

KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY newsletter

Issue number 77

Summer 2008

NEOLITHIC DISCOVERIES AT PEGWELL BAY



**SEASONAL
SLAUGHTER
WITHIN
CAUSEWAYED
ENCLOSURE?**

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NEOLITHIC DISCOVERIES AT PEGWELL BAY, ISLE OF THANET



In the summer of 2007 the Trust for Thanet Archaeology carried out an area excavation on a development site in Pegwell, near Ramsgate, formerly occupied by a 19th century lodge used most recently as a Nursery School. The site is on high ground on the eastern side of a north-south aligned valley leading down from Nethercourt towards the coast at Pegwell. To the rear and west of the site are the grounds of the Court Stairs Lodge Hotel and to the east are the imposing West Cliff Terrace Mansions. The site had been extensively terraced and built over in several phases as recently as the 1970's, but surprisingly when the buildings and foundations were carefully removed, two linear features were exposed, cut deep into the chalk and separated by a narrow gap between their terminals. Although only a small element remained it is likely that they were part of a causewayed enclosure, the second Neolithic structure to be found in the same valley. Part of another causewayed enclosure was discovered during excavations for the Ramsgate Harbour Approach Road at Chilton in 1996.

The primary cuts of two linear ditches with rounded terminals formed a narrow causeway entrance at the northern extent of the feature. In plan the ditches formed

ABOVE: Ditch terminals under excavation facing south east.

FRONT PAGE: View of the excavated enclosure facing north west.

FRONT PAGE (INSET): Selection of Earlier Neolithic flint blades.

a gentle curve which when projected suggested a diameter of around 104m for the feature and may have enclosed an area to

the south of the excavated elements. The features had been formed by a series of separate component cuts that combined



ABOVE: Sherd from an Earlier Neolithic carinated bowl.

to form a continuous curvilinear ditch. No internal features were encountered when the area was stripped, probably due to terracing of the site in the past. The earliest deposits within the ditch were chalk spreads and fine silty clay of natural origin that appears to have eroded into the ditch through frost action. The ditches may have remained open for some time, being carefully cleaned out and maintained. Pottery and animal bone were mixed within the earliest deposits and two cattle skulls were found with other bones close to the base at the eastern terminal and at the western end of the same ditch. The natural processes of frost erosion and weathering occurred fairly soon after cutting of the ditches and was unchecked by human activity for some time. Periods of abandonment and recutting were suggested by the stratigraphy, indicating that the area was only sporadically occupied over a long period of time. The earliest fills in the ditches were truncated by a pit cut to search for flints.

This sparsely occupied phase was followed by more intensive activity involving scooping out hollows from the accumulated debris which were filled with deposits containing significant amounts of cultural material and food waste from butchered bone and shellfish. Evidence of recutting and additional deposition suggests a sustained, possibly seasonal re-occupation by a fairly large number of people. The deposits of large disarticulated animal bones suggest the dumping of butchery waste, perhaps after extracting residual nutrition by splitting the bones for marrow and boiling for stock. This could indicate the by-product of a seasonal slaughter perhaps carried out within the enclosure. The eastern terminal had a small pit cut in the centre, filled with fine ashy material containing more decorated pottery and fine flintwork. The pit had been filled with a deposit of clay then recut with a broader hollow with sloped sides. This second cut was also filled with a fine ashy deposit containing Neolithic pottery and mussel shells. The western terminal contained similar recuts filled with organic debris, marine shells and animal bone. In many of the hollows the uppermost fills contained spreads of animal bone in large quantity suggesting the disposal of substantial amounts of butchery or food waste into the gentle hollows that formed over the ditches and cuts below, possibly in the later prehistoric period. The final phases of deposition in all the segments explored had large quantities of disarticulated animal bone from a variety of species including pig, sheep or goat and cattle and horse. In one deposit at the eastern end three cattle ribs apparently still in their correct

association was encountered, possibly indicating the deposition of a butchered cut of meat. At the eastern end of the excavation area a large quantity of animal bone was deposited in what must have been nothing more than an earthwork of the enclosure.

The Finds

A review of the worked flint shows that a significant proportion is residual, only a few contexts do contain solely fresh-looking lithics, while other contexts feature a combination of fresh, phase-contemporary and earlier residual material. Many blade flakes were recovered from the fills, with some contexts producing significant quantities. Finely worked blades and bladelets which had been soft hammer-struck from blade cores were particularly noted, as were the relatively frequent occurrence of serrated blades. Most of the finely worked flint is Earlier Neolithic. Several residual flint tools of Neolithic type have been recovered, these include at least two leaf-shaped arrowheads, a single piece flint sickle and scrapers on large, thick, hard hammer-struck flakes. Both residual and fresh cores of likely Earlier Neolithic date have been recovered from differing contexts. Some contexts provide evidence for the use of glauconitic Bullhead Bed flint and the utilisation of nodules, which had been freshly extracted from the Upper Chalk. Some instances of the burning of pieces of worked flint have been recognised.

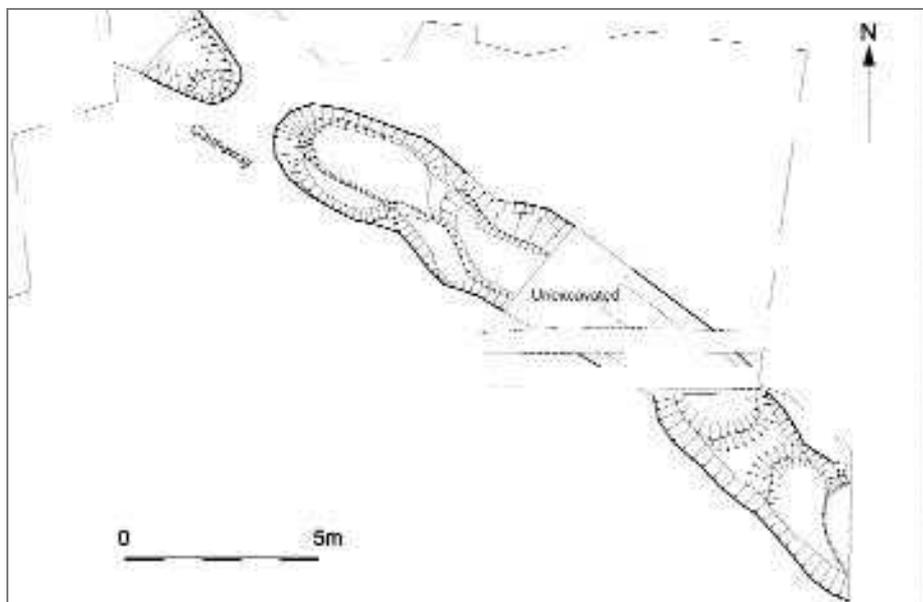
A review of the pottery during post-excavation processing revealed that the assemblage was dominated by flint tempered fabrics in varying degrees of coarseness; only one small, thin, worn, oxidised sherd of grog tempered pottery was noted. A selection of the Neolithic pottery reviewed by Dr. Alex Gibson were

dated to 3800-3600 cal BC, closely paralleled by the assemblages from enclosures at Sheppey and Chalk Hill nearby. Examples of the 'thumbed' sherds, carinated sherds and linear decorated rim sherds were seen. A couple of pieces exhibited a finger-tip decoration more typical of Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware, though in comparison with those examples known from Thanet the new sherds appeared to be from vessels with a more organised decoration. Pierced holes of both small and large size were noted on several rim and body sherds. Among the more unusual sherds was a rim from a thin-walled fineware vessel that had been decorated internally with a single row of small round impressions above two rows of narrow oval impressions set in a herringbone pattern and externally with a single row of narrow oval impressions.

*Gerald Moody and Paul Hart
Trust for Thanet Archaeology*

The Trust would like to thank Mr John Baker and Mr Nick Baker of Willow Construction for commissioning the archaeological work. Mention must also be made of the large number of volunteers and members of the Trust's wider family who assisted in achieving the near complete excavation of the feature and the post excavation processing of the finds. Lee Cunningham made sterling efforts on the excavation; Eileen Boast, Harold Boast, Marilyn Bishop, Sue Calder, Jose Gibbs, Jan Lawton, Becky McDonald, Carolyn Moody, Christine Moody, Jan O'Hare, Julie Perrin, Jenny Price, Maggy Redmond, Chris Gibbs, Anthony Moody, Geoff Orton, Gordon Taylor, Bob Pantony, Dave White, Andy Woodgate and the two mystery diggers from Maidstone all made significant contributions.

