at £8 per person, available from Mrs J Davidson, 7 Chatsworth Road, Gillingham ME7 1DS. Phone: 01634 324004. A booking form for the Study Day is included in this Newsletter (to be returned by 20 June please).

KAS LANDSCAPE SURVEY PROJECT

Study Day

Saturday 3 October

Lenham Village Centre

See page 9 for background information.

EVENTS AROUND KENT

GREAT TOWER

The Building and Evolution of Henry II's Keep at Dover Castle

25 & 26 September

An English Heritage Conference at the Society of Antiquaries, London, with an optional third day at Dover to explore and discuss the Great Tower with the conference speakers.

A flyer and booking form for the conference is included in this Newsletter. Early booking is advised.



Council for Kentish Archaeology West Kent Conference

Saturday 25 April, 2 – 5.30pm

Discoveries & Research presented by West Kent Archaeological Groups

Sevenoaks Community Centre, Crampton Road

Leigh Historical Group present The Leigh Gunpowder Mills

Followed by presentation workshops by:

Bromley & West Kent Archaeological Group

Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group

Maidstone Area Archaeological Group

Orpington & District Archaeological Society

Leigh Historical Group

Tickets £4.00 available from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP (s.a.e. please). Further information can be found on the CKA website: www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk

or on 0208 7777872 or 01732 884059 or

email: davru58-aeol@yahoo.co.uk.



Smarden Local History Society

Apart from the outside events (* additional charge) all meetings are free to members. Non-members are welcome at all meetings at an admission charge of £2 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

Thursday 30 April

Traditional Kentish Buildings

Thursday 21 May

Outside visit to Finchcocks*

Thursday 18 June

Ellen Terry: Darling of the Gods

A Saturday in July

Summer Outing to Ellen Terry's House *

Thursday 17 September

'We Bought us an Oast'

Saturday 10th October

Exhibition 2pm to 4pm

Thursday 5th November

AGM + Smarden WWII War Memorial

Thursday 17th December

Christmas Party

All meetings except the outside visits in the months of May and July will take place at 8pm in Smarden Charter Hall. The Exhibition will be in the Hall from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday 10 October.



Bexley Archaeological Group

Monthly talks and meetings at Bexley-Sidcup Conservative



Club, 19 Station Road (entrance via Stanhope Road), Sidcup, Kent DA15 7EB.

Saturday 9 May 10am - 4.30pm

Artefact illustration workshop

Jane Russell - UCL

For further information contact Pip Pulfer, email: pipspad@hotmail.co.uk

Thursday 21 May 8pm

CGMS - Talking about the latest excavations in Embassy Court, Welling

Saturday 27 June 8pm - late

Bexley Archaeological Group's 30th birthday party

For further information contact Pip Pulfer, email: pipspad@hotmail.co.uk



Loose Area History Society

Monday 11 May, 7.30 pm

The Centenary of Aviation in Great Britain by Dick Collinson, Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society

In Loose Infant School Hall

Non-members welcome Admission £2.50

Pay at the door Free parking in school grounds

Enquiries: 01622 741198 www.looseareahistorysociety.webeden.co.uk

EVENTS ELSEWHERE

CONFERENCE: LOCAL HISTORY AFTER HOSKINS

University of Leicester

July 9 -12

Several members of the Kent Archaeological Society will be speaking at this conference organised by the University of Leicester with the British Association for Local History.

Among many other speakers, Sarah Pearson will be giving the plenary lecture with the title *'Sandwich: "the completest medieval town in England". An interdisciplinary study'*

Professor David Killingray will speak on *The Impact of Immigrant Communities on British Local History*.

Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh will speak on Hythe's butcher-graziers: *Townsmen in the late medieval Kent countryside*.

Dr Gill Draper will speak on *Death in a town: Rye, East Sussex, in the fourteenth century*.

The programme and booking form is available online at the websites of the British Association for Local History and the Centre for English Local History, University of Leicester, <http://www.le.ac.uk/elh/documents/Proof3.pdf>

For a paper copy of the programme and booking form please contact Gill Draper on g.m.draper@kent.ac.uk or 01732 452575.

The last 'Hoskins' conference on landscape history sold out, so

please book promptly! There are some bursaries available to help with costs, particularly for post-graduates and people living in Kent. Contact Gill Draper for details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Full set of *Archaeologia Cantiana* for sale, including all index volumes. For further details please contact Mike Francis on 01737 822298 or email: merrydown1@yahoo.co.uk.

Run of the magazine *Current Archaeology* to dispose of, free to anyone willing to collect from Ramsgate. The run is complete from issue 33, July 1972 to issue 227, February 2009. If there are any takers would they please initially get in touch by email: John.Renwick@Tesco.net.

CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION GRANTS

Preference would be given to work resulting in publication.

