

KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

newsletter

Issue number 67

Winter 2005/6

GOING UNDERGROUND

Inside

- 2-3
KURG
Library Notes
Tebbutt Research
Grants
KHBCRequire Recruits
Letters to the Editor
- 4-5
What's on
- 6-7
What's on
Happy Birthday CAT
CATKITS
- 8-9
Notice Board
- 10-11
Bee Boles
Cattle Droving
- 12-13
Wye Rural Museum
YACActivities
- 14-15
Thanet Pipeline
Microfilm Med Records
New Books
- 16
Hunt the Saxons

THE KENT UNDERGROUND
RESEARCH GROUP HAVE SURVEYED
SITES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY
FROM ROMAN WELLS TO WORLD
WAR TWO BUNKERS

www.kentarchaeology.org.uk



KENT UNDERGROUND RESEARCH GROUP

KURG is an affiliated group of the KAS. We are mining historians – a unique blend of unlikely opposites. We are primarily archaeologists and carry out academic research into the history of underground features and associated industries. To do this, however, we must be practical and thus have the expertise to carry out exploration and surveying of disused mines. Such places are often more dangerous than natural caverns, but our members have many years experience of such exploration.

Unlike other mining areas, the South East has few readily available records of the mines. Such records as do exist are often found in the most unlikely places and the tracing of archival sources is an ongoing operation. A record of mining sites is maintained and constantly updated as further sites are discovered. Members are encouraged to carry out research into individual sites and this information is published in the Group's newsletters and publications.

Through membership of the National Association of Mining History Organisations, the Group is in contact with over 40 societies and museums throughout the United Kingdom which allows liaison and exchange of information.

Mining history is a relatively recent branch of archaeology and there is great scope for original research in the South East. We welcome new members who have an interest in mining history and we are able to teach them the techniques of safe underground exploration. They are welcome to assist with ongoing projects and we can suggest many areas where they can carry out their own research. The unique feature of this interest is its many aspects; members can contribute just as much from surface recording and archival research as from underground exploration. All are welcome, including those who merely have an interest in the subject and wish to receive the publications.

We work closely with the Kent Bat Group in clearing out suitable underground sites and securing them. The latter is essential to prevent further dumping of rubbish and to ensure the bats are not disturbed. Amongst these sites are dene holes, ice houses, railway tunnels and follies.

We have the experience and equipment to explore and survey many types of underground sites, both man made and natural, the former ranging from WW2 bunkers to Roman wells. We recently carried out a survey for a highway maintenance company of the dene holes in a 500m corridor each side of the Kent motorways and have escorted engineers and surveyors into the Borstal Wood mine (front cover picture). We cleared out



the well at Fort Amherst for the trustees. At present we are excavating a limestone mine just over the border in Sussex. A great many wells have been descended by our members using the man-carrying winch designed and built by one of our members. The latest was some 80m deep.

If you would like further information, either on the group or a subterranean feature, we

ABOVE TOP: After clearing a denehole at Wormshill, KURG installed a grill with the Kent Bat Group.

ABOVE BOTTOM: WW2 bunker at Canterbury.

have a web site at www.KURG.org.uk, or I can be reached on mike@mikeclinch.co.uk or 01322 526425.

Holy Trinity Church, Maidstone.

Captain Nolan and His Memorial

A new acquisition to the KAS Library is a loose leaf folder containing the results so far of the researches of Dr. Douglas J Austin concerning the conversion of the Holy Trinity Church, Maidstone (consecrated 1828), into the Maidstone Trinity Centre (1978), and, more particularly, into the possible whereabouts or fate of the Memorial Plaque to Capt. Lewis Edward Nolan, of the 15th or King's Hussars, which was one of the plaques on the walls of the Church.

The Folder brings together an interesting set of copies of photographs and news cuttings of the state of the disused and vandalised Church before it began its transformation into the Trinity Centre, and includes details of the conversion plan, and lists of the monuments, inscribed windows and burial vaults within the Church before conversion. Dr. Austin's main interest, however, centres on the Memorial which bears the inscription ----

In Memory of
Lewis Edward Nolan
Captain in the 15th or Kings Hussars
and ADC to Major General Airey
Quarter Master General to the Forces
in the Crimea.
He fell at the Head of the Light Cavalry Brigade
In the Charge at Balaclava
On the 25 October 1854
Aged 36.

Captain Nolan carried Raglan's notoriously ambiguous 4th Order to Lord Lucan, Commander of the Cavalry Brigade during the Battle of Balaclava, and according to some, gave grossly misleading directions to that Lieutenant General. The result was the Charge of the Light Brigade, which advanced steadily into a killing-ground of artillery, musket and rifle fire and opposing cavalry. The consequent losses in men and horses eliminated the Light Brigade as a striking force for the rest of the war. The blame for this catastrophe has been variously apportioned between Raglan, Nolan and Lucan, and the whole matter is fiercely controversial to this day. Nolan, however, remained in sufficiently affectionate regard by his fellow officers - including General Richard Airey, who wrote out the fatal 4th Order - that they set up the Memorial to him in Holy Trinity.

Alas, Nolan's memorial plaque disappeared sometime during the period of transformation from Church to Trinity Centre, and Dr. Austin's assiduous search has failed to find any trace of it. Dr. Austin would be delighted to have from readers of this article any information of its present location or of its fate; contact can be made through me.