BELOW: Plan of excavated area showing primary cuts.



HONOURS FOR RETIRING

John Williams has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and the University of Kent is conferring on him an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law

Some years ago John Williams featured in our 'Back Page People' series. Readers may recall the story of the lad from North Wales who read Latin at Manchester University, did an MA in Stone Building Materials in Roman Britain, met his future wife Frances while excavating a medieval cess pit in Colchester and 'cooked a mean curry'! After heading up the archaeological unit at Northampton Development Corporation for 13 years he moved to Lancaster University in 1984 as Director of their archaeological unit. His PhD was awarded in 1986 for published work on the archaeology and history of medieval Northampton. John arrived in Kent three years later, as its first County Archaeologist.

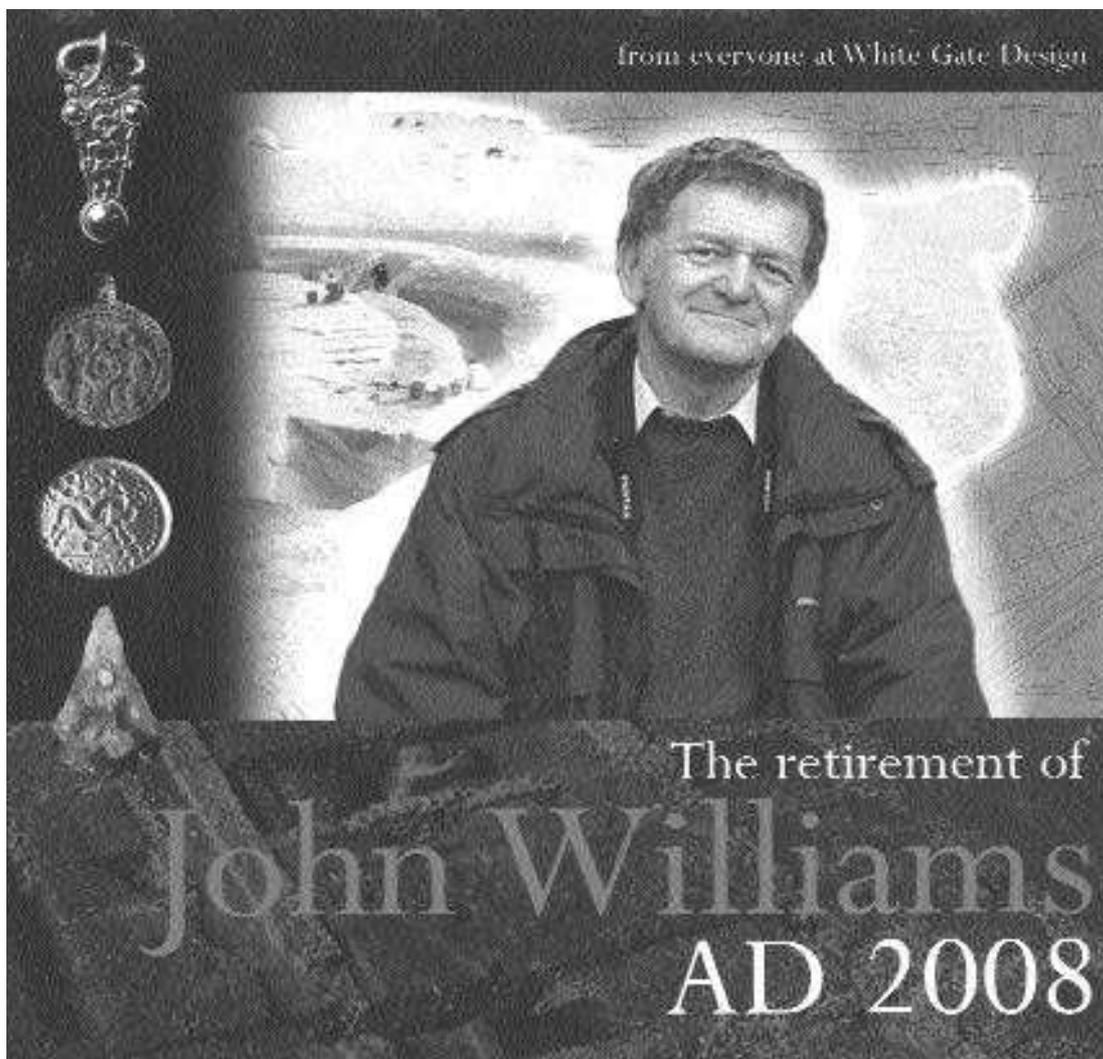
John retired recently. For 19 years he has been the lead figure for KCC's Heritage Conservation team, nowadays numbering around a dozen. It wasn't always so; when John was appointed he had only one assistant. This was just before the inception of PPG16, legislation which brought big changes to the amount of archaeological investigation; Kent in particular was facing major development. Within a few months of John's arrival he was involved in preliminary studies for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link; almost twenty years later the final reports are nearly ready.

John's belief in the large-area 'landscape' approach has led to 'strip, map and sample' investigations on many of the massive schemes which Kent has seen during the last decade – for example, the current Thanet Earth glasshouse site, covering 90 hectares. Information

from this approach has provided major new insights into Kent's rich heritage – going beyond the single site mentality into how Kent's archaeological past articulated spatially and chronologically. The results of much of this work appear in 'The Archaeology of Kent to AD 800', edited by John. The book's designers created the image below for his retirement!

Building up a team to deal with development-led archaeology has been a key task for John; another has been to develop and ensure access to the Sites & Monuments Record, now known as the Historic Environment Record (HER). Access for all to archaeology has been an increasing concern, and "the role of volunteers is crucial, even with archaeology being so 'professionalized' today. It's not a case of professionals vs. 'amateurs' - there is only good and bad archaeology, and unnecessary destructive work (eg excavation) should not be done by amateurs or professionals unless the resources are available to see a project through to proper publication". John would like to see

BELOW: John's farewell card based on his book cover.



COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST

more volunteers working in an integrated way alongside local and other archaeological units on development-led work, where resources ought to be available. He would also like to see more parish-survey work undertaken. Community projects have been instigated, at Shorne Wood Country Park, and by the HER team, who regularly involve volunteers and it is intended to have active volunteer participation in the archaeological work programmed for the major East Kent Access road scheme. Another means of public access to archaeology came through the very early appointment of a Finds Liaison Officer for Kent.

It is perhaps John's pro-active approach to Europe which singles him out from others in similar positions. He led on Planarch, a project with partners in France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and England, which aimed to integrate archaeology better into the planning process. He played a major role in the Historic Fortifications Network between Kent, Nord-Pas-de-Calais and West Flanders, conserving, promoting and making accessible the rich defence heritage of these regions. Nearer to home, John is proud of his part in securing the future of Oare Gunpowder Works, of incorporating Thurnham Castle within White Horse Wood Country Park and in the restoration of KCC's eight windmills through a successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid.

On John's wish list for Kent's future is an Archaeological Resource Centre – a central facility for the innumerable finds (and their associated documentary archives) that have been made in the county over the years (often now in storerooms around

Britain). It would not be just a store but also an active hub, to make the material available across the county for display and education and for research by everyone. "We desperately need this ... we're travelling more hopefully than before, but still not quite there". He also emphasises the need to continue providing a high quality response to development pressures. The Heritage Team will now be led by Lis Dyson, who has worked with John at KCC for the last 15 years and is a member of the Society's Fieldwork Committee.

And what of John's future? "I'm looking forward to abandoning the (ever-increasing) mountains of emails and paperwork and seeking to find anew that other half of my split personality – the academic". He plans to research and write on Northampton and Kent and would relish some work abroad if the opportunity arose. He will also be involved with the Dover Bronze Age Boat Trust.

In July the University of Kent is conferring an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law on John, in recognition of the way he has raised the profile of archaeology in local government and developed the European dimension.