Please apply in writing to the Honorary Secretary of the Grants Committee as soon as possible and in any case not later than 30 June 2009. Your letter should mention:

- Your qualifications
- The nature and length of your research
- The stage you have reached in your research
- The amount you are applying for
- Any additional funding anticipated from other sources
- Your proposals for publication
- Your anticipated timetable

You may be asked to name a referee whom the Committee making the grant could consult. If successful, you would be expected to account for the money spent and give a copy of any article, pamphlet etc. to the Society's Library.

For further details please contact the Honorary Secretary of the Grants Committee:

Mrs C M Short
3 Little Meadow, Upper Harbledown, Canterbury CT2 9BD

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

My usual plea for this time of the year is – please, please check your bank statements if you pay by bankers order; some of you have still not amended your payment to reflect the new subscription rates which came into effect in January 2008. Some banks are also still paying two amounts – the old one and the new. I have a pile of statements to trawl through and will be writing to those with errors etc. in the next few weeks.

If you pay by cheque and haven't yet renewed please do so as soon as possible so that you will be eligible to vote at the AGM in May. I shall be sending out reminder letters soon, but don't wait for these – the extra postage is an unnecessary use of Society funds.

Please remember that you need to show your membership card if you wish to use the KAS Library. If you have mislaid yours send me a short note and stamped addressed envelope so that I can send you a replacement.

After these slight moans I should like to thank the majority of you who do pay promptly by whichever means and congratulations to those whose banks obey instructions!

This reminds me to ask you to send me any changes of your details so that I can make sure that the membership database is completely correct!

The address for all correspondence relating to membership is – Mrs Shiela Broomfield, KAS Membership, 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD. Telephone 01732 838698. Email: membership@kentarchaeology.org.uk or s.broomfield@clementi.demon.co.uk

We are pleased to welcome the following new Members

Affiliated Society

Bridge and District History Society

Joint Members

Mr & Mrs L H Davies	Crouch near Sevenoaks
Mr & Mrs D F Earnshaw	Aldington near Ashford
Mr & Mrs D R Flawn	Ashford
Mr & Mrs L D Marshall	Whitstable
Mr & Mrs C F Topley	Great Chart near Ashford

Junior Member

Miss C E Birmingham Faversham

Individual Members

Miss H M Coe	Rochester
Mr P D Higgs	Sellinge near Faversham
Ms A Hollands	West Kingsdown near Sevenoaks
Ms J Jackson	Rye
Miss S Killick	Tunbridge Wells
Mrs L V M Lyons	Rochester
Mr P Pulfer	Sidcup
Mrs H Swaffer	Herne Bay

COMMITTEE ROUND-UP

KAS HISTORIC BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Preparations are underway for the Autumn Historic Buildings Conference, which this year will be held in Harrietsham Village Hall on Saturday, 17 October. The Committee is delighted that Dr David Starkey CBE, historian, author and broadcaster, who wrote and presented the popular television series, 'The Six Wives of Henry VIII', 'Elizabeth I, and 'Monarchy', has accepted the invitation to speak at the conference. The topic of his talk