*Dr. Frank Panton
Hon Librarian KAS.*

Tebbutt Research Fund Grants

This fund was established as a tribute to the life and work of the late C F Tebbutt, OBE, FSA. Applications are invited, from individuals and groups, for grants towards research, including associated expenses, into any aspect of the Wealden Iron Industry.

It is anticipated that approximately £100 plus will be available from the fund. Any interested person should write a suitable letter of application giving details of themselves together with relevant information concerning the research envisaged.

Applications should be sent to the address below not later than 31 March to be passed to the panel for consideration.

*Ann Callow (Hon.Sec.WIRG)
Glazier's Forge Cottage, Dallington, Sussex TN21 9JJ*

KHBC REQUIRE RECRUITS

The Kent Historic Buildings Committee (agent in Kent for the Council for British Archaeology) is seeking new recruits and local contacts. The County's local authorities are required to notify the Committee about applications to demolish (wholly or in part), or otherwise alter substantially, any listed building. The Committee considers around 400 cases per year.

Interested members of the Society should contact:
Michael Peters (Honorary Secretary)

c/o CPRE Kent Branch
24 Evigate Park Barn, Station Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SX.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WINTER 2005/6

Dear Editor

Thank you for publishing my letter about Tudor deer parks last year. I had a marvellous response and have visited several fascinating sites thanks to the overwhelming enthusiasm and generosity in interest and time shown by those involved. If anyone hesitated to respond before, I would welcome them to come forward. I started with Lambard's 50+ parks and now have 103 on my list!

I wondered if readers might solve a couple of locations for me? I have not been able to discover the whereabouts of Hamswell and Stonehurst, and is there only one Shoreland (Isle of Sheppey)? I can be contacted on 01322 669923 or pittman@crockenhill.freeserve.co.uk.

Susan Pittman



KAS EVENTS

KAS Summer Excursion 2006

Return to Northumbria, 12 – 17 June inclusive

After too long an interval, the Society plans to visit Northumbria for its 2006 excursion, which, for one year only, will last for six days.

Over recent years, we have visited Ireland and Wales, Herefordshire and Dorset, Derbyshire and Yorkshire, and last year, Lincolnshire, thus it seemed right to go back to the North East.

Since our last visit to Northumbria, many new sites, from the Roman period to the nineteenth century, have become available; for example, Segedunum (where the Wall meets the North Sea), Cherryburn, the birthplace of the wood engraver and naturalist Thomas Bewick, and the revolutionary Cragside House.

For further details and a booking form contact the Hon. Excursions Secretary, Joy Saynor, 28 High Street, Shoreham, Sevenoaks TN14 7TD or saynor.shoreham@amservice.com



KAS Churches Committee Outing

You are invited to visit the two East Kent churches of Tenterden and Rolvenden on Saturday 1 April. We meet at 1.45 for 2pm at Tenterden church, and at 3pm at Rolvenden. Tea and biscuits will be provided at Rolvenden.

Tour £2 (students £1), with tea £1 extra. Please complete the enclosed booking form and return by 24 March.



KAS Churches Committee Event

Saturday 29 April

Manuscript Treasures of Lindisfarne and Canterbury

A one-day conference in Canterbury Cathedral's International Study Centre. The speakers will be Dr Michelle Brown and Dr Richard Gameson. Both are established experts in the field of early medieval manuscripts and are well-known for infecting audiences with their own enthusiasm. There will be a linked exhibition in Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library on the same day. The day will start with coffee at 10am and costs £8. No lunch is organised. Time will be allowed for visiting the exhibition. A booking form for this event is enclosed.



KAS Charing Conference

October 14

Coastal Fortifications through the Ages

More details in the April Newsletter.

OTHER EVENTS AROUND KENT

CONFERENCES

Council for Kentish Archaeology

Burial Sites in South East England – Recent Discoveries and Research

Saturday 8 April, 2 - 5.30pm at Queen Elizabeth's School, Abbey Place, Faversham.

Iron Age Warrior Burials at Ashford Casper Johnson (KCC Heritage Conservation Group)

The Discovery of the Burial Chamber of a Saxon King at Prittlewell David Lakin (Museum of London Archaeological Services)

Anglo-Saxon Sites at Rookery Hill, Bishopstone, Sussex Dr Gabor Thomas (University of Kent)

Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries in Kent Dr Andrew Richardson (KCC Finds Liaison Officer)

Further information can be found on www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk, or from Ruth Plummer, tel: 0208 777 7872,

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

Tickets £4, available from CKA, 5 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP. Cheques payable to CKA with SAE please.

TALKS & LECTURES

University of Kent - Darwin College

The Annual Darwin Lecture

The Early Human Occupation of Britain: new perspectives, by Professor Chris Stringer FRS

Friday, 17 March at 6pm in The Bradbourne Lecture Theatre, Keynes College, University of Kent at Canterbury

Admission free – all welcome

Until recently, it was believed that the early human occupation of Britain was essentially continuous from the Middle Pleistocene onwards. However, current research suggests a much more complex picture, with episodes of colonization, followed by local extinctions, and then recolonisations.

The *Ancient Human Occupation of Britain* project is a 5-year collaborative enterprise between archaeologists, palaeontologists and geologists to reconstruct early human colonisations, and investigate the factors controlling these. Approaches include excavation, faunal and archaeological collections research, dating studies and isotope analyses. The project investigates sites such as Boxgrove in Sussex, Swanscombe in Kent, Lynford in Norfolk, and Paviland in South Wales.