Kent's heritage has faced massive pressures over the last two decades. The county was fortunate to have someone who rose to the challenge of protecting and enhancing that heritage. The citation accompanying John's MBE, 'for services to local government' very much recognises John's contribution to archaeology and heritage within local government. We wish John well in his (probably very active!) retirement.

MORE CAT KIT TEACHING RESOURCES FOR KENT SCHOOLS

Building on the success and experience of the initial CAT KIT project Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Ian Coulson of Kent County Council Schools Advisory Service and the Kent Archaeological Society all felt a Phase 2 project, to produce CAT KITs for use in the county beyond the Canterbury district, to be a desirable goal. In recent months, schools in Tonbridge, Dartford, Folkestone, Walmer, Dover and Maidstone have borrowed 'spare' kits from the original project and expressed great interest in having regional access

to the resource.

The Society was quick to donate some suitable material as a 'starter pack' and gave £1000 to buy tool kits and lining material to kick start Phase 2. As a result, currently 10 new CAT KITs are now held in the Dartford area for loan to local schools. Most recently Kent County Council has granted a generous £12,000 and the Trust now has the funds to produce a total of 100 new kits for use across the county, organise a regional loans system and provide some teacher training. I would like to thank

members of the KAS Education Committee who have been committed to the aim of extending the original project across the county and KCC (in particular Keith Ferrin and John Williams) for supporting CAT KITs Phase 2. Time to get the assembly line rolling!

To find out about CAT KITs and how they are being used go to <http://www.canterburytrust.co.uk/schools/catkitpg.htm>

*Marion Green, Education Officer
Canterbury Archaeological Trust*



KAS EVENTS

KAS CHURCHES COMMITTEE VISIT

St Nicholas at Wade & St Mary the Virgin, Chislet

Saturday 4 October

The autumn occasion in our series of visits to Kent churches will be on Saturday 4 October, meeting at St Nicholas at Wade at 1.45 for 2pm. Later at St Mary the Virgin, our President Mr Chris Pout will be our speaker. En route from St Nicholas to Chislet, arrangements have been made to see the rarely accessible underground chapel at St Nicholas Court. Over 50 of our county's churches and chapels have now been visited. This October programme appears to be rich in interest. A booking form is included in this Newsletter.

KAS HISTORIC BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Historic Buildings Conference

Saturday 18 October, 9.30am for 10am, until 4pm.

Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way, Lenham ME17 2QT

Illustrated talks by:

Andrew Linklater (Canterbury Archaeological Trust): *Kentish Rock - An Examination of Kent's Natural Resources;*

Charles Brooking (creator of the Brooking Collection of architectural features): *The Window of Time - Dating by Detail;*

Jane Davidson (of House Historians): *Following the Sources - Some Examples of House Histories.*

There will be also be a guided tour of Lenham Church. Lunch available.

A booking form is included in this Newsletter.

KAS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Saturday 29 November

Festive Buffet Lunch at the Banqueting Suite, the Hop Farm, Paddock Wood. Full details in the September Newsletter. Any previous enquiries please contact Margaret Lawrence on 01622 871945 or email p.lawrence.801@btinternet.com.

KAS LECTURES IN THE LIBRARY Y

Held in the KAS Library, Maidstone Museum, St Faith's Street, Maidstone

Life in Elizabethan and Stuart England, 1558-1720

Dr. Jacqueline Bower

20 meetings from 22 September 2008 (excluding half-terms and holidays) at a cost of £80.00

Economy and society in England in a period of religious and political difficulties and economic transition. Topics will include population and plague; agriculture; trade and industry; towns; cultural and intellectual life. There will be a brief account of the politics of the seventeenth century, but this will not be the main focus of the course.

History of Kent: from Hengist to Jack Cade, 450-1450

Dr. Jacqueline Bower

20 meetings starting 22 September (excluding half-terms and holidays) at a cost of £80.00.

Looking at the land and people of Kent from the earliest Jutish settlements to the end of the Middle Ages. Topics will include place names and settlement; peasants, population and plague; towns and trade. This is the first in what is planned as a three year course, studying the history of Kent down to the twentieth century

Booking forms for both these lecture series are included in this Newsletter.

OTHER EVENTS AROUND KENT

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

12 – 20 July

For fuller details of all NAW events in Kent and around the country go to: www.nationalarchaeologyweek.org.uk

Crofton Roman Villa, Orpington

Sunday 20 July

Meet Secundus and Agrippina

'The Life of a Soldier' at 10.30am & 2.30pm

'Home Life in the Villa' at 11.30am & 3.30pm

For the whole family. Entry £2/£1, YAC members free.

Further information on 020 8460 1442.

Shorne Wood Country Park

Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 July

'Archaeology in the Park'

10.30 – 4.30

A whole weekend of medieval living history with cannons, crafts and combat.

On Sunday only: guided tour of the excavation of a medieval manor house, lots of free kids 'make & do' activities, including mini dig with real finds to keep, shield painting & brass rubbing. Everything **free**, although normal car park fee of £2.00 applies. Further information on 07920 548906.

Events also take place at Maidstone Museum; St Peter's, Sandwich; Central Park, Dartford; Museum of Canterbury, Stour Street; Roman Bath House, Orpington.



Orpington & District Archaeological Society

EXCAVATIONS AT SCADBURY MOATED MANOR, CHISLEHURST – OPEN DAYS

Sat 6th & Sun 7th September, 2 – 4.30pm

Self-guided trail around the excavations which will show the work currently being carried out on the site as well as the remains of the foundations of the buildings associated with the Walsingham family. Members of ODAS will be on hand to answer questions.

There will also be a photographic display, refreshments and a bookstall. Admission is free – just turn up and park in St Pauls Wood Hill, then take the public footpath between house numbers 12 and 14. Alternatively, limited car parking is available close to the site, by ticket only, for which application should be made (enclosing a s.a.e. and stating which day) to: ODAS, 27 Eynsford Close, Petts Wood, Kent BR5 1DP.



Council for British Archaeology, South East Conference

TRADES AND INDUSTRIES OF THE SOUTH EAST

Saturday 8 November

University of Sussex

Further information on themes, speakers, times and cost will be available soon, from Steve Corbett on cbasem@scorbett.co.uk





KENT HERITAGE EVENT

SATURDAY 26 JULY 12.30-6pm

Mere House, Mereworth, Kent ME18 5NB

Promoting a range of ideals, interests and skills illustrating all that is best in Kent's heritage

Amenity societies exhibiting include -

- Ancient Monuments Society
- Churches Conservation Trust
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- Friends of Friendless Churches
- Friends of Kent Churches
- Historic Houses Association
- Kent Gardens Trust
- NADFAS
- Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
- Traditional Buildings Preservation Trust

DEMONSTRATIONS BY CONSERVATION SPECIALISTS

furniture, paintings, sculpture, woodland crafts

ADMISSION FREE

Home-made teas available

Email: andrewwells@mere-house.co.uk Web: www.mere-house.co.uk



LOOSE AREA HISTORY SOCIETY

Monday 13 October

'Ration Fashion' by Lee Ault

Monday 10 November

'One hundred years of Scouting in Loose'

A presentation by the Scout management team

Monday 8 December

'Puppets, piers and pantomime' by Alan Stockwell

Unless otherwise stated all meetings are held at Loose Infant School Hall and start at 7.30 pm. All welcome. Admission: £2.50.

Pay at the door. For more details telephone 01622 741198



Crayford Manor House Historical & Archaeological Society

TALKS 2008/2009

Saturday 11 October

The History of Waitrose and John Lewis Kevin Salkind (Waitrose)

Saturday 8 November

The History of British Broadcasting – 30 years of radio broadcasting from 1922, with voices, comedy, music, events, wartime memories Don Dray

Saturday 13 December

Christmas with Dickens – a programme of dramatic readings and seasonal stories Gerald Dickens (great-great-grandson of Charles). Preceded by finger buffet & wine – tickets £8 for non-members.

Saturday 10 January

Idea to Item – History of silversmithing from 1238 – present, including hall - marking & formation of silversmiths company Alan Moore

Talks take place at the Baker Trust Hall, Maxim Road, Crayford.