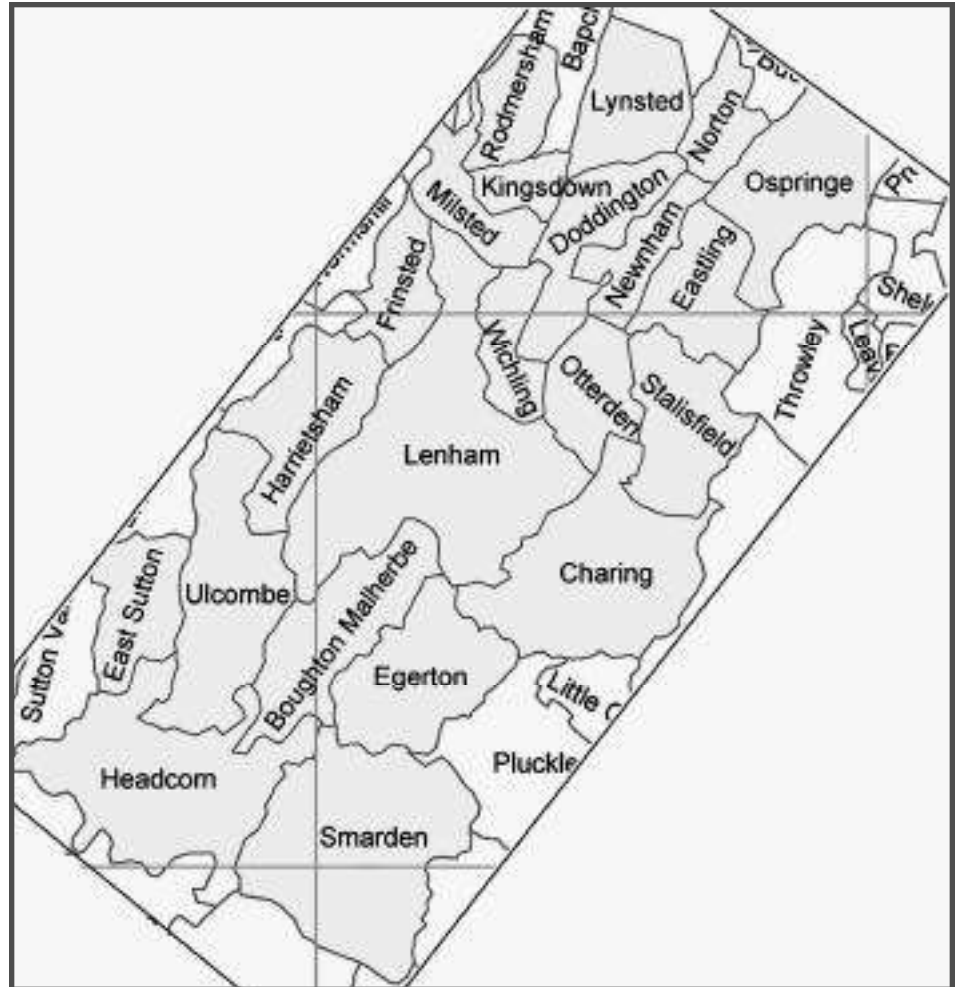
will be *Ightham Mote and the Tudors*. More details on this one-day conference will be available in the next issue of the *KAS Newsletter*.

Arrangements have also moved ahead for the first two visits planned for 2009. All the places have been taken up for the tour of The Grange at Ramsgate on Wednesday, 27 May. As mentioned in the last *KAS Newsletter*, only 20 members could be accommodated on the tour of Luddesdown Court on Wednesday, 10 June. Regrettably, this visit, which includes a tour of Dode Church as part of the programme, has been over-subscribed. By now Joy Saynor will have contacted everyone who applied in order to let them know whether or not they have places.

MAJOR NEW PROJECT FOR KAS

We are in the early stages of planning a major landscape survey project which it is hoped will be one of the Society's main research projects over the next few years. The project (which has yet to be named) will focus on a transect of the Kentish landscape, across the North Downs from Ospringe, to the Holmesdale and Chartland zones around Lenham, on into the Weald to Smarden and Headcorn.

The idea is to compare and contrast the different zones of the Kentish landscape, as well as to examine the links between them in the form of routeways and land tenure. Although conceived by the Fieldwork Committee, it is hoped the project will involve all parts of the KAS, plus local archaeological, metal detecting and history groups, and many others from across Kent and beyond. A project team, drawn from across the Society's committees, is being formed to take the project forward, and Lenham Village Centre has been booked for a study day on Saturday October 3rd at which all are welcome. Watch this space for more details!



HELP! WE STILL NEED A NEW HON. GENERAL SECRETARY

The Council is still seeking a candidate for appointment as Hon. General Secretary (HGS) to succeed Andrew Moffat when he retires. Despite notices in this Newsletter not one person has expressed any interest or suggested someone else as a potential candidate. The Council is now having to look outside the Society for a candidate which is not very satisfactory. It is not too late for you to volunteer - or at least find out more!

The Hon. General Secretary is an Officer of the Society and the office is not paid but most expenses are reimbursed. It offers an excellent opportunity to be involved in many aspects of the Society's work

and to know what is going on in many spheres of archaeology and local history in the County and beyond.

The Council is prepared to look at spreading the work between two or more people; if you might consider helping the HGS in this way please let us know. It is hoped the candidate will take office later this year or early next year. In the meantime he or she could understudy the present HGS to learn the job and ensure a smooth transition.

If you are interested or would just like more information please contact him on (01474) 822280 or email secretary@kentarchaeology.org.uk. If you prefer you may contact the President on (01227) 860207.

THE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY ENGLAND'S PAST FOR EVERYONE PROJECT

VOLUNTEER RESEARCHERS IN THE MEDWAY TOWNS

Volunteers are the key to the success of the Victoria County History's England's Past for Everyone project. This initiative, which has been supported by the Kent Archaeological Society from the outset, will see the publication of two paperback volumes. The first, *Life and Work in the Lower Medway Valley, 1750-1900*, by Andrew Hann, will appear later this year and the second, *The Medway Towns 1550-1900* by Sandra Dunster, is scheduled for publication in 2010.

