



# HOLLINGBOURNE FOUNDER'S HOARD

**O**n Sunday 12th January 2003, David Button, a metal detectorist from Sittingbourne, was detecting on farmland near Hollingbourne. As the light was fading he recovered a length of copper alloy blade, and then, about 12m away, a large socketed axehead, also of copper alloy. Both were clearly of Bronze Age date.

The scope of the Treasure Act had been extended on January 1st to include two or more associated prehistoric base metal finds. Realising that the blade and axehead were possibly part of a dispersed hoard, and therefore could constitute treasure, David telephoned Andrew Richardson, the Finds Liaison Officer for Kent, who is based with Kent County Council. It was agreed to meet at the site the following Wednesday afternoon, along with the farmer, Michael Summerfield. Upon arrival the positions of the two findspots were located and marked, and a sweep of the area around these was made by metal detector. Further signals were immediately noted, and these were plotted and then dug. This resulted in the finding of a further 11 Bronze Age artefacts, consisting of 4 socketed axeheads, 4 lengths of double-edged blade, 2 'cakes' and part of one sword or dagger handle. All the objects were of copper alloy, and all were incomplete, the axeheads having either the end of the blade or the end of the socket broken off in antiqui-



Top: The BBC crew film as the hoard (below) begins to emerge.

ty. The regularity of the breaks, combined with the presence of the cakes, suggested a smith's (founder's) hoard of scrap metal. The finds were deposited in the British Museum the following day, and it was confirmed that this hoard represented the first find in the country to fall within the scope of the extended Treasure Act.

A further sweep of the area some days later, using a more powerful detector, resulted in the finding of one further ingot and part of a sword handle, bringing the total number of artefacts recovered to 15. These were all found within the ploughsoil, which consists of heavy grey clay no more than about 30cm deep. The finds were distributed across a roughly crescent-shaped area about 15m by 10m across, and clearly represented a hoard that had been dispersed by the action of the plough.

Given the possibility that further

artefacts might remain to be recovered, and in the hope that part of the hoard might remain in situ, an excavation of the findspot was organised. This took place on the weekend of 1st to 2nd March, and was led by Andrew Richardson and Simon Mason of KCC Heritage Conservation. Stuart Cakebread, SMR officer with Heritage Conservation, also assisted, along with volunteers from KCC, Maidstone Area Archaeological Group, the Kent Archaeological Society, the Lenham Archaeological Society and Giles Guthrie, curator of Maidstone Museum. David Button also took part, along with fellow detectorist Terry Bodily. The excavation was filmed by the BBC as part of their forthcoming series "Hidden Treasure", which is due to air in September.

An area 4m by 4m was excavated by hand in the centre of the zone where most of the finds had been made, but no further artefacts were recovered from this trench, and no features were noted. Sweeps across the general area by the four metal detectorists present revealed only a few finds, notably a silver coin of Elizabeth I in very good condition, but no further Bronze Age artefacts were found until about 3pm on Saturday 1st, when Gill Davies located a socketed axehead downhill from the scatter found previously. Further finds were then located in a very concentrated area, and more signals were noted. It seemed probable that the source of the hoard, or indeed a second hoard, had been located, and the following day a trench was opened around the area of these finds. In addition, the first trench was extended in the hope that more material might be recovered from this area. In the event, no further Bronze Age artefacts were recovered from the latter trench, but

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**OTHER COURSES**

**Archaeology with the University of Kent**

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

The part-time evening programmes leading to the Certificate in Archaeological Studies (at Canterbury) and the Diploma and BA in Archaeological Studies (at Canterbury and Tonbridge) are recruiting for entry in September 2003.

Programmes in Classical & Archaeological Studies, History & 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 Unit for Regional Learning, Keynes College, University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NP. Tel 0800 9753777 (24 hours). Email: part-time@ukc.ac.uk

**The Kent Archaeological Field School** offers many practical archaeology courses including Field Walking, Archaeobotany, Aerial Photography, Bones & Burials, Prehistoric Woodwork and

Surveying. They also offer local excavation work and field trips in Britain to Bath & the Roman Cotswolds and Hadrian's Wall, and abroad to the Bay of Naples and Roman Provence. For further details see the flyer enclosed in this issue or tel: 01795 532548 email: info@kafs.co.uk or log onto www.kafs.co.uk.