Saturday 14 February

Stuart London – the expansion of London westwards in the 17th century, the disasters which befell it and the new institutions which developed Ian Bevan

Saturday 14 March

History of the English Country House, 1600-Edwardian John Vigar

Saturday 18 April

AGM and President's Lecture

All talks held in The Baker Trust Hall, Crayford at 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome to attend at a fee of £2.00 per lecture, except December which is £8. Enquiries to Mrs J Hearn-Gillham 01322 551279.



**Council for Kentish Archaeology Conference
ROMAN DISCOVERIES IN KENT AND LONDON**

Saturday 25 October

Powell Lecture Theatre, Canterbury Christ Church University, North Holmes Road, Canterbury

The Early Roman Cemetery at Tollgate, near Gravesend Tim Allen, Oxford Archaeology

The Hoard of Roman Metal Vessels found in a well at Drapers Gardens Neil Hawkins, Pre-construct Archaeology

Roman Canterbury Paul Bennett, Canterbury Archaeological Trust

Tickets £4.00 available from CKA, Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP. Please enclose S.A.E. Further information can be found at www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk, or email davru58-aeol@yahoo.co.uk, or tel: 0208 777 7872 or 01732 884059.

COURSES

**University of Kent Centre for Flexible Learning - Courses
'RESEARCHING and PRESENTING LOCAL HISTORY'**

Autumn Term at Ashford & Tonbridge centres

'WRITING LOCAL HISTORY'

Spring Term at Ashford & Tonbridge centres

Two courses are being run by the University of Kent's Centre for Flexible Learning, taught by Dr Gill Draper. The first is entitled 'Researching and Presenting Local History'; the second is entitled 'Writing Local History'.

They are being offered on Tuesday evenings at the Tonbridge campus and on Friday mornings at the Ashford Adult Education Centre. You can take these courses for interest or as the first step towards a degree. They are intended to help (local) historians acquire the skills needed to identify or develop interesting projects and present them with the help of modern tools such as data projectors and PowerPoint. Students will also begin or improve their skills in palaeography, including Latin records for those who wish. They will also explore different ways of writing up their findings for personal satisfaction or for publication in local history journals. For further details contact Gill on G.M.Draper@kent.ac.uk or 01732 452575.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES with the University of Kent

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

The part-time evening programmes leading to the Certificate, Diploma or BA in Archaeological Studies (at Canterbury or Tonbridge) are recruiting for entry in September 2008.

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

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

For further information, contact the Recruitment Office, the Registry, University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NZ Tel 01227 827272 or e-mail: information@kent.ac.uk or look at <http://www.kent.ac.uk/studying/part-time/subjects/archaeological.html>

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Many thanks to all of you who have sent me a cheque for the underpayment of your standing order, plus the new forms which have now been sent to the banks. Please check to make sure that you have done this as it should avoid my writing to you again in 2009!

Joint members:

Mr & Mrs P Borrough, Ramsgate
Mr & Mrs E A Stally, Maidstone

Junior members:

Miss C Baker, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells
Mr S Barnick, Hythe
Mr L A Cannon, Willesborough, Ashford

Ordinary members:

Mrs V Armed, Tunbridge Wells
Mrs M Arthur, Grantham, Lincolnshire
Major I Corrigan, Folkestone
Mr D Cotton, Deal

Mrs M Criddle, Cheriton, Folkestone
Ms P M Doolin, Snodland
Dr M Fenton, Ickham, Canterbury
Mr S W Fleming, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook

Mr A Instone, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire
Mr W J Mort, Kennington, Ashford
Mr R Pitchford, Lamberhurst
Mr D H White, Birchington

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

Shiela Broomfield

Our congratulations go to Shiela, who was presented with the Ralph Merrifield Award jointly with Clive Orton at the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society's Annual Conference, mainly in recognition of their long association with the London Archaeologist.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The retirement of two people was marked at the annual general meeting of the Society on the 19th May. Hon. Treasurer, Robin Thomas, who remains on the Council as a Vice President, was thanked for looking after the Society's finances for 11 years and Dr John Williams, who had retired as KCC's County Archaeologist the day before, spoke on developments during his time in the county.

Barrie Beeching was elected as the new Hon. Treasurer but otherwise there was no change in the officers. Mike Clinch and Ian Coulson were elected to the Council for the first time to fill vacancies but some vacancies remain as members did not nominate

enough candidates to fill them all.

At the previous A.G.M., when most subscription rates were changed, there had been discussion about encouraging younger members, so the rate for junior members was left at £10. This year the rules were changed to increase the age limit for junior members from 21 to 25 so that most young people in full time education could benefit from the concession.

Speakers after the formal business, as well as Dr Williams, were Dr Andrew Richardson who spoke on fieldwork supported by the society's Fieldwork Committee and Christopher Proudfoot who described the work of the Historic Buildings Committee.

ARCHAEOLOGIA CANTIANA FOR SALE

Offers are invited for a set of AC's from 1857 – 1996. In the first instance please leave your contact details with the Newsletter editor, either by email on evelyn.palmer@virgin.net or by phone on 01892 533661. Your details will be forwarded to the seller.

COMMITTEE ROUND-UP

KAS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE VISIT TO PROVENDERS

Although the visit realised all its advertised potential, what made it such a memorable occasion was the intense enthusiasm of 62 members appreciating the opportunity to see a Kentish home developed over seven centuries. Moreover, a number of long standing members were making their first personal contact with the Society. It was good to meet them; quoting from a well known phrase, our members 'are important to us', because without them there is no Society.

Being such a large gathering, we were shown around in three groups. Each group had a share of Princess Olga herself, with her first hand knowledge of her family and growing up in the house. Hardline KAS members peered into the nooks and crannies of the timber framing, absorbed in what could be seen and contemplating what might be hidden. Much will be revealed as restoration continues and it is hoped

KAS HISTORIC BUILDINGS COMMITTEE PRESENTATION AT THE KAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Society's AGM on Saturday 17 May, the Committee Chairman, Christopher Proudfoot, gave a brief account of the Historic Buildings Committee, explaining how it differs from the CPRE committee of the same name, and giving an improbable-sounding list of relevant buildings from castles to airports.

He recalled the 2006 and 2007 Annual Conferences, and drew particular attention to the recent publication of Roger Cockett's *Historical Assessment and Survey of Old Buildings*. The six copies he had with him were snapped up instantly! Christopher concluded by reporting the Committee's preference for the existing format of Arch. Cant.

VISIT TO WESTENHANGER CASTLE AND BARN

Approximately 50 KAS members made up the group that visited Westenhanger Castle and Barns on the afternoon of Tuesday, 27 May. After welcoming everyone, Graham Forge summarised the development of Westenhanger, starting from the first record of a manor on the site in 1035, up to the Forge family purchasing Westenhanger in 1997. He explained that over the last 11 years a small team, including a specialist architect, surveyor, archaeologist and conservators, has been working closely with English Heritage on a programme of repair and consolidation.

Luckily, after the very wet bank holiday weekend, the weather was fine for the two-hour guided tour around the site. The group were able to see the impressive curtain wall and towers of the 14th Century quadrangular manor house, the remains of which are now a Scheduled Ancient Monument. In its heyday this building was the second largest dwelling in Kent after Knole. However, by the late 17th Century the fortunes of Westenhanger had changed for the worse, and in 1701 much of the stone of the curtain wall was taken down and sold. Since the Forge family took over there have been ten phases of restoration and conserva-



ABOVE: Princess Olga shows KASmembers around the 14th century hall.

that the Society will be kept informed.

A footpath walk led to an unrestored Kentish country pub, where the delicious tea maintained the enthusiasm of the afternoon.



ABOVE: Rosamund's Tower, at Westenhanger, partially restored by the present owners.

tion work so far. After an initial assessment, extensive repairs, consolidation and, in some places, rebuilding have been meticulously carried out. Where necessary, the orientation of individual stones was recorded so that they could be put back in the right place.

While being taken around the perimeter of the Castle, members of the group were intrigued by several rectangular pits close by the East Stour stream. These contain the mechanism of a disused hydraulic ram pump. For those, like the writer, not having heard of a ram pump before, it employs water pressure to elevate water to a higher level. This 19th century example used to pump water from the stream right up to the manor house.