Dr Sandra Dunster of the University of Greenwich, team leader of the Medway Towns project has no

hesitation in acknowledging her debt to the twenty five volunteers who have worked with her. "I place tremendous value on the resource provided by such willing, knowledgeable and skilled volunteers. Without their help I would not have been able to access the wide range of new local material that they have uncovered, within the tight deadline set for the project."

Working in small groups volunteers have undertaken the transcription of probate inventories for Gillingham, apprenticeship records for Rochester and census data for Old and New Brompton, Troy Town, Luton and Strood. Details of crime in the Medway area have been extracted from the Old Bailey records.

There have also been individual initiatives. The 1861 diary of a teenage girl living in Old Brompton has been transcribed. Research into the Medway Bathing Establishment has cast light on the perhaps rather sur-

prising early nineteenth century attempt to turn the Medway area into a fashionable health resort. Another project has looked at the outings enjoyed by clubs, societies and employees in the nineteenth century. Biographies of individual Medway residents have been prepared and work continues on early records of dockyard workers, prison hulks, ethnic minorities, popular protest and politics and the list of topics tackled continues to grow.

Not all of this material will make its way into the Medway Towns book, but none of it will go to waste. Data, articles and images will be loaded onto

the Kent section of the England's Past for Everyone website, www.englishlandspastforeveryone.org.uk. Local publication of articles based on individual research has already begun and will continue to be encouraged and supported by the team leader.

As she begins to write up the Medway Towns book in the final

year of the project, Sandra acknowledges her debt to the local history community in Kent. "This England's Past for Everyone volume must be a fitting tribute both to the local history societies, like KAS, who have provided financial support and to the volunteers who have poured so much time, energy and effort into the research which underpins the project. I would like to think that this Victoria County History initiative for the twenty-first century marks the beginning of more collaborative work in Kent."

If you wish to know more about the project please contact Sandra Dunster s.a.dunster@gre.ac.uk



ABOVE: Volunteers sharing information with team leader Sandra Dunster.

Dear Editor

I have been asked to write a series of books drawing on contemporary accounts by an established publisher of history titles. The books will feature diaries, letters and other contemporary material. I am contacting family history and local history societies in the hope that members of such groups will be able to assist me in my research.

The first title to be published will focus on air raids and ARP. Other subject areas are Dunkirk, military nursing, VE Day and Women's Land Army.

I would be grateful if anyone in your society who has any relevant material or memories would contact me. My email is harbro@btinternet.com and my address is 15 Brockley Grove, London SE4. Any material submitted will be considered for publication in the book although obviously I cannot say what will and will not be included at this stage. I will, however, send updates on the project to those submitting material and interested societies, so you will know how it is progressing and when the first book (and other titles) are published. I shall of course credit my sources in the books.

Any original material will be copied and returned quickly.

Thanking you for your help.

Carol Harris

Dear Editor

Rather than digging, I am at present mining the archive. By chance I came across the description of a 'mithraeum' at Burham, overlooking the Medway river. The VCH description and the original 1890's discovery notes published by the Antiquaries leave much to be desired, but I have slowly created an accurate record of this structure now destroyed, by using a combination of records.

The many finds were dispersed when the quarry company moved, and enquiries to Rochester Museum service have proved fruitless; our member R F Jessup did have access to mortar samples in 1956. I would be very grateful, if any readers know of the whereabouts of any finds or other material, that they contact me.

First thoughts are that this is not a mithraeum, but formed the basis of a classical structure such as a temple. It was very close to one of the supposed sites of the 'Medway Battle' and therefore deserves more attention, given that it seems to represent a type of structure architecturally and perhaps ritually unique in Britain. No trace of it now survives.

Mark Samuel

01843 588976 or twoarches@aol.com

Editor's note – asking around, this structure appears to be one of Kent's contentious sites, certainly known about and perhaps investigated by various people in different ways in the past. Can any KAS members shed further light on records or research?

MEDWAY MEMORIES VALLEY OF VISIONS PROJECT

The KAS has been invited to participate in a new oral history project called 'Medway Memories'. The idea is to record people's memories of how the Medway Gap has changed over the years to the present day. Local volunteers will be invited to record their memories of how things used to be and what has happened, in their

area, during their lifetime. The younger generation in schools will also be encouraged to learn about the area in which they live, by talking to relatives who have memories to share.

Would you like to take part? Participation could involve talking directly to the organisers, or transmitting your memories in writing or

via a website. You might even be sufficiently interested to take part in the recording of the memories of others – your relatives, friends, neighbours etc.

If you are interested please contact Jennifer Smith at 'The Cedars', Holborough Road, Snodland ME6 5PW, tel: 01634 242826 or email: mail@vov.kentdowns.org.uk.

