

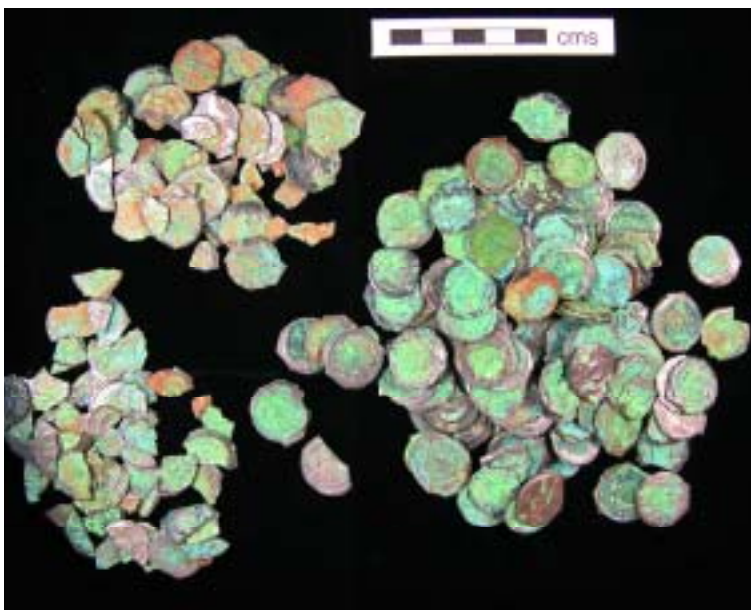


THURNHAM POTIN HOARD

On Wednesday 5th November 2003, Peter and Christine Johnson obtained permission from a farmer to do some metal detecting on arable land at Thurnham. Walking onto the field that the farmer had indicated, they began to find a number of coins spread across an area of about 10 square metres. Initially Peter and Christine were not sure of the date of the coins. They informed the farmer of their find, and then returned home to see if they could discover more. Research on the Internet soon identified the coins as Iron Age Potins; cast coins of high tin bronze. Many of the coins still retained traces of the sprue from which they had been snapped.

Returning on subsequent days the Johnsons recovered more coins from the same area. Further coins were also recovered by John Darvill and Nigel Betts of the Mid-Kent Search and Recovery Club, who also had permission to detect on the land. In total 145 more or less complete coins, and a further 80 fragments were recovered by 21st November. In the meantime, the finders notified the coroner of the find, since the coins clearly represented a dispersed hoard, and were therefore potential Treasure. They also contacted the Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for Kent, Andrew Richardson.

All the Potins were of Flat Linear I type, depicting a highly stylised human bust on the obverse, and butting bull on the reverse. One of the coins however was of an unusual style, with no



Above: Complete and fragmented potins.



obvious parallel (pictured over-leaf). The hoard was also examined by David Holman, Kent's leading Iron Age coins expert, who had also not seen such a coin before.

Given the rarity of Potin hoards (only about 14 have been recorded, of which very few have been archaeologically investigated) it was decided to carry out an excavation at the find spot, with a view to recovering as many further coins as possible, and also to try to locate the point of deposition of the hoard, and see if any of it remained in situ. This excavation took place on a sunny but cold Sunday in early December. The team

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TOP MARKS FOR SCHOOL'S ARCHAEOLOGY CENTRE

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 ARCHAEOLOGY CENTRE AT VALLEY PARK SCHOOL

Pupils at Valley Park Community School in Maidstone have a new amenity, a purpose-built archaeology centre and museum in the school grounds. The KAS Education Committee has provided a laptop computer for use within the centre. Pam Johnson, Head of History at the school, instigated and co-ordinated the design, construction and furnishing of the centre and is delighted that pupils will be able to further explore their interest in their after-school club.

The centre was officially opened by the Mayor of Maidstone, Morel de Souza, and Phil Harding of 'Time Team', as part of a day of activities designed around the Vinters Estate and the Whatman family. In the morning pupils investigated the landscape and remains within Vinters Park, led by Ian Coulson; workshops in



the afternoon included Victorian washday, paper making and also flint knapping by Phil Harding.

Valley Park pupils listen intently to an explanation of knapping techniques

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consisted of the Johnsons along with Keith Stafford, Nigel Betts and John Darvill of the Mid-Kent Search and Recovery Club, Caspar Johnson of Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Team, David Holman, and three members of the Kent Archaeological Society. The Portable Antiquities Scheme was represented by Andrew Richardson (Kent FLO) and Liz Wilson (Sussex FLO). The excavation was an excellent example of co-operation, at both an individual and organisational level, between professional and amateur archaeologists, and metal detectorists.