Outside the western range of the Castle stand two medieval barns, both of which are constructed mainly of ragstone with galletting. The smaller, although longer of the two at 140 feet, was built in 1520. This barn does not have any large wagon doorways. Instead, along its south

continued on page 10

continued from page 9

side there are several smaller doorways, which have interesting free-stone mouldings. It is thought that these mouldings might have come from the chapel or ecclesiastical buildings that were once at Westenhangar. The later of the two barns, built in 1588, is 120 feet long and 32 feet wide, with walls over three feet thick. It has four wagon porch doors, and spans a stream at its north end. In 1997 English Heritage granted substantial funding for full restoration of this remarkable barn. Work is well underway and due to be completed by mid 2009. At the time of the visit there were no tiles on the roof, and scaffolding was erected in the interior and exterior of the barn. The magnificent oak hammer-beam trusses, normally only found in very high status buildings, had just been replaced after being removed for renovation. For some of

the KAS group particularly interested in timber framing, the opportunity of being able to examine the hammer-beams at such close quarters was the highlight of the visit.

Back in the courtyard of the Castle, there was more restoration work to see in the west range, Rosamund's Tower and the completely rebuilt Dovecote Tower, which contained nesting alcoves for over 500 stock doves.

Tea was served in a permanent marquee on the southern perimeter of the lawn used as a venue for social and corporate functions. After tea, those of the KAS party with the stamina to see more divided into two groups. One group went into the restored manor house, which is now used for civil weddings. This has an elegant Grade 1 listed Queen Anne façade, which had been added to the much-reduced manor house in 1700. Meanwhile, the other group went with the Westenhangar archaeologist to examine the west range in greater detail.

It was a very full afternoon. Everyone was very appreciative of the warm welcome, as well as the very animated and informative presentation of the history of Westenhangar given by Graham Forge and his colleagues. Grateful thanks also go to Joy Saynor for making all the arrangements for such an enjoyable visit.

*Angela Davies
KAS Historic
Buildings Committee*



LEFT: Looking at the brick - work of a wardrobe that was installed as one of the improvements by Henry VIII.

KAS CHURCHES COMMITTEE

Thirty six people attended the April visit to St Nicholas, Chislehurst and St Mary Cray Parish Church. The churches of these neighbouring (and very different) parishes are both of interest.

Mr Peter Mosson gave the talk at St Nicholas, where he is treasurer. Two members of the Orpington & District Archaeological Society were also in attendance to answer questions. St Nicholas' is essentially a 19th century rebuilding of a 15th century structure, although traces of a Saxon window have been uncovered in the west wall. Rectors we know back to 1260, and there is a Norman font. The 15th century rebuilding was carried out under the rector Alan Porter (1446-82) to whom a brass survives in the chancel, and it was funded by the Walsingham family who owned the local manor of Scadbury. The Scadbury Chapel in the north aisle preserves tombs of the well-connected Walsinghams and their successors as lords of the manor, including notably the Townshends. Part of the 15th century rood screen survives (not in its original position). The 19th century rebuild-

ings included heightening of the tower and spire and lengthening of the chancel. Twentieth century features include stained glass by Kempe, the pulpit and the south aisle reredos.

St Mary Cray Parish Church is a fantastic sight to rail passengers who zoom past over the adjacent viaduct. Until the railway brought about expansion of the local settlement this church was a chapelry of Orpington. It is a lofty later-13th century structure consisting of nave, aisles, a long chancel (rebuilt in the 1860's) and a western tower with shingled spire. Old drawings on display in the church also show a wooden structure above the porch, now gone, which served as a priests room before the Reformation and as a school room and meeting room thereafter. One of the most interesting items inside the church is the 18th century Greenwood brass, in the chancel, notable for being the last of this genre of memorial to be made. The tower contains six bells (heard by KAS members on arrival, following an earlier wedding), of which three were cast in St Mary Cray in 1655. The talk was given by Mr John Blundell, whose wife helped serve the welcome tea and biscuits.

Paul Lee

MORE WORK ON THE IRON AGE INDUSTRIAL SITE AT CHAPEL FARM, LENHAM HEATH

This site is one that Lenham Archaeological Society has been working on for about four years. The oval enclosure ditch, some 150m X 300m, has two gateways, east and west, and is visible on the Windows Live website, an image taken in 1999. This particular year showed the site well as the photos were taken in early July when the barley gave a good crop mark.

The site is under cultivation so we invariably have a short window of opportunity from the end of July till the beginning of September. Continuing the work reported on in our Journal Vol.1 of *Discovering Ancient Lenham*, we returned to this site in August 2007 to section the enclosure ditch again and to find out more about this site.

We used the KAS resistivity machine to good effect and our results matched the aerial image exactly. Dark areas were ditches or soft ground.

We decided to section across the ditch to the north of the site and across the northern arm of the west gate.

The results of our northern section showed a flat bottomed ditch (Fecamp style), typical of c.50BC (diagram below). We also encountered two sets of post holes with hard cement-like

sand around them, suggesting that there was a boarded defence on the inside bank.

A Severus Alexander AD222, silver denarius fell out of the section at a depth of 1.2m. There was another 50cm of striated ditch fill beneath it. That area of the IA ditch therefore, could have been filling up slowly throughout the Roman occupation.

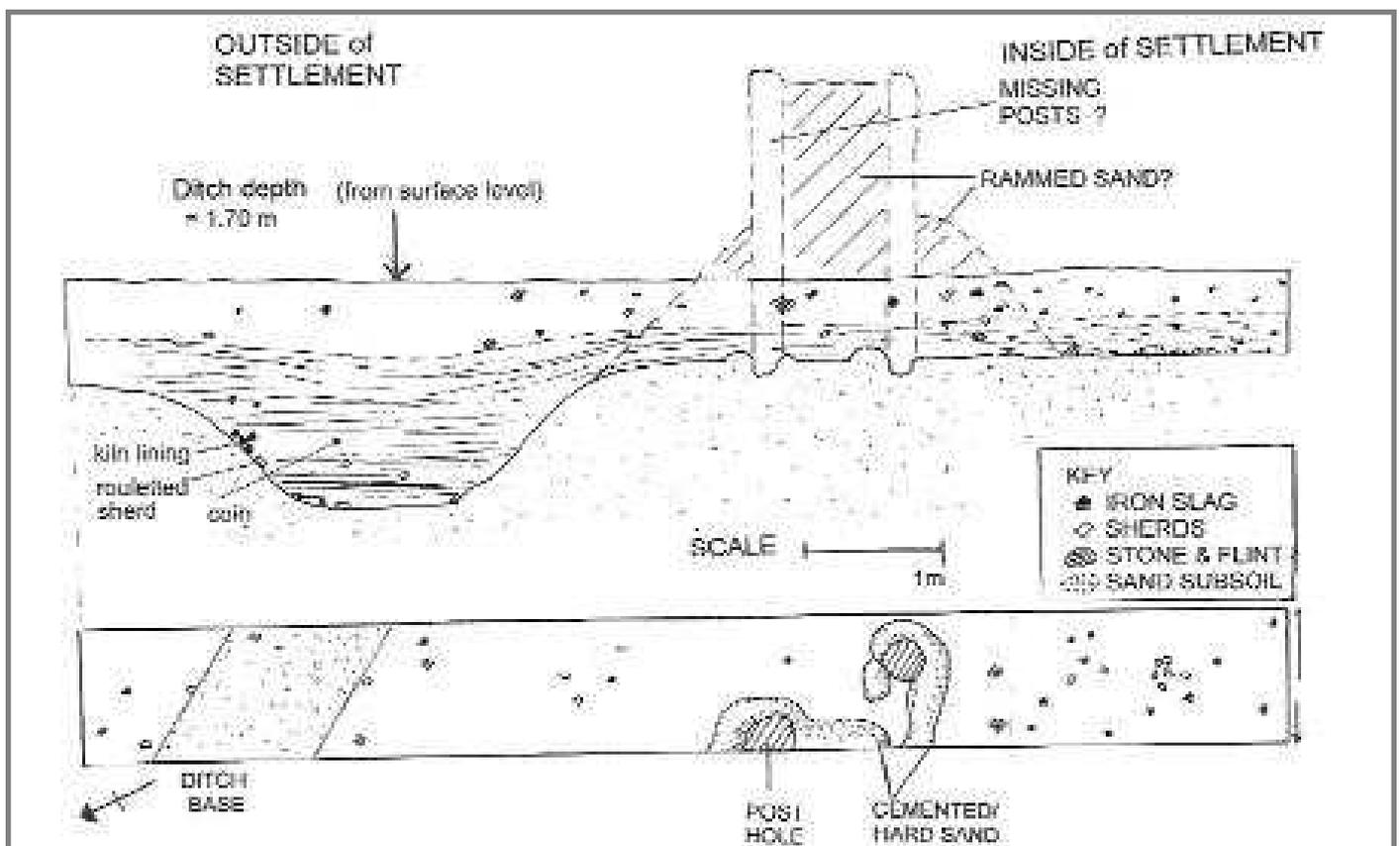
When we sectioned the ditch across the west gate terminal we encountered a layer of iron slag, spread by the plough, which appeared to be a Roman track crossing the whole site. The ditch area closest to this roadway was shored up with a large amount of slag. Again, the ditch had a flat bottom.