**OTHER EVENTS**

**Thanet Archaeological Society Saturday 15th November ~ Meet the Local Archaeologists**

Displays, slide shows, talk to the archaeologists, make a mosaic, bookstall and refreshments. 2.30-4.30 at St Peter's Church Hall, St Peter's, Broadstairs. Admission £2.00 on the door.

**North Downs Young Archaeologists' with the Museum of Kent Life**

**Sunday 20th July** ~ National Archaeology Days Event ~ '100 Years of Transition' 11am - 4pm in the Museum of Kent Life, Cobtree, Lock Lane, Sandling, Maidstone.

Life in the late Iron Age and beyond with the coming of Rome. Come and meet the tribe of the Cantiaci, make a pot, be woad-painted, taste ancient recipes, make Roman sandals, design a chariot, create Celtic and Roman jewellery and much more. Display of artefacts of the period from Maidstone Museum, some for handling, and information stands from archaeological groups. A great family day out, not to be missed.

**'CHURCH AND MONASTERY IN ANGLO-SAXON AND MEDIEVAL SOCIETY'**  
Saturday 26th April from 10am.

Name.....  
Address.....

Please supply ..... tickets @ £8.00 KAS members  
..... tickets @ £10.00 non-members

Cheque for £.....enclosed made payable to the Kent Archaeological Society  
Please enclosed a 8x4 inch SAE for the return of your tickets, time table and campus map.

Send this form to: Prof. Sean Greenwood, History Dept., (Conf.tickets) Canterbury Christchurch University College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury CT1 1QU

**KAS CHURCHES COMMITTEE OUTING**

Saturday May 3rd. I would like to meet at Allhallows at 1.45 for 2pm

Name.....  
Address.....

Phone.....

I enclose £.....for visit I enclose £.....for tea

Cheques to Kent Archaeological Society  
Replies to Philip Lawrence, Barnfield, Church Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge TN12 5JJ (01622 871945) margaret.society@virgin.net

**KAS SUMMER SOCIAL EVENING**

Saturday May 31st. 4.00 Great Chart Church. 5.30 Godinton House.

Please send .....tickets for the Social Evening. I enclose £.....

Name.....  
Address.....

Phone.....email.....

I would like help with transport.....

Cheques to Kent Archaeological Society  
SAE to Mrs.M.Lawrence, Barnfield, Church Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 5JJ (01622 871945) margaret.society@virgin.net

**KAS NEW HORIZONS LECTURE SEASON**

'Problems in Archaeology' by Alan Ward on Saturday 7th June in Canterbury

Please supply ..... tickets @ £2 KAS members  
..... tickets @ £3 non members

Name.....  
Address.....

Advance tickets from the Box Office, Canterbury Bookings, 12/13 Sun Street, The Buttermarket, Canterbury CT1 2HX tel: 01227 378188 fax: 01227 378101 email: boxoffice@canterbury.gov.uk.

Tickets are on sale at the Box Office until 11.30am on the day of the event, thereafter any remaining tickets available at the door

**KAS 'LECTURES IN THE LIBRARY'**

Kent Sources I by Dr Jacqueline Bower on Saturday 3rd May  
Please supply ..... tickets @ £2 each  
Kent Sources II by Dr Jacqueline Bower on Saturday 28th May  
Please supply ..... tickets @ £2 each

Name.....  
Address.....

Please enclose a SAE with your cheque and send to Denis Anstey, 86 Malling Road, Snodland ME6 5ND

These forms may be photocopied if you do not want to cut up your newsletter.

















# 15th Century Stained Glass at Sandhurst

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In the south aisle of St Nicholas Church, Sandhurst are two windows which hold glass dating from the fifteenth century. Both windows are reconstructions; a brass inscription on a window sill tells us the work was carried out in 1929 in memory of members of the Cleland family. The glass was moved from the north aisle, where some fragmentary glass remains in the tracery of the north window. This aisle is still known as the Betherinden Chapel and, according to a notice in the church, was built by one Sir Richard de Betherinden, who died in 1455. Hasted says that in the glass in the chapel there were formerly effigies and arms of this family, and also that there was once in Downe church a memorial for John Berenden, citizen, wool-draper and chamberlain of London, who died in 1445.