A hand-dug trench removed the ploughsoil across the central area where the coins had been found, revealing stiff orange clay-with-flints at a depth of about 25cm. The trench and spoil were thoroughly metal detected during excavation, as was the immediate area around the dig. No archaeo-

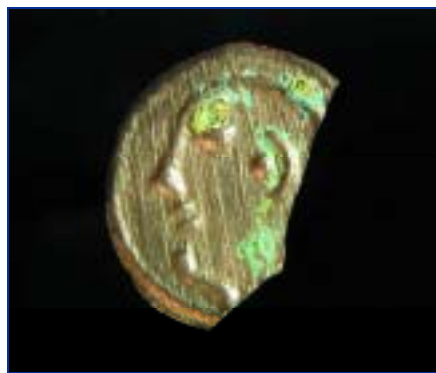
logical features were observed, and no archaeological materials, other than Potins, were discovered. Of the latter, a further 59 more or less complete coins, and 78 fragments were recovered. An area of approximately 1 square metre with a concentration of largely complete coins was identified, and this probably represented the original point of deposition. Ploughing had dispersed coins across a roughly oval area about 20m by 10m, with the area of concentrated finds lying roughly at the centre of this area. The number of damaged and fragmentary coins appeared to increase the further they were from the central zone.

The apparent lack of any pit cut into the clay subsoil, or of any finds other than Potins, suggests that this find represents an isolated hoard, probably contained within an organic pouch or bag and

deposited in a shallow pit. Flat Linear I Potins date to between circa 100-50 BC. We are likely to be able to learn much from further study of this hoard, but unfortunately the reason why someone buried these coins sometime during the 1st century BC and never returned for them is probably lost forever.

*Andrew Richardson
 Kent Finds Liaison Officer*

Obverse of the unusual potin.



STOP PRESS

As we go to print, another huge hoard has come to light, this time at Crundale and dating to the Bronze Age, consisting of axeheads, spearheads, sword blades and cast copper cake fragments (these last alone weighing 9kg!). Further details in the April edition.



THE SOCIETY AND THE INTERNET

Half of all households in the UK now have a connection to the internet – Oftel

..... *The Times, Business 27.10.03*

The great advantage of internet publishing is that it is freely available to the world community at negligible cost to the Society. The Society is capable of fulfilling its educational and publishing role both locally and internationally. Half the homes in the UK are now able to access and

download our on-line publications.

Internet and electronic publishing can accommodate items of any length, profusely illustrated and in colour without additional cost. If the files are very large they are more suitable for publication on a CD. In addition to indexing, notation and bibliography in traditional publication, electronic publication includes the ability to word search the publication and provide page thumbnails and bookmarks.

With internet and electronic publishing the end user has full control. They may decide to read the publication on their computer screen or they may choose to print out all or part of it. As far as the Society is concerned, the decision as to the size of a print run and the prospect of storing unsold publications is eliminated.

The Society's internet publishing facility can be found at <http://www.kentarchaeology.ac> and select 'articles'. Full details on how to submit articles can be found on the site or in previous editions of this newsletter.

CHURCHES COMMITTEE COMPETITION

The Churches Committee of the KAS is promoting a competition for the best essay on an unusual, puzzling or bizarre feature of some church within the ancient county of Kent. Such an article should be between 500 and 1000 words in length and would attract a prize of £100. The article will

be marked giving credit both to the nature of the feature involved and also to the clarity and liveliness of the description. We are anxious to attract entries from the widest possible range of contributors and consequently are not looking particularly for entrants with academic qualifications. The competition was featured on Radio Kent in November and is open to non-KAS members.

The final date for submissions will be 15 May 2004 and entries should be sent to:

Mrs S Petrie
Sunninglye Farmhouse
Bells Yew Green
Tunbridge Wells
TN3 9AG

THE ALLEN GROVE LOCAL HISTORY FUND

The late Allen Grove left a legacy to the Kent Archaeological Society to establish this fund to be used for the purposes of research, preservation and enjoyment of local history. The trustees will consider applications for grants for any project with one or more of these purposes. Projects may be practical ones such as presentation, publication and education as well as research.

Grants may be made to societies and groups as well as to individuals and are not restricted to members of the K.A.S. They are usually around £200 to £400 each but the trustees would consider a larger grant for a particularly imaginative or innovative project which might not be able to proceed without the grant. Awards may not be announced until the summer or autumn of 2004.

Applications should be submitted, on the official application form, by the 31 March 2004. Application forms and further information may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary: Mr A I Moffat, Three Elms, Woodlands Lane, Shorne, Gravesend DA12 3HH, or by email to secretary@kentarchaeology.org.uk.

Other grants

The Society has other grant programmes.

Fieldwork grants may be obtained from the Fieldwork Committee and applications should be sent to its Hon. Secretary: David Bacchus at Telford Lodge, Roebuck Road, Rochester ME1 1UD.

The Society's Kent Local History Fund makes grants to assist with serious research leading to publication. They are only made to societies affiliated to the K.A.S or the Kent History Federation and members of those societies or the K.A.S., professional historians and post graduate students are not eligible to apply. Application forms can be obtained from Dr James Gibson, 27 Pine Grove, Maidstone ME14 2AJ.