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVE

Rural Catford & Lewisham

The Lewisham antiquarian Leland L. Duncan (1862 - 1923) produced an astounding volume and diversity of papers in his lifetime. The KAS is fortunate to have some of his papers and the Archive Survey has now completed one more box, Box 35, and is nearing the end of another of the original wooden boxes deposited with the Society. Leland L. Duncan's possessions were auctioned off in 1924 and much of his library and collections were bought by his friends. The family retained some items and others were deposited with The Society of Antiquarians of London and with the KAS. His papers are therefore in several different deposits, much of it in Lewisham Local History and Archive Centre, and it is hoped that listing the holdings will make life easier for researchers.

Box 35 contains seven bundles of Manuscript papers accumulated between ca. 1880 and 1920. It contains a large number of items related to Mr Duncan's published works and may be of special interest to those who wish to study his methods of collation and research. The main topics in this box are the Monumental Inscriptions of Churches and Church Registers. The inscriptions from Folkestone Church and Churchyard were published in instalments in *Miscellanea Genealogical et Heraldic* between 1892 and 1893 and copies of these are present. The content includes inscriptions at Chislehurst, West Wickham, Chelsfield and Bromley, and transcriptions of The Registers at Lewisham and the Registers at Allhallows, Hoo and Chislehurst.

The Wooden Box carries the somewhat cryptic inscription 'Hart's Manuscript 2nd Edition'. This refers to a printers proof of Hart's *History of Lee*, which is included in the box along with a letter requesting correction of it. The box contains material related to the study of churches. There are records of Monumental Inscriptions of West

Kent Churches, photos of Waltham Abbey and Cudham as well as notebooks from his field trips to Folkestone Church and Churchyard. However, the most striking part about this box is how much of its content is concerned with recording the heritage which was disappearing around him. There are pictures from Orpington and Lewisham of buildings and street scenes which have now long vanished. One example is Tapley's Barn,



ABOVE AND BELOW: Tapley's Barn, Sangley Farm in Catford, showing much of the old timber structure.

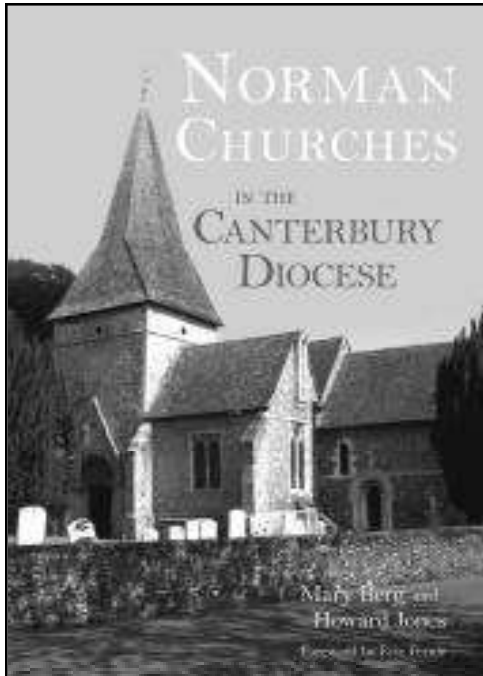


Sangley Farm in Catford. This Farm was located on the eastern side of the Bromley Road and is mentioned in his book *The History of the Borough of Lewisham* (1908). He informs us that the farm can be traced back to the Court Rolls of Edward II and then goes on to say "part of the old house of timber remained until a few years ago, when it was rebuilt, but the old kitchen still exist. The farm lands are now built over." The photo shows an outside and, more interestingly, an inside view of the barn. Leland Duncan also had an interesting copy of an 1828 Survey of the farm among his papers (now in Lewisham). The farm was bought by A.C. Corbett in 1894 and became part of his St. Germans Estate. The "New House" became The Priory House School and this building disappeared in the 1980s. In Lewisham they hold a postcard view of the same barn from around 1894 and a sales catalogue from 1849, but these two photos are a rare record of this once substantial 200 acre farm in Catford.

The rural theme continues in a collection of newspaper cuttings where Leland Duncan has selected those of interest for recording the past way of life in the area. A good example is a series of articles in *The Journal and District Times* from January 1911 called *Fifty Years Ago, Mr. H.C. Motts Local Notes and Reminiscences*. These recall the rural delights of Lewisham in Mr Motts' childhood, how people used to live in cottages near the stream in Lewisham and drink from its water, how he used to watch the ducks on the "crystal waters". He remembers with particular delight the trees in Lewisham, the elms and the weeping willows along the stream. Walking down Lewisham High Street today it is hard to imagine this quieter rural past amongst the cheerful bustle and rumbling traffic.

Pernille Richards

Nor man Churches in the Canterbury Diocese Mary Berg & Howard Jones



This is the first detailed consideration of the Norman churches in the Canterbury diocese. During the twelfth century around 100 churches were built or re-built in the eastern half of Kent and the authors shed light on why they were built, the materials and construction methods used, how much the churches cost, how they were paid for and by whom. Close links between East Kent and the Bessin area of Normandy between Bayeux and Caen which started with William the Conqueror's half-brother, Odo the bishop of Bayeux who was made Earl of Kent, are explored.