Not enough glass survives to enable one to draw any clear conclusions on what the 15th century glazing scheme at Sandhurst might have been, but there is sufficient to make out one partial and four almost complete figures. On the east wall of the south aisle, in the middle light, is the golden winged figure of St Michael (fig. 1). His face is now largely obliterated but his streaming hair, with a three-stemmed flower rising from a band on his forehead, fills a decorated halo. He wears the habit of a priest, an amice ornamented with flowers, and a cope with a circle design on its border. His left hand is raised in benediction and his right hand holds a balance on which he is weighing souls. On the left, the hairy legs of the lost soul dangle outside the weighing dish and his wide-eyed, tongue-lolling aspect (fig. 2) contrasts with the serenity of the saved soul on the right (fig. 3).

The eastern window of the south wall has two lights with a quatrefoil above, in which is the head of a young man, in the Pre-Raphaelite style, which could date from the restoration by R.H. Carpenter in 1875 (see John Newman, in the Buildings of England Series, *West Kent and the Weald*), but is more likely to have been inserted when the window was reconstructed in 1929. In the left light, amid a jumble of fragments of canopy, is the figure of St George (fig. 4). He wears full plate armour of the mid fifteenth-centu-

ry with the visor of the bascinet raised to show his face. He holds a lance in one gauntleted and one bare hand and thrusts its point into the mouth of a dragon whose tail curls round his right leg. Below St George is part of another figure (fig. 5) in a gown, with what appears to be a scourge in his hands. The scourge is the attribute of St Boniface but there is insufficient evidence here to make a positive identification.

One can, however, be more positive about the remaining two figures in the right hand light, each framed within a twist of cable. Newman identifies them as a priest and an abbess, an attribution repeated by later writers, e.g. by June Osborne in *Stained Glass in England* (1981). However, although the dress of the figures is that of a priest and an abbess, both have haloes so they must be more than mere ecclesiastics. They must be saints. The priest figure (fig. 6) carries a Tau (T) cross staff and at his feet trots a pig, wearing a belled collar (fig. 7), both attributes of St Anthony of Egypt.

St Anthony was born in Upper Egypt in the third century; he distributed his wealth among the poor and led a hermit's existence in the desert for many years. On the back of the choir stalls in Carlisle Cathedral is this painted inscription: *Then liveth he in wilder-*

especially that which now bears his name, 'St Anthony's fire'. An Order of Hospitallers of St Anthony was formed c. 1300 and they would ring a small bell to attract alms. The bells were then hung round animals' necks to protect them from disease. Two wills, of Robert Kryar, 1487, and Richard Sone, 1529, leave money for a lamp to burn before the image of St Anthony in Sandhurst church.

The figure of the abbess (fig. 8) is dressed as a nun with veil and wimple and an overmantle. In her right hand is an abbesses' staff and in her left, a book with a decorated cover. Her halo is filled with lines and is more prominent than that of St Anthony (St George either did not have one or it got lost in the reconstruction). This is almost certainly St Clare, the foundress of the present Order of the Poor Clares, which is based on the teachings of St Francis. Born in Assisi c. 1194 she became abbess of a convent there in 1215, a convent she was never to leave although Clare nuns spread throughout Europe. She died in 1253.

As Newman says, the



fig 1



fig 2



fig 3

ness XX year or more. Without any company but the wilde boar. His 'Temptations' were the subject of numerous paintings by, amongst others, Bosch, Bruegel and Grünewald. Generally regarded as the founder of monasticism, he was invoked as a cure for disease,



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## PAUL ASHBEE MA, D.Litt, FSA, FRSAI

**E**lected as a Patron of the KAS last year, Paul Ashbee's work over five decades has laid much of the foundations of archaeological knowledge today, particularly of prehistory.

Born just as the first world war was drawing to a close and growing up in Bearsted, he shone at history and geography at school in Maidstone, and later at German, although a 'cut glass' accent, combined with reaching 6 foot by the age of 12, generated teasing. The nearby County Library meant access to archaeology texts, and lunchtimes were often spent in Maidstone Museum. Fascinated by the worked flint displayed, and under the tutelage of curator Norman Cook, Paul began his own search, finding axe roughouts at Thurnham and Detling, besides locating various surface industries. Some of Bearsted's older residents still remember him revealing the wall lines and opus signinum floors of Thurnham's Roman Villa in 1933.