THE HIGHAM PRIORY PROJECT

Archaeological & Historic Building Research
The KAS Fieldwork Committee are looking into the possibility of carrying out a programme of archaeological and historic building research work across the general area covered by Higham Priory and its surrounding environs. The purpose of this work is to continue the archaeologi-

cal work carried out by Peter Tester, and broaden the research to include a detailed understanding with regard to the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval development of this area.

The Fieldwork Committee are looking for people or archaeological/historical groups who would be interested in helping with the planning-development of the project, car-

rying out archaeological/historical research, site survey, archaeological fieldwork – excavation, historic building recording and post-excavation work, at Higham Priory. If you are interested in this project, please contact:

Anthony Thomas BA (Hons), MIFA
32 Herbert Road, Bexleyheath,
Kent DA7 4QF
Tel: 020 8306 7043 or 07931 660120

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Winter 2003/4

Lectures, Conferences, Courses and Events

KAS EVENTS

The KAS History & Archaeology Show Saturday 5 June at Maidstone Museum

Keep this date free in your diary! Further details will appear in the April newsletter.

KAS AGM

Saturday 15 May at Canterbury Christchurch University College.

With guest speaker Jill Eddison on 'Romney Marsh: Survival on a Frontier'

Fuller details can be found on page 8

OTHER EVENTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

CONFERENCES

KAS Churches Committee Outing

Saturday 24 April

You are invited to visit the two east Kent churches of Crundale and Godmersham. We meet at Crundale at 1.45 for 2pm. Tea and biscuits will be provided at Godmersham. Tour £2 (students £1) with £1 for tea. Please return enclosed booking form by 17 April. Replies to Philip Lawrence, Barnfield, Church Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge TN12 5JJ tel: 01622 871945

KAS Place-Names Field Day

'Place-Names in the Weald'

Saturday 17 July 10am-4pm at the Free Church, Staplehurst.

Dr Paul Cullen of Nottingham University will give a lecture followed by a power point presentation. Further details and booking forms will appear in the April newsletter.

KAS 'Lectures in the Library' series. Saturdays at 11am in the KAS Library in Maidstone Museum.

Tickets £2 each; reservations can be made to pay on arrival by telephoning Denis Anstey on 01634 240015 or email d@degjan.demon.co.uk. Members are reminded that they should sign in and out with their membership card at the museum reception.

24 January

History and Archaeology Research on the Internet by Dr Jacqueline Bower

14 February

Writing up Your Research by Dr Jacqueline Bower. How to approach writing up, whether for an academic essay, a published article or just for pleasure.

13 March

Tonbridge People in the Seventeenth Century by Dr C W Chalklin

The Great House, from the Roman Villa to the Stately Home: Perspectives & Prospects on Monday 26 to Wednesday 28 January, the Institute of Historical Research.

The great house has been an abiding feature of Britain's political, social, economic, cultural and architectural history. Although forms were necessarily varied and divergent across two millennia, there are common themes concerning the functioning and the perception of these great houses. Wide participation is encouraged from individuals, groups, organisations and constituencies with an interest and concern in the great house. Speakers are too numerous to mention here, but include Barry Cunliffe and David Rudkin on Villas, the Duke & Duchess of Devonshire on Chatsworth, Simon Jenkins from The Times, Simon Thurley of English Heritage and Ian Coulson of KCC. Representatives of the VCH, Country Life, National Trust, Historic Houses Assoc., Hamlyn Foundation, British Museum and the Institute of Historical Research will also speak.

Cost: £65 Member/Friend of IHR, £95 non-Member, £30 Postgrad or Unwaged.

All sessions take place at the IHR in the Beveridge Hall, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU. Further details from the Conference Secretary at this address or tel: 020 7862 8740 email: ihrsec@sas.ac.uk

Cobham Hall Study Weekend

16-18 April

One of the greatest of English country houses, this conference will address issues of history and interpretation and will provide an opportunity to look at the history, architecture and setting of this multi-phase house, its park and garden buildings.

Non residential £160, residential £195 per person. All meals are included in the price plus a concert in the Gilt Hall on Saturday.

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Winter 2003/4

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A.G.M. 2004

Canterbury will be the location of the Society's annual general meeting on the 15 May this year. The business meeting will be in the morning at Canterbury Christ Church University College and we hope to be supported by the attendance of plenty of members.

After the business there will be a presentation by the Library Committee about its work which includes the Society's archives and website. Jill Eddison will be giving the afternoon lecture *Romney Marsh: Survival on a Frontier*. She is well known for her work on the history of the Marsh and recently appeared on a television programme about the area.

The results of the elections will be announced at the A.G.M. Nominations can be submitted for any office; it is a sign of an active society if there is competition for office.

Any five members can propose a candidate for election as a member of the Council or as an officer. Nominations have to be received by the Hon. General Secretary by the 1 March at the latest and must be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate.