By the completion of the project, a detailed calendar will have been established for when our early ancestors were in Britain and the main factors which controlled their presence and absence across the millennia.

Professor Chris Stringer is Head of Human Origins at the Natural History Museum, London and Director of the *Ancient Occupation of Britain Project*.



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group

Indoor Meetings Programme

20 January

Defending the Medway and Chatham Dockyard Geoff Harvey

17 February

Constructing a Medieval Cathedral David Carder

17 March

The History of Pub Signs Gordon Bentley

All meetings are held at 7.30pm at the Kent Police College, off Sutton Road (A274), Maidstone. Admission for non-members of MAAG is £1.

CAT KITS TO LOCAL SCHOOLS

An innovative project to provide 'hands-on' resources was undertaken in 2005 as part of the 30th anniversary of the founding of Canterbury Archaeological Trust (see page 6). The Trust has 'rescued' numerous significant sites in Kent and recovered tonnes of material dating from prehistoric times onward. Some of this has recently been utilized to produce valuable learning resources for 60 local schools and community groups.

Learning is easier for all of us when we are motivated, and for young people, learning through practical activity is a most effective way to literally get to grips with new skills and knowledge. For many years Ian Coulson, History Adviser for Kent schools, promoted this approach using a portable museum carried in an old toolbox. It was this idea that was adopted for the Trust's 'CAT KIT' project and early last year its Education Service attracted funding to embark on a new venture. The aim was to build 60 handling kits of archaeological objects (using material superfluous to further academic study) plus a teacher's booklet and new web materials.

The 'CAT KIT' project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and provides for maintained and independent primary, secondary and special schools in the Canterbury District (Canterbury city, Whitstable, Herne Bay and the rural hinterland).

The 'CAT KIT' package is composed of:

- pottery sherds, animal bone and building materials of Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date protected in a sturdy case with room for the school to add their own items
- a booklet identifying the finds with suggestions for teaching activities
- new 'CAT KIT' pages on our website with attractive colour images
- a special pottery measuring chart and 'Feely Bag'

Last September, a series of special 'CAT KIT' training sessions were held in Canterbury, hosted by Marion Green and Ian Coulson. Teachers had the opportunity to discover the kits for themselves and their excellent educational potential. Everyone had a lot of fun and each of them went away inspired and motivated, taking a 'CAT KIT' to keep in school on permanent loan for use at their convenience. Contact will be maintained with teachers during the academic year allowing evaluation of how the kits are being used.

Already, feedback is coming in. A teacher from St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School, Herne Bay said "As soon as I saw the box I was excited. I selected finds



ABOVE: **Marion Green and CAT KITS.**

BELOW: **Teachers discovering the potential of CAT KITS with Ian Coulson.**

that... fit perfectly with my History/Creative theme. You gave the children a first hand experience that they will always remember, really bringing history to life for them."

The project has the full support of the owners of the objects, Kent County Council Schools Advisory Service, Canterbury Museums and the Kent Archaeological Society, the latter having supported the work of the Trust for many years.

For more about the 'CAT KIT' project and the work of the Trust contact:
Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 92a Broad St, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU
01227 462062
mariongreen@canterburytrust.co.uk; admin@canterburytrust.co.uk or
www.canterburytrust.co.uk

Marion Green
CAT Education Officer



BELOW: **18 Court Str**

ARE YOU ON EMAIL?

Occasionally we wish to send out bulk emails to members notifying them of events etc. The last time we did this over 100 were returned as undeliverable. In most cases this was

probably because of a change of address. Also, there must be some members on email for whom we have no address.

If you did not receive our email in November,

about the dates of meetings about studying historic buildings, the chances are that we do not have your email address or it is out of date.

If you have not notified us of your email address or have changed it, please email the Hon. Membership Secretary with the correct email address so we can put this right: s.broomfield@dial.pipex.com.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The subscription renewal date seems to come round more quickly than ever, so many thanks if you have already sent your cheque to me. If you haven't as yet, please do so as quickly as possible to ensure that you will not miss out on the benefits of membership. These benefits include using the extensive library for your research, joining in with the various conferences, outings etc. arranged by our committees, the excellent newsletter and lastly, to ensure that you do not miss the 2006 Archaeologia Cantiana.

If you pay by banker's order please check your statements to make sure that the payment is correct and is only made once a year - banks do make mistakes!

My other plea is to please let me know as soon as possible of any changes to your details so that I can keep the membership database up to date.

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.

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

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

JOINT MEMBERS

Fellows, Mr R, and Mrs, Court House, Bishopsbourne, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 5JB

JUNIOR MEMBERS

Claydon, Miss V, 4 Cherry Orchard, Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3NH
Latham-Pavitt, Miss A, Flat Two, Havisham House, Bounds Cross, Bell Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8LD
Ruddock, Miss E L, 8 South Lea, Church Hill, Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent, TN23 3EH

ORDINARY MEMBERS

Donithorn, Mrs C, Field House, Skeynes Park, Lingfield Road, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5HN
Foreman, Mrs L M, 54 Berrylands Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT5 8PD
Scoble, Mr C L, The School House, Church Lane, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1DH

CONGRATULATIONS!

Shiela Broomfield, our tireless Membership Secretary, was recently made a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, a well-deserved accolade for this contributor to so much of the organisational aspects of archaeology in our region.