He joined the Royal West Kent Regiment in 1939 and gained a lance corporal's stripe in 1940; the accent seemed to help. When at Haverfordwest he was interviewed for especial work and was asked, amongst other things, if he knew what 'rundfunk'\* meant. His ability with the German language was used from time to time in Germany and from 1946 in the Control Commission for Germany. Paul's English-accented German was thought useful by many. In Germany until 1949, his mind still returned to matters archaeological and the problem of breaking into the profession, as he had seen Aachen, all the megalithic chambers near Osnabruck, Köln Lindenthal, the Eifel and various other places.

He approached the University of London's Institute of Archaeology and was sent by a kindly, encouraging, Gordon Childe to have a word with Dr Wheeler - as Sir Mortimer was then known. Whilst working in 1949 on the Wheeler excavations at St Albans he met Richmal, Secretary, and later President, of the University of London's Archaeological Society, which had a programme of talks and visits. It was a fortuitous empty seat next to hers on top of a Baker Street double-decker bus that led to recruitment for the 1951 excavations at Mawgan Porth in Cornwall and later to their marriage. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in style last year.

Between 1949 and 1976, Paul excavated barrows, round and long, for the then Ministry of Works, using Cyril Fox's ideas and Wheeler's discipline.



Of note was Fussell's Lodge, the Horslip long barrow and the Amesbury group. In the climate of subsidised excavations, he realised that barrows were the only type of monument that could be *fully* excavated. Throughout the '50s he averaged 2 barrows a year, taking around 7 months to write up each excavation. He talks of growing up with prehistory in an atmosphere of independent endeavour, taking responsibility for each step of a project.

Only an outline of Paul's numerous undertakings is possible here, but amongst the best known is Sutton Hoo in the '60's with Rupert Bruce Mitford, when the re-excavation of the relict barrow and the dumped spoil from the 30's allowed the recovery of the many pieces of the kingly funerary gear which had been broken by the collapse of the mortuary structure. He was involved in the innovative Experimental Earthworks Project, a long term experiment which set up banks and ditches, complete with buried artefacts, in 1960 and '63 at Overton Down and Wareham respectively, to study the process of, primarily, weathering and denudation.

Besides periodic visits to Ireland, he spent 17 years returning to Halangy Down on the Isles of Scilly, the individuality of the island environment having great attraction, the archaeology spanning nearly 3000 years, "the stone building remains being a palimpsest of fishing and agriculture through the

ages". Paul recalls Harold Wilson turning up on site as he walked around St Mary's every Easter Monday. A by-product of these excavations was the 1974 publication of *Ancient Scilly*, followed by full publication of *Halangy Down* in 1996.

Other landmark publications have been *The Bronze Age Round Barrow in Britain* in 1960 and its counterpart *The Earthen Long Barrow in Britain* ten years later, *The Ancient British*, in print for 10 years from 1978, and the *Wilsford Shaft* report produced in 1989.

Despite having lived in Norfolk since his appointment to the University of East Anglia in 1968, he suffers from bouts of nostalgia for Kent. His early experiences with hops and fruit have produced a frustrated agriculturalist which has some outlet in his recent Vice Presidency of the Norfolk Agricultural Association. The annual Norfolk Show is always enjoyable, particularly when translating for German buyers of Norfolk pedigree cattle!

Admitting also to acute bibliophilia, his enthusiasm probably saved his life during the war. Unable to resist the sight of a bookcase crammed with texts in gothic script, he entered a ruined house near Kleve in the northern Rhineland to investigate. A shell landed directly outside the window, where he had stood but a moment before.

Romantic English verse is another passion; his students often had Kipling quoted at them ~ "Puck's song is *full* of archaeology..." His love of historical architecture was, from time to time, put to use during his time as an RCHME Commissioner between 1975 and '85.

Although Paul asserts that "*I am an Ancient Monument*", he continues, despite 'official' retirement from the UEA in 1983, to be prolific in his output and has seen nearly 40 works published in the intervening years. Currently he is working on *The Prehistory of Kent*, to be published in summer 2004. KAS members, and all with an interest in our county, look forward to this work and many others to follow in the future.

*The Editor*

\*broadcasting

*Copy deadline for the next issue in July is Monday June 2nd  
The editor wishes to draw attention to the fact that neither she nor the Council of the KAS are answerable for opinions which contributors may express in their signed articles; each author is alone responsible for the contents and substance of their work.*

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