Further information and guidance can be obtained from the Hon. General Secretary, Mr A I Moffat, Three Elms, Woodlands Lane, Shorne, Gravesend DA12 3HH; email: secretary@kentarchaeology.org.uk. Although an application form does not have to be used, he can supply a suitable form.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Thank you to all of you who have sent your subscription renewals to me recently. Would those who pay by banker's order please check your January statements as banks are not as reliable as they used to be - some even pay annual subscriptions monthly!

At the December Council meeting it was agreed that a list of new members should appear in the newsletter as well as in *Archaeologia Cantiana*.

I am pleased to welcome the following:

HONORARY MEMBER

Mr D H Clifton, Abbey Farm, Minster, Ramsgate, Kent, CT10 4HQ

JOINT MEMBERS

Mr L Cunningham & Miss L Horner, 46 Cross Lane West, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 7PY

JUNIOR MEMBERS

Mr J Davis, 19 Chestnut Place, Cowden, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 7HZ
Miss C L Ingham, Walnut Tree Cottage, High Street, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0DG

ORDINARY MEMBERS

Miss J A Batchelor, Oastlands, Hermitage Road, Higham, Rochester, Kent, ME3 7NF
Mr N. Bates, 42 Beaumont Avenue, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 4TJ
Mr C P Butler, Rosedale, Berwick, Polegate, Sussex, BN26 6TB
Mr A G Crampton, Pix's Cottage, Mount Lane, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 4NX
Mrs H A Ingram, Springfield, Old London Road, Knockholt, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 7JR
Mr K C Isted, 14 Common Road, Bluebell Hill, Chatham, Kent, ME5 9RG
Mrs C King, 4 Boughton Place Cottages, Sandway, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 2BD
Miss L E Lyddon, Bowden Court, 24 Ladbroke Road, London, W11 3NN
Mr J E Maxted, Providence House, The Street, Smarden, Ashford, Kent
Ms L Millgate, 33 Chantlers Mead, Cowden, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 7HU
Sir Roger Moate, Calico House, The Street, Newnham, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 0LN
Mr P Nash, 4 Reeves Close, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 0NN
Ms E Smith, 140 Ploughmans Way, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 8LP
Mr E L Stuckey, 32 Albermarle Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0HL
Mrs M-A Young, Park View, Ninn Lane, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent, TN23 3DB

Shiela Broomfield

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.

ABBEY FARM EXCAVATION

The KAS, in conjunction with the Trust for Thanet Archaeology, will be holding an eighth season of excavation at Abbey Farm, near Ramsgate. Settlement here spans from prehistoric times through to the Anglo Saxon period. As most members know, the site is dominated by a large Roman Villa complex. Work will commence on Sunday August 15 2004 and continue for two weeks.

The excavation is open to people aged 16 years and above. Participants can attend for the two week period or for one of either weeks.

Registration fee for members of the KAS or the Thanet Archaeological Society is £35 for one week (non members £50) or £50 for two weeks (non members £70).

For enrolment or further details please contact:

Chris Pout, Sunnydene, Boyden Gate Corner, Marshside, Nr. Canterbury CT3 4EE. Tel: 01227 860207



WESLEY AND
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‘IDEAS and IDEALS’

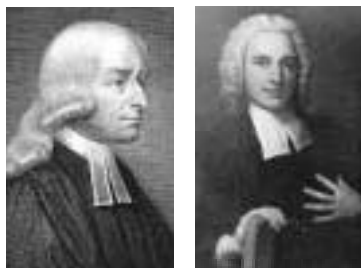
This is the ninth of a series of articles describing formative movements and ideas in the history of the church. These were the crises of thought and conviction which brought us to where we are.

WESLEY AND WHITEFIELD AND THE EVANGELICAL REVIVAL

The three founders of Methodism were born within eleven years of each other. John Wesley in 1703, Charles in 1708 and George Whitefield in 1714. This latter date is significant in the lives of all three, as the colony of Georgia in British North America was also founded then, and was to figure largely in their work of evangelism. John fully appreciated the task to be undertaken there. “Here are adults from the furthest parts of Europe and Asia and the inmost kingdoms of Africa...who shall come over and help us, where the harvest is so great and the labourers so few?” George Whitefield was to return seven times. The gentler upbringing of the two Wesleys forced them to return from a colony where many of the settlers were convicts.

The three had met during their studies at Oxford; John was already a Fellow of Lincoln College and had gathered around him the nucleus of ‘Our Company’ or the ‘Holy Club’, when Whitefield, in the summer of 1733, was invited to breakfast. The ‘Holy Club’ was accustomed to take the Eucharist every Sunday, to fast on Wednesdays and Fridays, and they firmly believed in the Apostolic succession of the Church of England priesthood. Each of the three was eventually to be ordained within that Church. George was soon to experience conversion. Recovering from ill health at home in Gloucester, ‘God was pleased to remove the heavy load...when the weight of sin went off and an abiding sense of the pardoning love of God and a full assurance of faith broke in’.