EUROPEAN FORUM OF HERITAGE ASSOCIATIONS

Our attention has been drawn to this organisation which consists of local and national non-professional archaeological societies in Europe. The Council for British Archaeology is a member

The main interest for us is that member societies use it to publicise their excavations that are open to non-members. Details of these and links to other sites with similar information can be found on the Forum's web site www.heritageforum.org

KAS COMMITTEE ROUND-UP

FIELDWORK COMMITTEE

Although no centrally organised excavation has taken place during 2005, the Fieldwork Committee and members have been involved in supporting the various affiliated groups with funds, expertise and equipment.

Keith Parfitt and the CAT, along with the Thanet Trust, have been continuing to excavate at Ringlemere. They have also been searching for Roman Sandwich by trial trenches on the north side of the road; although not yet successful, they are confidently looking elsewhere.

The Dartford and District Society are continuing excavation at the Balham Farm project.

Excavation continued at East Farleigh Roman villa, where Albert Daniels and his team held an open day to coincide with Channel 4's 'Big Dig', that attracted around 200 visitors.

A ground radar survey was carried out using a specialist organisation at the Lenham Archaeological Society site of Royton Chapel. Further use of the resistivity meter has been recommended at the site, but earlier in the year to take advantage of the wet ground after winter and the denser building material.

The website is continuing to expand; this is to include archiving of past fieldwork records, including pottery, (types and examples), to allow comparison of shape and type. Members are invited to send details of sites/projects to be included in the website.

Michael Howard (Sec.)

CHURCHES COMMITTEE

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in September last year we visited the churches of St Peter and St Paul at Upper Hardres and St Mary at Stelling. We were fortunate to have Dr Eaves to introduce both buildings and Mr McDine to give us some fascinating historical background about the area of Stelling. They were willing to engage in the lively discussion that continued over tea at Stelling. Both churches have been enlarged and altered many times over the centuries, but are quite different in character.

St Peter and St Paul was originally built in the 12th century and was the manorial church of the Hardres family, who lived here until 1764, when Sir William Hardres died. Sir William's memorial can be seen in the chancel chapel. The church was enlarged in the 13th century and little of the 12th century fabric is visible today. The 14th century glass in the East End came from St Mary Stelling but, until a fire in 1972, there was 13th century glass in the church that almost certainly originated there. Fragments rescued after the fire have been assembled in mosaic roundels in a chancel window. There is a magnificent brass on the tomb of a rector, John Strete, under cover in the chancel and dated 1405.

St Mary is a very striking church. It was originally a chapel of ease for Upper Hardres but it has been altered so much that it is difficult to 'read' its architectural history. It also seems possible that some stonework has been reused from elsewhere. As mentioned above, the 14th century glass formerly in the east end of the south aisle at Stelling was moved to Upper Hardres. This was in keeping with the changes made in the church in 1790. On first entering the church one would

be forgiven for thinking it is a non-conformist chapel. There are large box pews, most of which are pointing at the large pulpit halfway down the north wall of the nave. The pews in the chancel are in the usual position, but one wonders if even these were once facing the pulpit rather than the altar. No-one in the large KAS group had seen anything similar in an Anglican church before!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Members revisited the Great Hall of Wye College for the annual Christmas lunch. During the reception there was time to view member's publications which was a good opportunity to share the joy of completed work. The meal was begun with a Saxon grace rendered vigorously by Saxon speaker Karl Wittwer. After lunch there was a robust entertainment by the Tonbridge Mummers who presented their first performance of a new play. Owing to the bitter weather only the hardiest members continued for the planned visit to the Brook Agricultural Museum. Those who did were delighted, and resolved to return in the summer.

It is proposed to use another venue for the 2006 lunch. Suggestions for consideration would be welcome.

No brains needed – just hands!

The committee would welcome new members who would help in practical situations, for example setting out chairs at meetings, helping with projectors, collecting entry money at the door - and just generally supporting. For discussion contact Margaret Lawrence on 01622 871945 or margaret.society@virgin.net.

Margaret Lawrence (Chair)

THE IBRA BEE BOLES REGISTER ONLINE

Until the introduction of modern hives in the late 19th century, beekeepers in Britain and Ireland kept their bees in traditional hives (skeps) made from wicker and, later, coiled-straw. Before sugar was introduced, the honey was much valued as a sweetener and was also used to make mead; the beeswax was very important for making candles for the church.

Most skeps of bees were kept in the open, but some beekeepers built special structures to protect the skeps from the weather. The commonest type of structure surviving in the UK is a wall containing a row of recesses (bee boles), but other types have also been recorded: alcoves, bee shelters, bee houses and winter storage buildings. The International Bee Research Association Register, which was started in 1952, is now a large and valuable collection of records and photographs of these structures in many parts of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The IBRA Bee Boles Register database, which contains 1370 records and over 1100 images, can now be accessed online (free) at www.ibra.org.uk/beeboles. Searching is easy, and selected records and images can be viewed. In addition, a list of relevant publications is provided. The site will be of special value to local historians

