

North Downs Young Archaeologists' Club

The North Downs Young Archaeologists' Club meets ten times a year. We are very grateful for the continued support of the KAS and their generous annual grant.



For our annual update we asked one of our YACs to review their year to date. Saffron (11) has been a YAC for 2 years now, these are her words...

February 2014: Murder at the archives (Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone)

The first meeting of 2014 was a sinister one. In February we all met up at the archive centre to uncover a murder mystery... with various activities to do to eliminate suspects we discovered a murder and learnt about crime and law in the Victorian era in a very fun way.

March 2014: Asterix meeting at Maidstone Museum

Meeting up at Maidstone Museum, we had the

opportunity to touch Iron Age objects from display. This time rather than being told what we think about the history that may be wrong, we had to tell others. We looked in depth at Asterix cartoon books and noticed the mistakes the author had made. Asterix was supposed to be a Gaul during the Iron Age and Roman era! However, the author had written with many misconceptions about the imaginary period he created. This meeting involved lots of fun, art and crafts too.

April 2014: Knole House, Sevenoaks

In April we went for another outing to a historical site – Knole. For someone that had never been there before it was very educational with lots to learn and discover about the place. With a guided tour of the building our knowledge of Knole increased and we had fun exploring the large grounds and having our picnics.

May 2014: Windmill dig at Shorne Woods Country Park

The first real dig of the Year was at Shorne Country Park. The archaeologists that had worked there had found the remains of a windmill a couple of years before, so it was our job to find artefacts scattered around the structure. This gave us more of an understanding of the time of the windmill and what life was like working there. So we dug our trenches to find historical objects.

June 2014: Trenches visit

One sunny day in June, joined by the Canterbury YACs, we had a great day trip to look at the trenches someone had built. Sitting on a coach and looking forward to exploring a life-sized recreation of a First World War Trench, we soon arrived at our destination. We then had a brilliant time dressing up in helmets and war uniform,



learning and trying the rationed food for the soldiers, packing and stacking sand bags and discovering the trench itself! Packed with fun, education, sunny weather and the company of parents/relatives, it was definitely a 5 star rated day!

July 2014: Randall Manor

In July we had another archaeological dig. It

was an all day meeting at Shorne! But although it was tiring it was all worth it: we had dug down to the next layer (a clay substance) and found lots of old pottery!

Ultimate YAC review

This year at YACs we've had a big range of activities: meetings, outings, educational visits, museums, digging, long and short meetings. All of them were fun and exciting. It has been such a brilliant opportunity, thank you leaders! And it was definitely 10/10 this year.

Saffron Retter

We don't meet in August and the remaining meetings have been organised as follows. In September we are visiting the Hawking Centre at Doddington Place. In October we will be attempting some facial reconstructions! In November we will be exploring the world of ethno-archaeology and in December we have our Christmas party!

Andrew, Lyn, Malcolm, Kate and Sophie
North Downs Archaeologists' Club