The central beliefs of the two Wesleys rather followed the gentler Lutheran evangelicalism characterised by belief in ‘justification by faith’ and ‘the priesthood of all believers’. Their father the Rector of Epworth had initially been educated for the dissenting ministry



John Wesley (left) and his brother Charles.

before joining the Established Church and their maternal grandfather had even been ejected from St. Giles Cripplegate. Furthermore, they were initially strongly influenced by the Lutheranism which Moravian refugees brought with them from the continent. John even thought of himself as a Moravian minister for a time. It was a little later that the strict and methodical way of life of them and their followers earned them the title of ‘Methodists’.

The Moravian influence took the Wesleys into the ethos of Central Europe. Moravians from Bohemia had inherited the mantle of John Huss, had been forced to flee to Saxony and had then absorbed that state’s Lutheranism which they subsequently brought with them to England. In spite of attracting a following estimated to number some 100,000, their weakness lay in their failure to secure naturalisation; their societies remained dependent upon German preachers and administrators.

George Whitefield, following the tenets of Calvinism, believed in the doctrine of predestination, that the death of Christ referred particularly to the elect, ensuring their salvation, and in the evangelical doctrine that the essence of the Gospel consists in the teaching that salvation depends upon faith rather than works. The foundation of his ministry was his emphasis on the ‘new birth’ and

‘Predestination to life’ as the everlasting purpose of God.

Later, Wesley’s Lutheranism and Whitefield’s Calvinism led to a separation between the two leaders. John Wesley could not accept ‘the horrible blasphemies contained in this horrible doctrine (predestination) which represents our Blessed Lord... as a hypocrite or deceiver of the people, a man devoid of common sincerity...it represents the most Holy God as worse than the Devil’. He set out what was to be the chief characteristic of his movement - that of Christian Perfection or Holiness which was ‘An attainable condition in which the sinful nature is eradicated and the soul entirely sanctified’. To George Whitefield this was ‘Papistical ignorance and refined Deism’ and ‘if this doctrine is true...how few...will be saved?’ (Deism, a form of religious rationalism, regarded God as simply the force which was present in creation and which could be termed ‘Natural Religion’).

From 1739 the title of Methodism rather than the original ‘Our Company’ had been universally adopted and Charles Wesley’s fine Hymn Book, in its new edition, made clear to all their supporters the brothers’ teachings. As well as members of the Church of England, Independents, Baptists and Presbyterians were to be made welcome. From 1750 there was some measure of reconciliation between Wesley and Whitefield, although the latter wrote ‘Have

George Whitefield preaching in 1749.



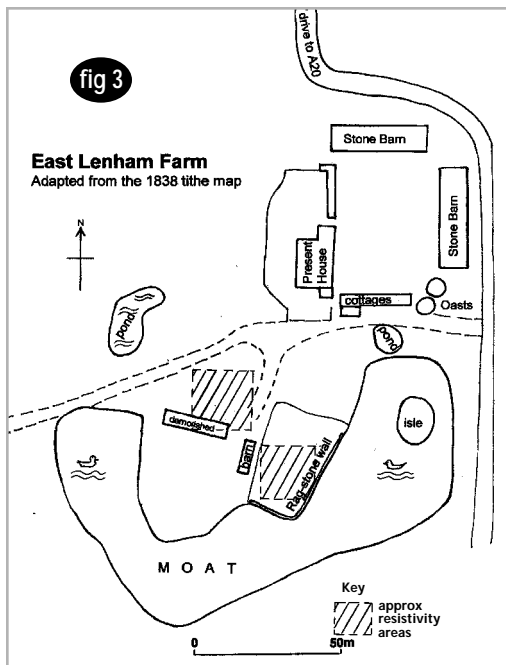
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Here is a sketch map adapted from the 1831 tithe map to show the position of present and past farm buildings, the moat wall, and the position of our resistivity plots. (fig 3).

Each of the trial pits dug had a hard layer or 'floor' just 15cm beneath the surface. These floors were of well packed flints, hard packed chalk and/or crushed tile and brick and each area was some 15cm in depth. Beneath the 'floors' was another 15cm of mixed top soil/heavy clay. As we were not allowed (by 'Time Team' rules) to dig much deeper than 60cm we left investigation at that depth. Few finds of datable material were obtained. However, in trench 2 (half way along the northern edge of the resistivity print-out) an old brick with whitish mortar was found at a depth of 50cm, now identified as early C16. In trench 1 a C19 button was found.

Conclusions are difficult to arrive at from so little excavation! There



were a variety of hard surfaces deliberately constructed, possibly for stockyards, possibly using the material of the earlier manor house, possibly from the destruction of a later C18 building.