The interesting pottery found in the 2007 dig is mostly Late Iron Age. Two pots have highly burnished roulette design around the shoulder and are very finely thrown (only 2mm thick). They are a type of fine ware, Gallo-Belgic, that we believe was imported before the conquest. This might fit with the dating of the Late Iron Age La Tene brooch also found on site (see Arch Cant 1988). In the gate terminal ditch we found half of a large sandy ware pot (27cm high) that appears to be Late IA. It is unusual in having a rounded base.

Lesley Feakes



ABOVE: *Pat Norris in the trench - the Severus Alexander coin came out at a level with her knees.*



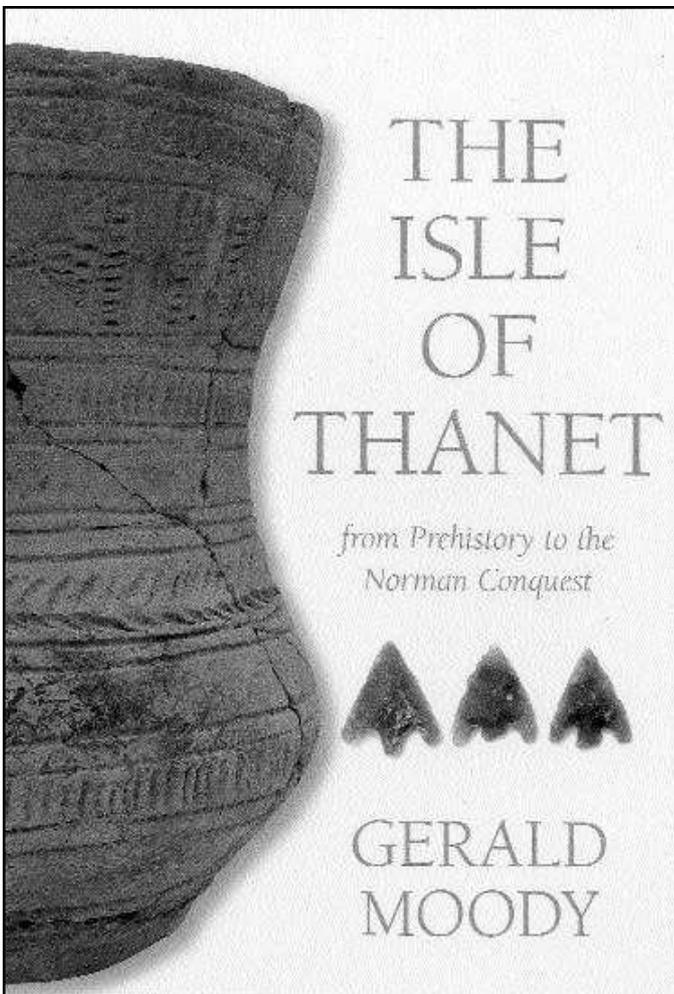
THE ISLE OF THANET

from Prehistory to the Norman Conquest

by Gerald Moody

The History Press ISBN 978-0-7524-4689-9

The Isle of Thanet is located at the north-eastern tip of the county of Kent. In the Bronze Age Thanet was separated from the mainland of Kent by the Wantsum Channel. Its unique position made it part of a key trade route with the continent from the prehistoric to the later medieval period. The island has a unique and diverse archaeological heritage which has been revealed over three centuries of discovery. In this first compre-



hensive and up-to-date survey of the archaeology of the area, Gerald Moody explores the history of Thanet from prehistoric times to the Norman Conquest, through the story of the rich and varied archaeological finds and a study of the key sites identified on the island. This is an important account of a fascinating, but little-known area of Britain.

The book will be available from November this year. Normal price will be £17.99 but a flyer with a special 15% discount will appear in the October issue of the Newsletter.

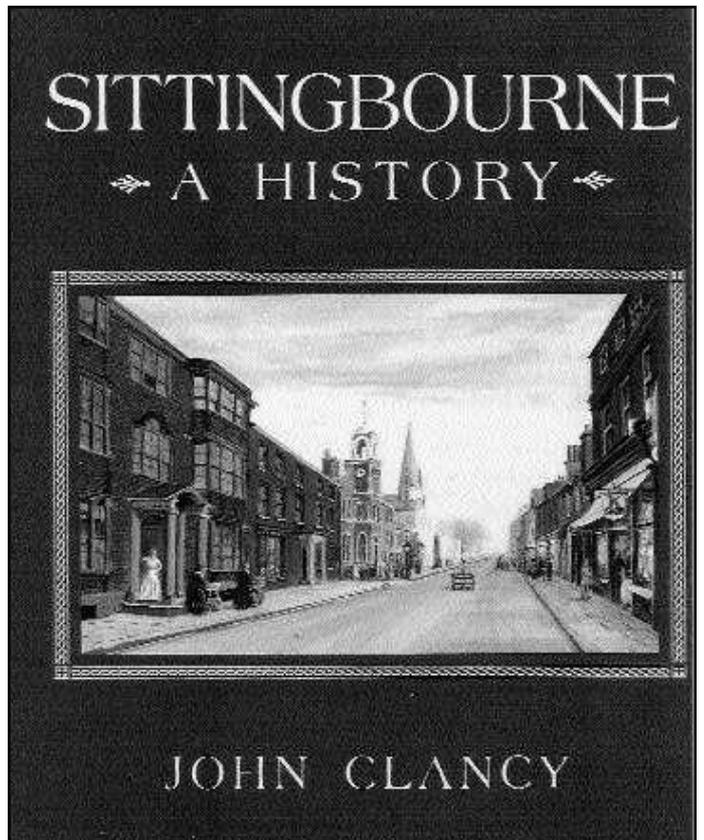
SITTINGBOURNE – A HISTORY

by John Clancy

Unlike Mr Clancy's previous books about Sittingbourne, this one concentrates on Sittingbourne alone, thus allowing the author more space to devote to the town's past. Whereas most authors have in the past told how the crossroads at the High Street, East Street, Bell Road and Crown Quay Lane was once the epicentre of the town, Mr Clancy rolls back the pages of history further with the help of colleagues from the Historical Research Group, to a time when it was located at Bayford on the Iron Age trackway where there was once a ford crossing the Creek. He also considers whether Sittingbourne grew from a collection of different settlements located hereabouts.

Sittingbourne was once renowned for its hospitality to passing travellers and there are records of many royal personages and the nobility passing through. Mr Clancy has come up with a new name to add to the list – William the Conqueror. Recently, archaeologists have conjectured that the Norman lord stayed here awhile whilst en route from Hastings to London, and they have a pretty good idea where that encampment might have been.

Published by Phillimore and Co Ltd, this 116-page hard-back book contains 104 pictures and illustrations from the author's own collection, many of which have not been published in books before. The front and back of the dust jacket is illustrated by two views of the High Street painted by local artist, David Harvey. The book is £15.99 and is available at W.H. Smith and other outlets.



Dear Editor

I write regarding the photographs on Page 7 of the Winter 07/08 Newsletter.