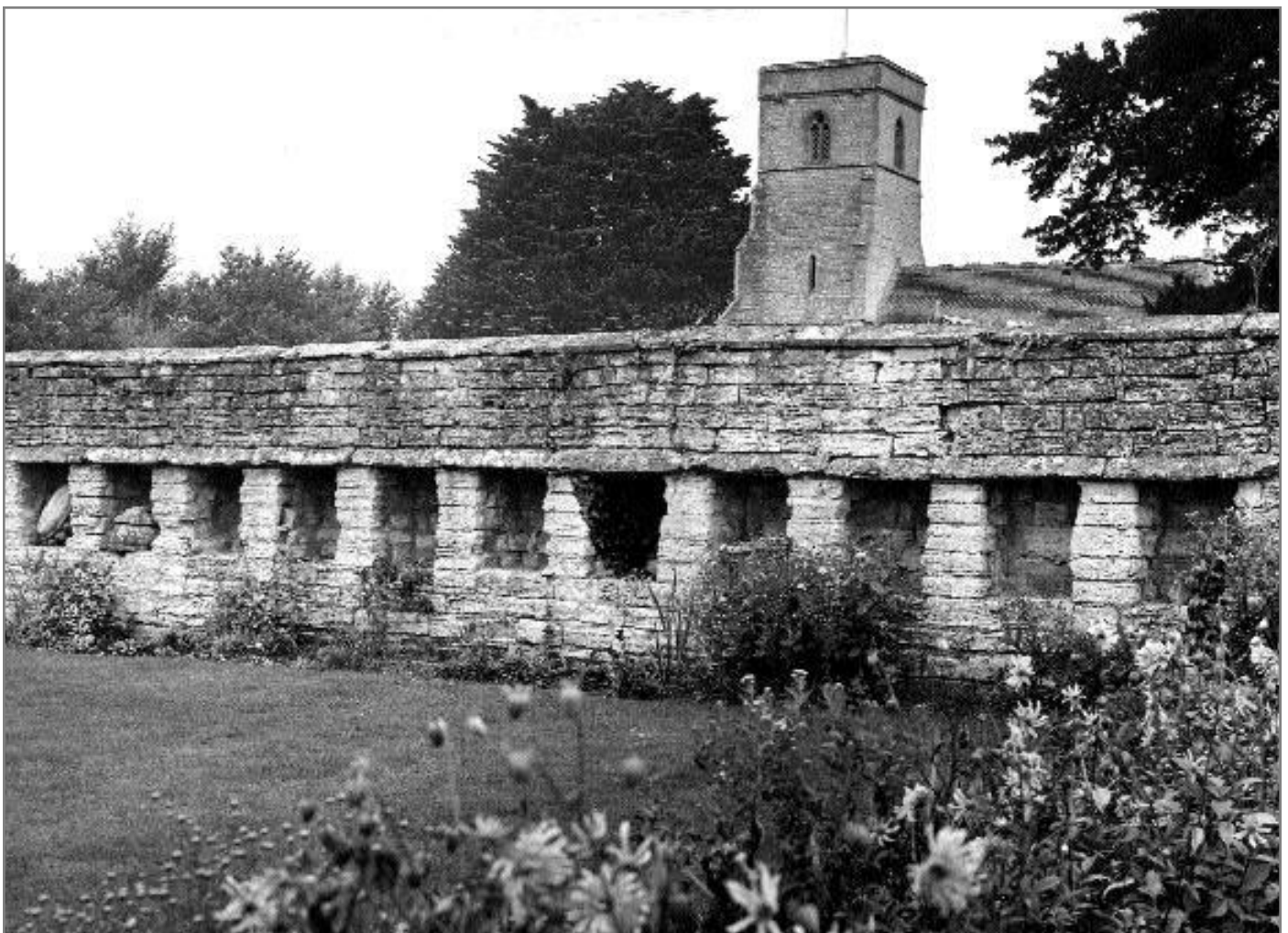
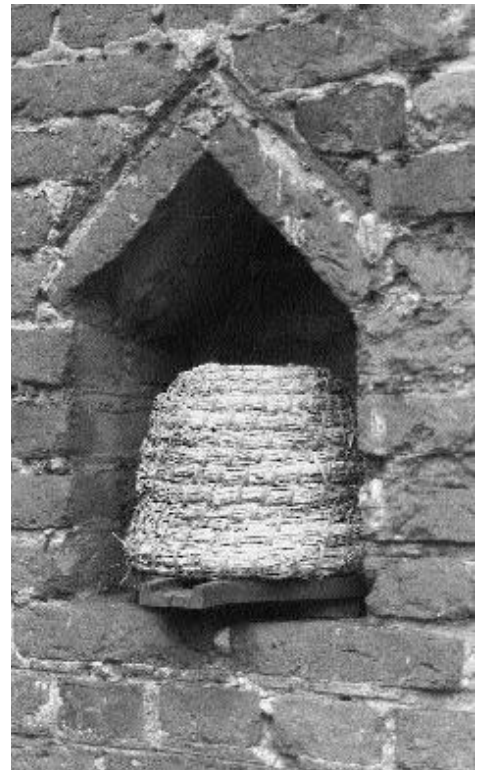
throughout Britain and Ireland who are interested in our beekeeping heritage and in vernacular buildings. It could also be useful for school or college projects.

Penelope Walker, the voluntary curator of the Register for IBRA, has organized the conversion of the paper record forms and photographs into this online database. Its main purposes are to make the information and images easily accessible to anyone interested, and to encourage conservation of the structures as well as further recording. New records are welcome, and the database will be updated regularly. For contact details, see the website, or tel. 029 2037 2409 (IBRA).