Suggestions are put forward about how those links were first strengthened and then, after 1204, broken. Political and social developments are reviewed as well as the architectural background.

- over 100 illustrations
- studies of the 18 principal Norman churches in the diocese
- gazetteer entries for some 80 more churches
- sections on Norman fonts
- sections on figurative sculpture in East Kent.

The authors spent many hours visiting, measuring and photographing the churches and their Norman features and the result is seen in the hundreds of detailed plans, drawings, reconstructions and photographs that illustrate the book. The churches, manorial lords and the people of Kent in the twelfth century come alive to provide some idea of the area's great importance to the conquerors and its relationship with Normandy.

Available from July from all good local bookshops or direct from The History Press. Normal price will be £20.00, but to obtain a pre-order special offer of 15% discount call 01235 465577 or email direct.orders@marston.co.uk quoting reference THPNormanJune09.

Seal: The History of a Parish Jean Fox, David Williams & Peter Mountfield ISBN 978-1-86077-464-5.

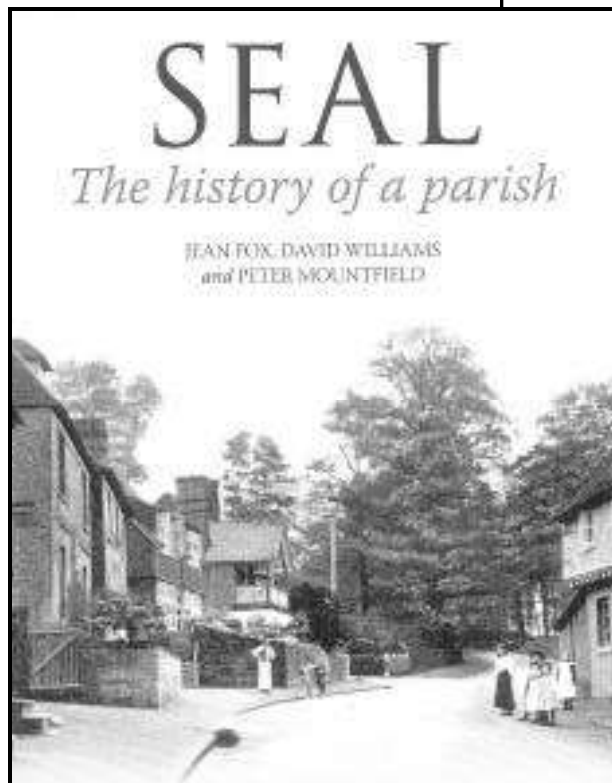
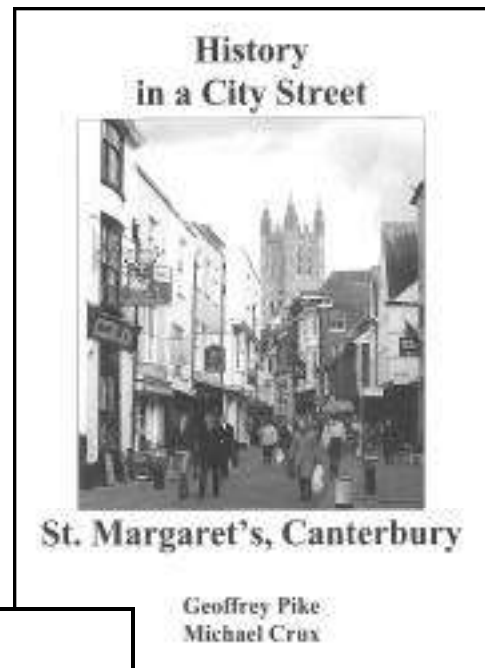
Although in many ways a typical English agricultural community, Seal had two advantages over some of its neighbours: land suited to pastoral farming, and a lord of the manor who rarely lived in the vil-

lage. As a result, in the 16th and 17th centuries, five or six rich yeoman families dominated it. The churches, and also later the chapels, played an important part too. Study of the records brings out clearly how the village was managed, and by whom, how little influence the central government has had until recent years and how the village has grown in the last 80 years.

Hardback. Fully referenced and illustrated with 50 photographs, maps and drawings. On sale locally for £20.00. Can also be bought (P&P extra) by contacting Mr P Mountfield, tel: 01732 761848 or email: petermountfield@homail.com

History in a City Street – St Margaret's, Canterbury Geoffrey Pike & Michael Crux ISBN 1 899 177 18 3

This book sets out to recreate the character of the Street when it was part of the popular life of the City; a place where gentry lived and where people worked in small businesses and lived with their families behind and above the premises. It is designed rather as a stroll along the street, regarding each building in turn from its architectural and historical features; behind brick fronts medieval timber framing often remains. The principal residents for each property across the



century are described with their related business or professional associations.