We would have been extremely lucky if we had found definitive evidence for the C12 manor's existence

and proof of its age. But the C16 brick poses more questions... Was there a Tudor manor house, as the picture on the 1660 map suggests? Was there an older medieval manor closer to the lake? Were they both demolished in progression till the present house and farm buildings were built? Were there intervening C18 buildings on the Platt?

It is all very intriguing. There could even be Roman features present on the Platt. One surface find of a Romano-British sandy ware sherd might suggest that. But Roman and older finds have been surfacing in all fields around Lenham.

BUT, it is certainly worth a larger dig and a bigger trench without the 'Time Team's' restriction in size. A trench across the slight mound that did not show any resistivity abnormality might well reveal the building indicated on the 1831 map.

An intriguingly named field, 'Stumbles', lies on the western borders of the moat, an uneven pasture that would warrant further resistivity work. Certainly Lenham Archaeological Society could make good use of the KAS resistivity meter again!

Lesley Feakes
Chairperson LAS

THE CONTINUING SAGA OF BAYFORD CASTLE

Following my article on the suggested origins of Bayford Castle, Sittingbourne, published in the Summer 2003 edition of this magazine, I was pleased to read Alan Ward's extensive comments and criticisms of my theory. Little has been recorded of this castle's past and following extensive industrial activity in the 19th century, any tangible remains have been obliterated. The best we can now do is to put forward our own individual hypotheses based upon what knowledge we might have. I'm grateful to Mr Ward for his thoughts on this subject. Bayford Castle is without any shadow of doubt an ancient structure. It is mentioned on most OS maps and I was able to purchase a copy of Christopher Saxton's map of Bayford and Goodmanstone manors dated 1590, from the British Library. On it he mentions 'Castle Ruffe', a name by which Bayford Castle was also known at that time.

Re my hypothesis of the origins of Watling Street, the A2, Mr Ward said that there is no evidence for its original line once having been adjacent to Bayford Castle, some

300m to the north. He does agree with me however, when I suggested the Romans initially used the Lower Road when marching between London and Dover/Richborough.

It is only since embarking upon a course of studies in archaeology with Exeter University that I started to question how the Romans actually got from Richborough to London and Colchester. I assumed they built Watling Street section by section as they progressed across Kent, but I now know this was not so. In the early days of the invasion they would have used existing trackways. It was only later, once the southern tribes had been subjugated, that there was the need for a fast access road back to the Channel ports to be built.

Watling Street conveniently links London, Canterbury and Dover by a more or less straight road. Our Iron Age ancestors would not necessarily have needed to link such large distances. They were not great travellers in comparison to the Romans. If they sought to link one community to the next, the Lower Road would make more sense. Locally, the

original settlements of Faversham, Teynham, Sittingbourne and Milton Regis were all on this line, being small fishing ports. There is nothing of Iron Age date along Watling Street.

I agree with Mr Ward when he offers the theory of Ospringe also being a possible overnight resting place for travellers. This is borne out by the recent discovery of Roman remains here, possibly the long lost town of Durovernum. It must be accepted however, that resting places would be needed for east-west journeys as well as those from west-east.

Moving on to the mysterious earthworks shown in 'VCH' that once lay by St Michael's church, I concede they could indeed be flood defence measures, especially in view of the closeness of the stream that once crossed Watling Street nearby.

This is what makes the study of Bayford Castle such a fascinating and thought-provoking study. I'm truly grateful to Mr Ward for his views on the matter.

John Clancy

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear Editor

KENT CHURCHES

I do not wish to prolong the debate on church surveys but I must again comment on a statement by Alan Ward, in his letter in the last issue. He talks of white-washing over a wall painting as 'destruction'. I think he now concedes that his claim was based solely on hearsay evidence of an event of about twenty years ago; but even if correct, the act of covering, far from destroying the painting, actually safeguards it for the future. This has to be done when paintings are uncovered and if money is not available, either to investigate further, or to embark on a possibly large-scale and expensive programme of conservation. The Canterbury Diocesan Advisory Committee on the Care of Churches (DAC) has recently recommended just such a procedure. There is an obvious parallel in 'dirt' archaeology; sites that cannot be fully excavated are recorded and protected, to await further study.

Leslie A Smith
Vice-Chairman
Canterbury DAC

Dear Editor

BARFRESTON CHURCH

I have sometimes been asked, and indeed often wondered myself, how it was that the Romanesque carving on the south portal at Barfreston survived the iconoclasm of the Cromwellian period when so much else in the area was desecrated.

There are a number of pre-restoration engravings showing the chancel or the east end, but I have not yet seen any showing the portal. Hussey's account of his restoration in *Archaeologia Cantiana* 16 reports relatively minor restoration of the south portal.