Financial contributions towards the cost of the project were received from Awards for All (to the English Bee Boles Society), CADW (Cardiff), Historic Scotland (Edinburgh) and the Eva Crane Trust.

RIGHT: Skep in brick bee bole, Quebec House, Westerham, Kent (Register No. 0078; photo: J Walker)

BELOW: Row of bee boles, Lovington, Somerset (No. 0131; photo: H C Tilzey)



CATTLE DROVING IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY

In the Universal British Directory of 1792, Goudhurst was referred to as the site of livestock fairs, in August and November, at which Welsh and Scotch cattle were for sale. This raises some important questions on the movement of cattle, generally, throughout the British Isles before the construction of the railway network (1830 onwards).

George Watts, in his seminal articles on drove roads (Hampshire Field Club Newsletters, 40 & 41), notes the difficulties encountered in identifying drove roads due to their ephemeral character. He has identified, in the north of Hampshire (HFC Newsletter 41), three long distance droves (his type D3); the Lunway, the Harroway and the Welsh Drive.

The presence of Scotch cattle in Goudhurst is not easy to explain but Sir Walter Scott in his novel 'Rob Roy' (1829), gives two helpful pieces of information. The hero meets Rob Roy in Darlington. At the period of the novel it must have been quite usual to meet a scotch drover that far south. The second piece of information, contained in a true story related in the extended introduction to the novel, refers to a man and his son recovering cattle stolen from the Lennox. This was achieved under the guidance of Rob Roy after a short walk of 37 miles accomplished in fifteen hours. This gives a fair estimate of the distance covered in a days drive, viz., 25 miles in late autumn. At this pace, it would have taken some eight days to drive a herd from Inversnaid (Rob's family estate) to Darlington at the head of the Vale of York.

K. J. J. Mackenzie, in his book, 'Cattle and the Future of Beef Production in England' (Cambridge U. P., 1919), refers to conditions prevailing post 1875. The situation in which calves became stores and were passed from one grazier to another may have been a long established procedure. The present day Kerry breed of beef cattle is probably the closest to the original Celtic black cattle. The Kerry is small, hardy and thrives on the roughest grazing, the animal is, however, slow to reach maturity (3 years). Such cattle would have been ideal for the upland grazing of Wales and Scotland. Calves, when weaned, could be brought down to Lowland pastures for fattening. Because of the slow development, animals would be 'sold on' every six months and only at the end of three years would be fattened on rich grazing for the butcher.

Considering, then, those animals destined for the London market, it can be seen that the



ABOVE: The Kerry is believed to be one of the oldest breeds in Europe. The skull is very similar in formation to the ancient aurochs (*Bos primigenus*), though smaller in size. Info and image from www.kerrycattle.com/history.asp

three years growth of a Scotch 'store', could be divided into six feeding periods, each commencing with a drive of 100 miles (2 days) that would not 'set back' the animal to any serious extent. Furthermore, it would permit the final fattening process to take place quite near to London and ensure the animal arriving at the market in prime condition. The search for drove roads in the sparsely populated uplands of Wales and Scotland, the Southern Uplands and Cheviots and the Pennine Chain would go to prove, or disprove, the hypothesis outlined above.

Ancient routes, such as the North and South Downs Ridgeways would have been of particular use to livestock drovers coming from Blackwater Fair (Watts, quoted above). Margary, in 'Roman Ways of the Weald' (Dent

& Sons, London, 1965), notes a late 'Roman' road from Wrotham, on the Pilgrims' Way (North Downs Ridgeway), to Tunbridge Wells and beyond. Crossing from Tunbridge Wells to Goudhurst, Cranbrook and Hemstead, the Roman road to Ashford, Canterbury and Fordwich would have become available and the Ridgeway regained in the Stour Gap above Wye. The purpose of this deviation would have been to take advantage of the easier crossing of the Medway above Tonbridge rather than encounter the more difficult crossing on the Ridgeway at Snodland below Maidstone. This would also have made Goudhurst a pivotal fair for graziers in the SE corner of Kent, including the Romney Marsh.

P. J. Ovenden

THE WYE RURAL MUSEUM TRUST LOOKS FOR HELP

The Wye Rural Museum Trust was set up in 1996-7 to take over ownership of the Agricultural Museum at Brook, near Ashford, from what was then Wye College, University of London. It is run by a board of Trustees, some appointed and some co-optative. One of the former is appointed by the Kent Archaeological Society (originally Kenneth Gravett and currently Alan Stevens). The Trust has made good progress in its first ten years, but now wants to develop various aspects of its work. For this it needs some more specialised voluntary help in certain areas, supplementing that already provided by the team of volunteers who help in opening the Museum to the public during the summer months.

Would any other member of the Society be interested in joining what is certainly an interesting and worthwhile organisation? This would not be in the role of a Trustee but to help with certain specific projects in which their previous interests or experience might be useful. Some of the needs might well be met by people working from home, though some may need a presence on the spot, which might be more convenient for people living within a reasonable distance of Brook.

We have listed below some of the areas where help would be welcomed. All would involve individuals working on the basis of what is practicable for them - we are not looking either for a lifetime commitment or the burning of midnight oil!

1. People with experience in oral history work, video recording and editing, or the design and putting together of written text for publication would be very useful in our LHI-funded project on Recording Woodland and Agricultural Crafts.