Some of the Street's special features are considered; the ancient church which once housed the Archdeacon's Court, Fountain Inn, where City men celebrated with banquets and distinguished visitors making for London or Dover, the Assembly Rooms which also housed the first Canterbury Bank, and the Music Hall. Evidence has also been assembled to suggest a reconstruction of two of the important buildings of Roman Canterbury: the Public Baths and the massive theatre building.

Price £8.00. On sale in Waterstones in Canterbury or can be ordered through any good bookshop.

NIGHTHAWKING SURVEY

Nighthawking refers to the unauthorised removal of artefacts from private land and all too often to the further theft and sale of such illegally acquired objects. On the 16th of February this year English Heritage made public the results of a nationwide survey of the phenomenon of nighthawking. This survey has been conducted on behalf of English Heritage by a private contractor, Oxford Archaeology. The report draws on a wide variety of sources to try and provide a national picture of what has previously been a murky and under-reported activity. It is hoped the report will offer lessons for the future direction of efforts to conserve archaeological sites in the face of a pernicious threat to our shared heritage.

The report's findings offer a picture of where nighthawking occurs and notes 240 reported cases between 1995 and 2008. Central and Eastern England are the source of most reported cases, which is not surprising given the location of many important archaeological sites. One problem is that reporting mechanisms and legislation differ widely around the British Isles. Arrests and prosecutions are rare and in many areas the official response is uncoordinated. In the event of convictions punishments are rarely a deterrent and the metal detectors used by nighthawks are virtually never confiscated. The true figures for affected sites could indeed be much higher according to the report's authors.

Despite this seemingly gloomy picture there is news to be cheerful about. Nighthawks are as much a threat to the recreation of legitimate metal detecting enthusiasts as to the knowledge and study of the history of the British Isles. In this regard there is common cause to be made between all concerned. In the case of Kent, the report notes the excellent work carried out by local law enforcement and heritage bodies working in partnership with local metal detecting enthusiasts to combat nighthawking. At the launch of the report the District Commander for Canterbury singled out for fulsome praise Sergeant Andy Small, Environmental Crime Co-ordinator for Kent Police, and Andrew Richardson, the former Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Kent.

The report makes several recommendations for future improvements to the reporting process. Yet a central problem touched on by the report is perhaps worthy of future consideration. Current

legislation categorises nighthawking as theft and trespass. Yet this doesn't get to the nub of the problem. Sir Barry Cunliffe, Chair of English Heritage, styled nighthawking as heritage theft. Heritage theft implies some form of collective loss that is not easily reconciled with current legislation that makes the landowner the sole victim in law. The question of whose heritage is at risk is vital to checking the activities of nighthawks. The report's authors note

that some nighthawks style themselves as romantic figures engaged in class warfare against the propertied and educated establishment. This suggests that checking the problem has less to do with harsher punishment and more to do with public engagement, awareness and ownership of our shared heritage. The report amply illustrates that secrecy and surveillance have had a limited impact on the activities of nighthawks. The report's authors do not appear to have included metal detecting bodies from the outset in their research, still less given qualitative considerations to the role of individuals. It is all too understandable that this report could be misinterpreted as a surveillance exercise aimed at strengthening a current regime of practice. Past experiences have left many law abiding and responsible metal detecting enthusiasts with just this impression. The answer to the question of whose heritage is under threat and for whom it is being conserved must in future be framed in a genuinely inclusive manner, indeed it is central to the debate.

The problem of nighthawking impacts upon the interests of metal detectorists, archaeologists, landowners and the public at large. The report notes the successes achieved in Kent by strengthening co-operation between all concerned. The inclusion of metal detectorists

in the archaeological process is now standard practice in the development control briefs drawn up by the Heritage Team at Kent County Council. This local example of success is complemented more generally by the role of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Were it not for the information that concerned metal detectorists relayed to their local Finds Liaison Officers the true extent of nighthawking would be murkier still. Such relationships of trust unite common goals of safeguarding everyone's knowledge and enjoyment of our fascinating island heritage for future generations.



ABOVE: An early metal detector devised by George M Hopkins and illustrated in 'Experimental Science', published by Munn & Co., New York, 1898. The editor's thanks go to Peter Draper, who came across this wonderful image!

STRAWBERRY WOOD CULVERT PROJECT

Community Restoration of a Rural Relic

This hidden treasure was first featured in the Spring 2006 newsletter, issue no. 68. An impressive stone-built culvert was discovered in the deliciously named Strawberry Wood near Benenden ten years ago and since then has been the subject of much intrigue and discussion. The culvert is believed to be important locally in holding clues to the history of the wood, landscape and surrounding High Weald.