It had been suggested to me that, since the carving on the portal is low relief, it may have been covered in plaster to hide the sculpture from the Puritans. In 1778 Hasted mentions 'a modern porch' and does not describe the sculpture. However, I recently came across the Kent volume of 'Picturesque Beauties of Great Britain' with drawings by Shepherd and others. Although not dated, the work seems to have been completed in the first quarter of the 19th century. It includes Shepherd's drawing of the

Barfreston chancel from the south dated 1823. The Shepherd drawings are familiar in Kent but I had not seen the text before. A sentence on page 82 reads, 'The south, or principal entrance opening into the nave, is most richly ornamented with figures: but a great portion of it is now obscured from view by a brick porch, so injudiciously constructed as to abut immediately against the sculptures.'

The porch was not mentioned by Glynne, who visited the church before 1840 and most likely about 1830. My tentative conclusion is, therefore, that a porch might have been built to obscure the sculpture on the south portal in order to prevent its destruction. The porch was either removed between 1823 and 1840 (when Hussey visited the church), or may have fallen victim to the subsidence that necessitated Hussey's thorough restoration. In any event, the sculpture is in unusually good condition and this may be due to the presence of a porch.

Can any reader shed light on the mystery of why the sculpture on the Barfreston door is in such good condition?

Mary Berg
Canterbury

DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS MYSTERY OBJECT?

Can any KAS member identify this mystery object? Discovered in the bottom of a box of bric-a-brac from a charity shop, it has already been sent to Maidstone Museum and the British Museum, but to no avail. The object is metal, bronze or brass, weighs 4oz/112gm and is 9.45 inches/240mm long. Which language do the 12 oriental characters which surround the compass belong to? Is the compass a later addition to the object? The burnt mass within the bowl is slightly sticky. Although the stem is hollow, there is no 'exit' hole at the end furthest from the bowl. The puzzled owner would love to know its origins and use. Please contact the Editor at the usual address, email or telephone number.



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A YEAR TO REMEMBER FOR YAC

2003 has been a great year for the North Downs Young Archaeologists' Club. We have been involved with many exciting projects, some of which you will already be aware from previous articles in the Newsletter.

This summer our contribution to National Archaeology Day was an event entitled 'A Century of Change' held within the Museum of Kent Life. The Cantiaci Living History group were there, as was the Roman Primus Abuteus, both demonstrating aspects of life in the first century AD. North Downs YAC ran a number of activities where people could try their hand at spinning and mosaic making, amongst others. Our young members and the public enjoyed eating the edible torcs they had fashioned and tasting food of the period. As we were dressed in costume we were



Carenza Lewis surrounded by enthusiastic YAC members.

greatly appreciative of the glorious sunshine!

During the autumn we learnt about the Portable Antiquities Scheme from Kent's Finds Liaison Officer, Andrew Richardson and the children enjoyed using metal detectors to search for their own 'treasure'. We investigated the beginnings of writing, creating hieroglyphs on papyrus and cuneiform on clay tablets. We

then focussed on watermills, with expert Mick Fuller giving a talk, followed by an examination of ancient querns and a taste test of different breads.

Our Roman

YAC members proudly display their hieroglyphic calligraphy skills.

Christmas Party was also to be remembered. We ate our fill of food (reclining of course!) and were exhausted by the games, so it was great to sit and listen to a fascinating talk by Carenza Lewis from Time Team who joined us for the event.

Our YAC group is very appreciative of all the time and effort many people put into making our club a success. KAS and Maidstone Museum deserve our thanks, as do the guest speakers who give up a Saturday morning to make our meetings interesting, informative and enjoyable. The results speak for themselves as our members are a keen and dedicated bunch, happy to turn up regularly despite having been made to fieldwalk in the pouring rain!

We have an exciting programme ahead, and will keep you up to date with our adventures in future Newsletters.

Happy New Year from North Downs Young Archaeologists' Club.

Susie Lee



THE KAS 2004 SUMMER EXCURSION ~14-18 JUNE

This year the Society will again follow the five-day pattern which has proved so successful for the last two Summer Excursions, leaving valuable summer weekends free. As usual, our coach will have four pick-up points throughout Kent and will provide our transport during the holiday.

Our excursion will explore the classic and historic landscape of Dorset; rolling chalk downland and hidden valleys, "of a shape approaching the indestructible as nearly as any to be found on earth"



Maiden Castle in Dorset.

(Thomas Hardy). We will take in sights such as Maiden Castle, stronghold of the Iron Age Durotriges and the Cerne Abbas Giant. Our base will be a hotel in Bournemouth. For further details and enquiries please contact:

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On his own admission, John Williams is perhaps shy when the subject in question is himself. But passion for his role in the management and promotion of the archaeology of Kent sees no such reticence. He heads a team of 10 archaeologists and a conservation architect and takes obvious pride in their work, "one of the best teams in the country, and possibly the best". Born in North Wales, he was discouraged in the 60's from following archaeology as a career due to the perceived lack of prospects (a consistent theme within these Back Page interviews). A letter to Mortimer Wheeler drew the response "But the really important thing is to work hard"