2. Many of the items in the museum's collections and/or the activities with which the Trust is involved are potential sources of short articles or news releases for the press, and anyone with experience of producing such items, or editing work produced by others for the purpose, would be welcomed.

3. We are keen to address the problem of marketing to increase visitor numbers. The most likely source of significant additional visitors is the encouragement of organised parties of 'special interest' groups (eg. Historical and Agricultural Societies, Young Farmers' Clubs, WI's etc.). This work would involve email, telephone and postal contacts and the Trust would refund relevant expenses.

4. We are also developing contacts with some local schools, and anyone with teaching or other relevant experience with children would be very helpful to us here.

5. For those who enjoy 'hands-on' approaches we shall, we hope, have a need for some volunteers who can be trained to show visitors round the Museum or, if this does not appeal, who might like to help in the conservation work which some of the exhibits need from time to time.

If any reader would like to discuss a possible interest in any of these topics (there are others), or to discuss aspects of the matter in more detail do please contact either the Honorary Curator, Brian Wimsett (tel; 01304 824969; email; brianwimsett@hotmail.com) or the Trust Secretary, Tom Hill (tel; 01227 730477; email; hill.ta@tiscali.co.uk). We should be delighted to hear from you.



ABOVE TOP: *The barn - east view.*

ABOVE BOTTOM: *Interior of barn with a farm wagon, one of the museum's many agricultural exhibits.*

YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS

2005 was another exciting year for the children belonging to North Downs Young Archaeologists'. In February they became editors for a day, when they were given the chance to choose articles and images for the next edition of 'Young Archaeologist', the quarterly magazine of the national YAC. As predicted, the more gruesome and grisly stories of plague and burial appealed to their editorial discretion! They were posed the question 'Guns – good or bad?' in March, in an examination of firearms through time, looking at their uses for procuring food, for defence and for aggression. The following month they became 'House Detectives' at the Centre for Kentish Studies, tracing the history of their homes and learning about available sources, and in May they were swept back into the Neolithic at the Medway megaliths. A family coach trip to Portsmouth Dockyard and the Mary Rose in June proved very popular, and was followed up in September with a meeting on long-bow archery, Tudor style.

Parents, children and YAC leaders worked hard to make the July National Archaeology Day event, 'Prehistory – life B4 txt', a successful event. Despite torrential rain, over 300 visitors arrived to take part in lots of free activities, including a 'mini-dig' of objects deliberately buried some months before. A talk by Carenza Lewis of Time Team, on Channel 4's 'Big Roman Dig', drew the crowds.

The last three meetings of the year focussed on World War II, in keeping with the anniversary events happening around the country. In October, Dover's Western Heights was explored, the Napoleonic defences intriguing the children and their families as much as the more recent examples (below). A hand-operated air raid siren was brought along for them to operate.. As they eagerly queued

up to have a go, YAC leaders did wonder what Dover's residents made of the unearthly wail emanating from high above the town. Aerial photos taken in the 1940's were used in 'Spies!', a meeting which examined how this resource developed from wartime reconnaissance and its subsequent applications in archaeology today. The Christmas party saw the children in wartime dress; evacuees with cardboard boxes, resistance fighters with secret codes, spivs with nylons taped inside their jackets and servicemen in their grandparents original uniforms, gathered to celebrate under red, white and blue bunting.

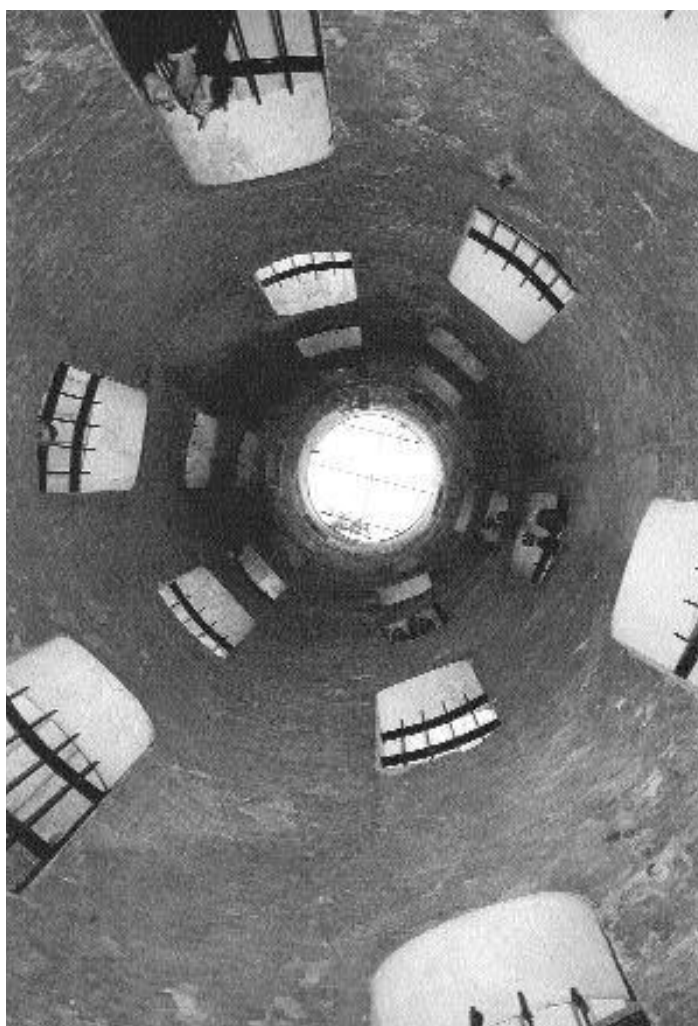
2006 holds the promise of practical work at various mill locations, including Leigh Gunpowder Mills near Tonbridge. The support of the KAS for North Downs YAC is, as always, very gratefully acknowledged; the support given encourages the archaeologists of the future.