In my opinion the mysterious stones in the churchyard at St Martin's, Ryarsh, are evidence of the earlier boundaries of the area of consecrated ground. Saxon charters mention large stones as important boundary landmarks, and the church adopted the tradition with the addition of a carved cross on the outward side of the stone. This was immediately recognised by the population passing or entering the church.

Burial in consecrated ground was very important to the medieval culture, demonstrated by the priest being called urgently to a mother upon the birth of a child to effect baptism, thus protecting the child's soul should it die very young. Children were assumed born with 'original' sin, which needed to be expunged. An unbaptised child was buried outside consecrated ground and condemned to an afterlife in purgatory, or worse still, in hell.

Richard Bidgood

The following also relates to the Ryarsh stones. Two ancient stones in West Malling churchyard, described in an article of 1904, bear resemblance to those of Ryarsh.

Dear Editor

I was interested to read the article on the two stones in Ryarsh churchyard. Enclosed is an extract from 'A History of the Parish Church of St Mary, West Malling', compiled by Rev A W Lawson, vicar of West Malling, and Col. Stockley, Church Warden, with contributions from three members of the FSA and published in 1904.

Similar to the first stone in design, but without the broad crescent, to the ends of the cross, and the, so to say, crockets at the sides, are those low upright stones in Ryarsh churchyard, of a massive (local) iron sandstone from the Folkestone Sands. These stones have a cross in low relief at both back and front, and are supposed to be of pre-Reformation date. It is interesting to note the position of these stones. In our case (West Malling) they are both north of the church, and at Ryarsh the one is due north of the other, and in line with the west end of the nave.

The West Malling stones have grass cuttings from the mower on them and moss. I intend to clean them gently, and hand cut the grass round the edge. They ought to be better known.

John Noble

Dear Editor

In Issue 75, I wrote in support of our excellent Journal and hoped that it would continue to be published in hard-back. In response to an earlier query as to whether any other Journal of equivalent standing continues to be published in hard-back, I said that the Journal of the Sussex Archaeological Society (SAS) is.

In Issue 76, Lesley Feakes wrote to say that she is also a member of the SAS and that her copy is published in soft shiny covers. For the record, it is not my practice to write untruths and so that members don't think otherwise, confirm that my Sussex Journal always comes in hard-back. The SAS publish their Journal (actually called 'Collections') in both formats and members can choose which to have. Those of us who choose the hard-back version pay a little more for the privilege – otherwise they are identical, both in content and size.

Tom Hollobone

I have received several letters pointing out the format choice from the SAS; an interesting consideration for the current deliberations over the format of Arch Cant perhaps. Below is someone who believes he has found the (very tongue in cheek) answer... Ed

Dear Editor

Discussion of the format of Archaeologia Cantiana is going in the wrong direction. Rather than endless quibbles about the size of pages, we must question whether printed pages were a good idea in the first place.

Manuscript text on paper or parchment scrolls (gold for the wealthier among us) is pleasanter to read and approaches close to the mind of the author. Scrolls introduce no artificial page-breaks into our thought process. They encourage thorough reading rather than the sad modern habit of dipping into pages.

Papyri have been with us since the late 5th century BC and most of our medieval heritage is recorded upon parchment rolls – take for example the Great Roll of the Pipe. Besides which, parchments look so much better on the shelves of my scrollery.

Council really must choose this radical, yet traditional format for the 2009 volume of Archaeologia Cantiana.

Roger A C Cockett

MAIDSTONE MUSEUM CENTRE

This year Maidstone Museum & Bentsley Art Gallery celebrates its 150th birthday. First opened in 1858 in the beautiful Elizabethan Chillington Manor, the museum has grown to become one of the largest in the South East. This article gives an insight into the museum's foundation and its continued growth.

The museum's foundation was made possible due to the generous bequest of Dr Thomas Charles of Chillington Manor in 1855. Charles was a gentleman collector and had amassed an assortment of fine art and antiquities. His friend and later executor of his will Alexander Randall persuaded Charles to leave his collection to the town. This was on the understanding that in a suitable place, it could be kept together and used for study and inspiration. Following much discussion by the town council and public consultation, it was agreed that the creation of a museum – made possible by the



ABOVE: *Museum in 1858.*

OPPOSITE ABOVE: *Museum in late 19th/early 20th century.*

OPPOSITE BELOW: *Proposed extension.*

Ewart Act of 1850 and 1855 - would have great recreational and educational benefit for the county town of Kent and its people.

With a founding collection, the next problem was where to establish the museum? The Town Hall in Maidstone didn't offer suitable space and Chillington Manor was initially disregarded as it was in disrepair. However with foresight a decision was taken by the council to hire the building while the Charles bequest was being sorted; and in October 1856 they purchased the central portion for £1,200, spending a further £300 undertaking necessary repairs. On the 20th of January 1858, to the sound of pealing bells from All Saints' Church, the Charles Museum was opened to the public.

As the collections grew through donations and bequests, the museum expanded with public support. In 1868-9 the east wing, designed by the local architect Hubert Benstead, was built. This was

'LOCAL HISTORY IN BRITAIN AFTER HOSKINS' A CALL FOR PAPERS

On July 9-12 July 2009 a collaboration between the British Association for Local History and Leicester University will mark the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Local History in England* by W. Hoskins with a conference. Plenary lectures will be given by John Beckett, David Dymond and Sarah Pearson.

The Call for Papers on the following themes lasts until 1 September 2008:

1. History of local history.
2. Challenges to local history in the 21st century.
3. Identity and belonging.
4. Family, population and migration.

5. Culture and belief.
6. Sources, methods and techniques.
7. Community and society.
8. Making a living in town and country.

The papers will concern discoveries and interpretations from all periods, making points of general interest through research into particular places. Some contributions will reflect the connection between local history and other disciplines, and show how new methods and approaches work out in practice.

Paper proposals should take the form of a title (maximum 12 words) and a summary of contents (maximum 50 words). The theme (as above) should

be clearly indicated. The slot allocated for papers will be 25 minutes maximum. The committee hopes to be able to arrange for the publication of the conference proceedings. Paper presenters will need to register for the conference and pay the registration fee and accommodation charges. Some bursaries may be available.

Interested contributors should contact Christopher Dyer, Email: cd50@le.ac.uk Tel: 0116 252 2765.

For the conference, contact Gill Draper, Events and Development Officer, British Association for Local History, Email: development.balh@btinternet.com

ALLEN GROVE LOCAL HISTORY FUND

As there was only one application for a grant this year, only one was awarded. This was to James Sephton of Aylesford. His proposed book on the history of the church of St Peter & St Paul, Aylesford was considered worthy of support.

The trustees (who are the Officers of the Society) are concerned at the decline in the number of applications in recent years. If

anyone has any suggestions for improving the response, or for using the funds in other ways than making grants to individuals and groups, they would be pleased to hear of them through the Hon. General Secretary*. The main requirement is that the money is used for the purposes of research, preservation and enjoyment of local history.

The next grants will be awarded in 2009 and applications must be received by the

Hon. General Secretary* by the 31st March. He can supply the application form or it can be downloaded from the society's web site at <http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Society.htm>

* Andrew Moffat, Three Elms, Woodlands Lane, Shorne, Gravesend DA12 3HH. Email: secretary@kentarchaeology.org.uk.

CELEBRATES ITS 150th YEAR

quickly followed in 1871 by the purchase and rebuilding of the west wing. Funding was provided by Alexander Randall for the east wing and Julius Brenchley, Randall's nephews Samuel and Richard Mercer and public donations for the west wing.

Between 1870 and 1872 Brenchley, through the encouragement of the second curator Mr Lightfoot, paid over £6,000 for the grounds and dwellings surrounding the museum and church. The area was landscaped to provide for a town garden and a fitting surrounding to the museum, and is named Brenchley Gardens in memory of the great explorer. Under Randall, Lightfoot and Benstead's guidance, the museum was sympathetically restored and extended. Work continued and in 1874 the Tudor south wing from East Farleigh Court Lodge was rescued and rebuilt behind the museum, followed later by a chapel and observation tower. Flanked by new wings the Elizabethan façade looked untidy and in 1875 Mr Laurence paid for its refurbishment.