'A' Levels in Latin, Greek and Greek and Roman History preceded reading Latin at Manchester University, where he took Roman Britain as a special subject. In his second year he was a supervisor after one week on a training excavation - "very unlike the long apprenticeships of today" - and passed the summer as no 2 on the excavation of Chester's Roman amphitheatre. The next year, either side of graduation, 15 weeks were spent directing major excavations at Warrington, a Roman industrial complex, for the Ministry of Public Building & Works. John's sense of the absurd is apparent when recounting an observation from the audience at a lecture on the site - "what an eye the Romans had for a tactical defensive position, locating the settlement between the River Mersey and the Manchester Ship Canal". Staying on at Manchester he did an MA with Barri Jones on *Stone Building Materials in Roman Britain*, but then three years "away from the ivory tower of university archaeology" in the textile industry provided a good business grounding - "some of my best archaeological training".

He joined Northampton Development Corporation, a New Town authority, in 1971, at the beginning of the explosive growth of rescue archaeology, and headed its archaeology unit for 13 years. His most challenging and rewarding excavation was of a large middle Saxon Yeavinger-style timber hall, subsequently replaced in stone. Publication of *Middle Saxon "Palaces" at Northampton* followed. He also got deeply involved in the Medieval documentary sources for the town.

He then became Director of Lancaster University's archaeology unit for 5 years, doing some undergraduate teaching along the way, and during this period obtained his Doctorate for a portfolio of published work on Medieval Northampton.

In 1989 he became Kent's County Archaeologist, to face the very real challenge of curating wonderfully rich archaeology under quite considerable development pressure. Of some 22,000 planning applications annually around 1500 have to be looked at in some detail and, in addition to full publications, over 300 pieces of "grey literature" (unpublished site reports) are generated each year. Ensuring an adequately funded archaeological response to an

DR JOHN WILLIAMS

Head of Heritage Conservation, Kent County Council



appropriate standard and subsequent publication of the results is a key role of John's team.

Two members of this team are responsible for the Sites & Monuments Record. Others include a Finds Liaison Officer (see front page), and a Conservation Architect, dealing with issues of built heritage and KCC's historic windmills.

Beyond the core work of development-led archaeology, the emphasis is on 'partnerships'. John embraces the wider picture, emphatic that Kent's archaeology must be set within a European context. "Working with continental neighbours develops a better vision and takes forward best practice." PlanArch (planning and archaeology) led by Kent, is uniting Essex, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Flanders, Wallonia, the Netherlands and the Rhineland in a €2.5 million programme of work. The Historic Fortifications Network, embracing Kent, West Flanders and Nord-Pas-de-Calais, in its present phase is bringing €700,000 of European funding into Kent. John has to be something of an entrepreneur in terms of putting funding together; bidding for money is now standard practice, a completely different scenario from 20 years ago.

Does John ever miss trench and trowel? "The spirit is willing but the knees are weak!", a problem exacerbated by years down cold, damp holes, allied to sporting activities - he played cricket for Manchester University, where he remembers being

bowled by Brian Statham in a game against Lancashire Club and Ground - so much for the 4 the ball before - and has a coaching qualification. However, one of the great pleasures of his current job is *not* having to do another archaeological sequence diagram. Aside from sport, gentler pursuits are followed. A good thriller appeals, although current reading is *The Archaeology of Ancient Greece*, and the Independent crossword focuses his mind. A music lover, he enjoys both classical and jazz and plays the piano. He also cooks a "mean curry", a skill learnt at university following liquid cricket celebrations - or commiserations!

John is married to Egyptologist Frances Williams (a relationship initiated down a medieval cess pit in Colchester) and obviously revels in having his own personal guide when accompanying her to that country. Their daughter, once asked by a schoolteacher about her parent's employment, replied that both "used to be" archaeologists. The concerned teacher enquired 'Have they got real jobs now...?'

John asserts that it is only through public support that heritage will prosper, but questions the distortion of some television programmes with a 'mystery' or 'disaster' ingredient. Stirring the public's imagination raises awareness, but it is important that best practice and rigorous interpretation are encouraged.

What is John's vision for the future? For Kent, one long-held desire is the creation of an archaeological resource centre, to assemble the archives and finds from excavation and fieldwork and make them available for both academic study and general access to the public and schools. At a personal level, he hopes to pick up again research on Medieval Northampton.

John feels archaeology has 'come of age' during the last 30 years and that he is privileged to have been employed throughout that period in varying roles in three different parts of the country, each with exciting archaeology. For those starting out in the profession today there are perhaps more initial opportunities but developing a longer-term career is not easy. Having had the chance to participate in shaping the management of archaeology at one of its most exciting periods and more recently be involved with major work in Kent, including that associated with Channel Tunnel Rail Link, he counts himself a lucky man.

(For an update on Roman Kent see John's *New Light on Roman Kent*, just published in the *Journal of Roman Archaeology*)

Copy deadline for the next issue in April is Monday 1st March.
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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