ABOVE RIGHT: Defending the Drop Redoubt!

RIGHT BELOW: Winding the air raid siren.

LEFT BELOW: Climbing the Grand Shaft staircase at the Western Heights.





INSET:
The Cottington Hill
cremation amphora
contained other
pots within.

MAINPICTURE:
Careful excavation
of the copper alloy
buckle.

NEW BOOKS

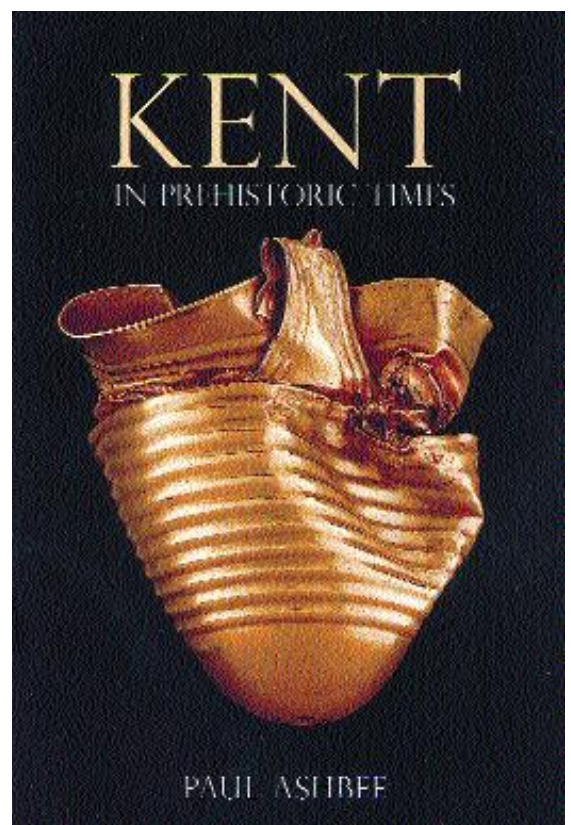
Kent in Prehistoric Times by Paul Ashbee.

0-7524-3136-6. 224pp, 75 illus.

Paul Ashbee, a Patron of the KAS, has known Kent and its prehistoric monuments since his schooldays. This long-awaited book is a wide-ranging and accessible account of the county's prehistory.

Having first covered the broad environmental features of the county and the work of the early antiquaries and pioneer prehistorians, Dr Ashbee then explains the long Palaeolithic lineage and the Mesolithic interlude. The great chambered tombs of the Neolithic, such as the Coldrum and Kits Coty, and the Iron Age, with its large hill forts like Bigbury and Oldbury, are covered in detail.

Normal retail price is £19.99. A special offer is available to KAS members – please see the enclosed flyer.



HUNT THE SAXONS: AN EXPERIMENT IN COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

In the summer of 2005, a Community Archaeology project ran in Faversham, under the umbrella of the Faversham Society. The aim of the project is easily stated: this would be archaeology done by



local people, for local people, based on the impression that in Faversham there are a substantial number of people who would be deeply interested in such a project.

Research of any kind needs a clear focus, one which captures the imagination and fires the desire to find an answer. *Hunt the Saxons* came from the fact that although a rich pagan 'Jutish' cemetery was found in the 19th century in what is now the southern part of Faversham, there has not been any archaeological or historical evidence for where the people actually lived. In

short, we would be looking for evidence of Saxon occupation.

From this focus came a strategy derived from the common assumption, best summarised in the 2003 *Kent Historic Towns Survey: Faversham*, that 'Saxon Faversham' lay in the Tanners Street/West Street area. Yet not a scrap of archaeological evidence existed for this. Furthermore, this part of Faversham is most unlikely to see development in the foreseeable future, leaving the assumption unchallenged.

Last summer's project involved the digging of eleven one metre-square test pits in gardens in this ancient part of our town, near the probable

tidal limit of the Creek. The digging season lasted twenty two days, and an enormous amount of work has gone into post-exca-

vational analysis. Particular attention has been paid to pottery, with Andrew Linklater from the CAT giving us an intensive training session in identification. At the point of writing (mid-November 2005) test pit reports are being written and at the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre a warmly-received team-produced *Hunt the Saxons* exhibition is running.



Did we find the Saxons? So far, no: our new website www.community-archaeology.org.uk gives details. Note, however, *so far*. Next summer, we will be back in the so-called Saxon Zone to complete the investigation, this time armed with a lot more knowledge. *Hunt the Saxons* has involved a host of Faversham people, not just the excavation team, and contributed a great deal already to the understanding of Faversham's past. It has also been (and this is far from trivial) enormously enjoyable. Roll on HSX06!



Dr Pat Reid

ABOVE,
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

One metre test pit in a garden.

Sorting the finds.

The exhibition at the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre.

Copy deadline for the next issue in April is Wednesday March 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 Mobile: 07810 340831

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

Published by the Kent Archaeological Society, The Museum, St Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME 14 1LH
www.kentarchaeology.org.uk