The next big development came in 1890 when the Bentlif wing, again designed by Benstead, was erected. In the 1920s a further wing to house a collection of Baxter prints donated by Lady Bearsted and Japanese art donated by



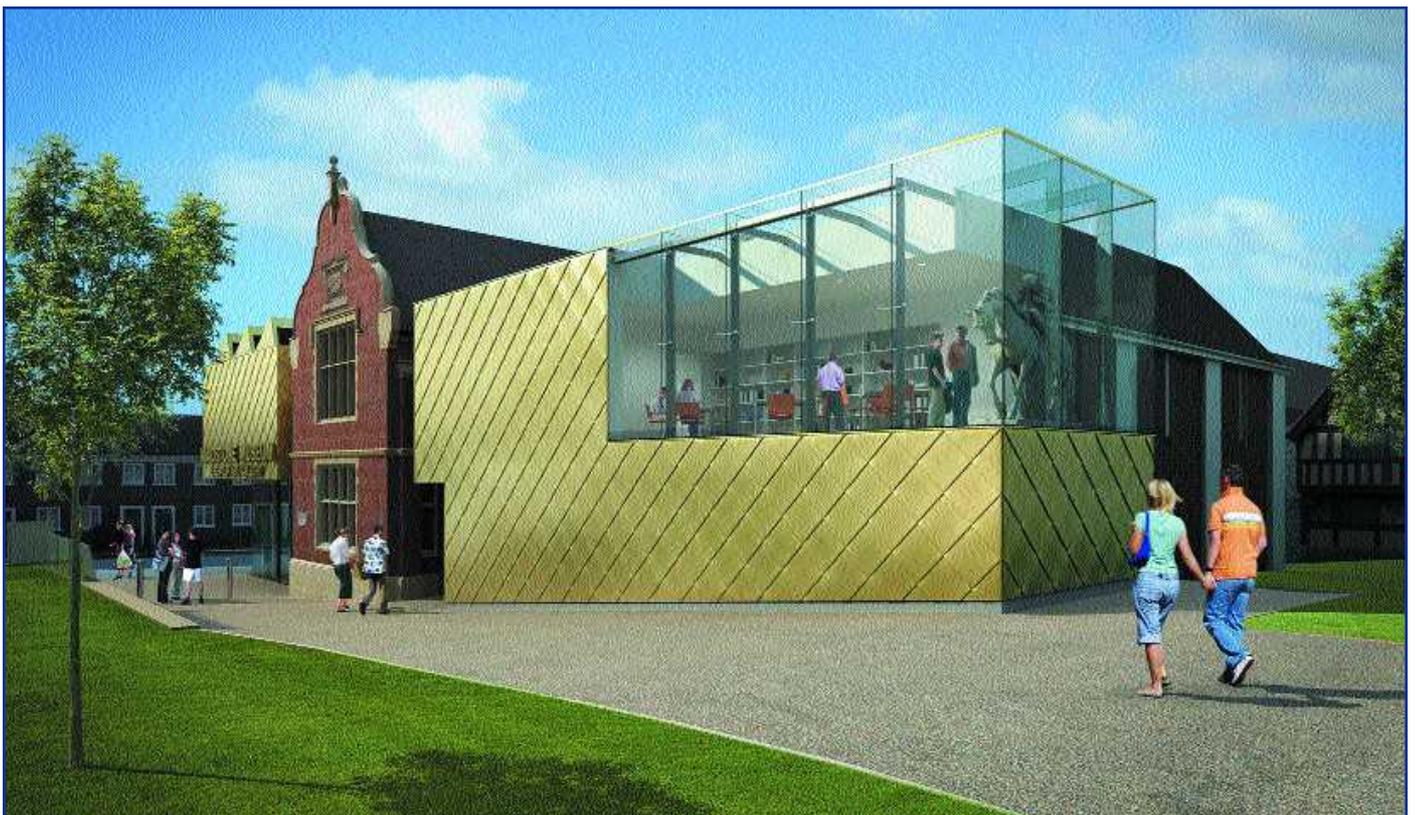
her son Sir Walter Samuel was added. Finally in the 1970s a purpose built museum store was created.

From the outset the museum has relied upon the support of donors and benefactors to grow into one of the best museums to be found in the South East. In its 150th year the museum is looking forward to another period of growth with the development of the east wing to provide new visitor facilities, education spaces, exhibition spaces and enhanced storage facilities to meet the needs of

our 21st century audience.

With over 600,000 objects and space to 'wander, wonder and adore' the museum continues to be a place for inspiration and education for the people and visitors to the county town of Kent.

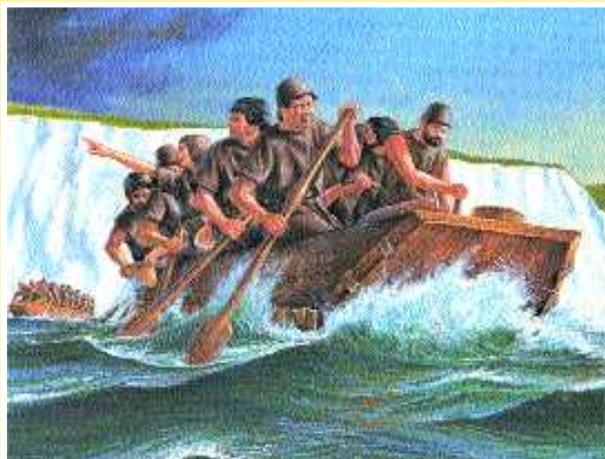
The museum is free to enter and open daily 10-5:15pm Monday to Saturdays and 11-4pm on Sundays. Telephone 01622 602838 or go to www.museum.maidstone.gov.uk for further information about exhibitions and events.



DOVER BOAT REBORN

In the summer of 2010 a full size replica of the Dover Bronze Age boat will cross the channel from England to the shores of France, the first time such a voyage has been made in a vessel of this type for three and a half millennia. That at least is the hope of an international team of archaeologists, naval architects, ancient wood-working specialists, academics, museum curators and other specialists who have put together an ambitious scheme to build the replica under the aegis of the Dover Bronze Age Boat Trust (DBABT). Experts from Belgium, England, France and Holland have put together a three-year programme of research and construction to learn more about the famous 3,500-year-old boat, now on display in Dover Museum, and to explore how Bronze Age communities kept in contact across the seas.

Peter Clark, Deputy Director of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust and a Trustee of the DBABT is leading the project. 'There are two main aims to the scheme' he said, 'first there is a limit to how much we can learn studying the ancient boat timbers themselves; even today there remain many questions about how the boat was built, what seas it could negotiate and what cargo it could carry. The only way we can learn more about these issues is to build a



replica and put it in the water to test which theories and ideas work best. The second aim is to learn more about the peoples who built and used the boat. More and more evidence has come to light in recent years that Bronze Age communities in the transmanche area had a very similar culture, quite different to that of contemporary societies inland. The only way in which this cross-channel commu-

nity could have maintained itself was by using boats like that found in Dover'.

Work has already started, with a small team of experts re-assessing the original timbers, planning to prepare blueprints for a half-scale replica to be built in 2009. Having ironed out any problems with this smaller prototype, a full scale version will be built



early in 2010 and the historic crossing to France made later that year. The replica boat will then form the centrepiece of a travelling exhibition focussing on the Bronze Age Connections between communities on either side of the Channel

'A critical aspect of the project is education and cross-border co-operation' Peter continued, 'I very much want to get schoolchildren and students from all four countries involved; by studying and celebrating the connections between our communities in the distant past, we hope to foster new connections and better understanding of our mutual heritage'.

Fund raising for the project has now started in earnest; the three-year programme will cost several hundred thousand pounds. 'We are optimistic that the European Union will see fit to financially support the project', Peter said, 'but we will need matching funding for any grant they make, and more critically we are short of funds for the preparatory work during the coming year.'

Donations or financial sponsorship should be sent to the DBABT c/o Dover Museum, Market Square, Dover CT16 1PB.

Pete Clark

ABOVE LEFT: Artist's impression of the Dover boat at sea. Will this scene become reality in 2010?

ABOVE RIGHT: Piecing the original boat back together in 1999; the ancient timbers have not yet given up all their secrets; experimental archaeology is the only way forward.

Copy deadline for the next issue in October is Monday September 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: 07920 548906 during work hours please.

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