The threat of this historical feature being lost is real as the structure is near collapse. Heavy rains earlier in the year have again taken their toll and washed away more of its covering path. A large lintel slab of sandstone has now been exposed through erosion, showing more of the culvert's structure, highlighting the need for repair action as soon as practicable.

Fortunately, due to the hard work of Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society and Kent High Weald Project, funding has been secured to carry out the restoration and research of the culvert.

Included in the project outlined above are a series of community days and events. The objective of the project is not only to restore the culvert but to raise interest in local heritage and historical industries based in the High Weald.

The footpath leading to the culvert is in need of some attention to make it easier for visitors and three days have been set aside for volunteers to replace five stiles with gates, clear overhanging branches and improve the surface.

We are also asking for help from volunteers interested in researching the history of the culvert through a day of field survey, to map out the nearby man-made features such as banks and quarries. Another day is planned for digging test pits in the vicinity to establish the route of the ancient path and determine its structure. We may also find some evidence of iron working in the area (the Wealden Iron Research Group are hoping to carry out a more detailed survey of the streams around the culvert, as a recent preliminary survey discovered slag from iron workings). Both these events are

open to all but will need to be booked through the Kent High Weald Partnership, as numbers are limited (see contact details below).

We are also hoping to stage theatre walks with the help of local drama groups, for the benefit of Benenden Primary School and Benenden Girls School and later for the general public in a grand celebration day set for Saturday 29th August. This is an open day to mark the end of the project and will be packed full of interesting activities to highlight High Weald heritage.

I hope that in the next few months, through the work of dedicated volunteers, a picture of the culvert's history will emerge. For further details please contact The Kent High Weald Partnership on 01580 212972 or visit our website, www.khwp.org.uk

Ian Johnstone, Project Officer KHWP

TOP: Launch of the project.

RIGHT: Lintel slab exposed through erosion.

BELOW: David Brown of Wealden Iron Research Group searching for metal production evidence.



COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY AT SHORNE WOODS COUNTRY PARK A NEW FACE FOR THE FUTURE

The Shorne Woods Country Park Heritage Project has gone from strength to strength over the first 3 years of its development. Lyn Palmer has now moved on to the Weald Forest Ridge Project and Andrew Mayfield has taken over as the Community Archaeologist at the Park, with funding secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a further two years. Here he reveals the latest news from the project and looks forward to 2009!

2008 saw our most successful community excavation to date. Over 3 weeks in July, a wide range of schools, students, families and volunteers helped to further investigate the site of Randall Manor. We had hundreds of visitors over National Archaeology weekend and gave numerous site tours. We now have evidence for a number of medieval buildings built of flint, chalk and ragstone around a gravel surfaced courtyard. Our kitchen building has at least two phases; we have also investigated a possible storeroom building and in the north east corner of the site, a bakery. The site is bounded to the north by a series of fishponds, which we began to test pit in 2008. The location of the main building is proving more elusive! We have evidence for a building with large foundations on the south side of the site, which geophysics suggests may be laid out east-west. One of our key finds from 2008 was a beautiful glazed medieval floor tile.

In 2009 we will be excavating on site from the 4th to the 26th of July. The strength of the project has always been the wide range of people we have attracted to the dig, which is open to ALL to take part in! If you are interested in learning more about the project and Randall Manor Season IV, please contact me. As in past years we will also be running our Medieval Weekend with free activities for kids on the 18th and 19th of July, as part of the CBA's Festival of Archaeology.

In addition to Randall Manor, opportunities to get involved in the project will run throughout the year. These will include the chance to take part in an earthworks survey of the whole of



the Country Park, fieldwalking, further work at our World War Two RAF and Army Camps and a renewed attempt to understand the mound on the heath in the Park. First identified as a possible Bronze Age Barrow, the flint from the trenches around the mound has been dated to the Mesolithic period. It seems more likely that we have evidence for a landscape containing a mesolithic camp, into which a post-medieval prospect mound has been placed. So with archaeology to suit those interested in a wide range of periods from prehistory to modern, I hope to see many of you at the Park this year!

*Andrew Mayfield
andrew.mayfield@kent.gov.uk*

ABOVE TOP: Last day of the 2008 Randall Manor dig - the core group of volunteers, tired but happy!

ABOVE BOTTOM: Glazed floor tile from the Randall Manor site.

Copy deadline for the next issue in July is Monday June 1st.

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.

EDITOR: LYN PALMER

55 Stone Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2QU

Telephone: 01892 533661

Email evelyn.palmer@virgin.net or newsletter@kentarchaeology.org.uk