



## KAS DIG WINS AWARD

In the last newsletter, we reported on the final season of excavation at the Minster-in-Thamet site of the Abbey Farm Roman villa complex. Earlier in 2004, it had been decided to enter the Abbey Farm project for one of the annual British Archaeological Awards open to archaeological investigations carried out by amateurs.

For this Pitt Rivers Award, an entry was prepared back in May 2004 and we were pleased to learn, in mid summer, that we had, at least, won through to the finals. As a result we were asked to receive a visit from the award judges to the Minster site during the final excavation. As (bad) luck would have it the visit took place on the worst day of the whole two week season – the judges were greeted by a very muddy field and pouring rain.

A month or so later, the Society was invited to send a representative to the annual Awards ceremony, to take place in Belfast. The Chairman of the Fieldwork Committee accepted the invitation, not expecting any success in the Awards (but taking the opportunity to visit some of the archaeology of southern Ireland, thanks to the new flight service to Dublin from Manston, which is less than a mile from the Abbey Farm site).

At the awards ceremony it therefore came as a great surprise when the KAS were announced as the runners-up (out of 18 entries). The judges were apparently impressed by the dedication of the Society to the sponsorship and organisation of the digs, and of the Members who took part (perhaps the pouring

rain did us no harm!). The award comprised a large certificate and a splendid hand-made plate, suitably inscribed. These two items were shown to Members at the annual Christmas lunch and will shortly be put on permanent display in the Society library at Maidstone Museum. The Award also carried an invitation to apply for a grant from the Robert Kiln Trust. We are hoping that this will allow us to engage an expert to assist in the recording and reporting of some of the beautiful pieces of painted wall plaster discovered during

the excavation.

This is a great result for the Society, for the two hundred or so amateurs who have participated over the years and for the dedicated band of professionals who have put so much effort into the training and supervision of the diggers.

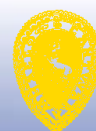
Encouraged by this success, but with the Abbey Farm excavation concluded, the Fieldwork Committee are now looking for a suitable site for a future training excavation and would very much welcome suggestions from Members.



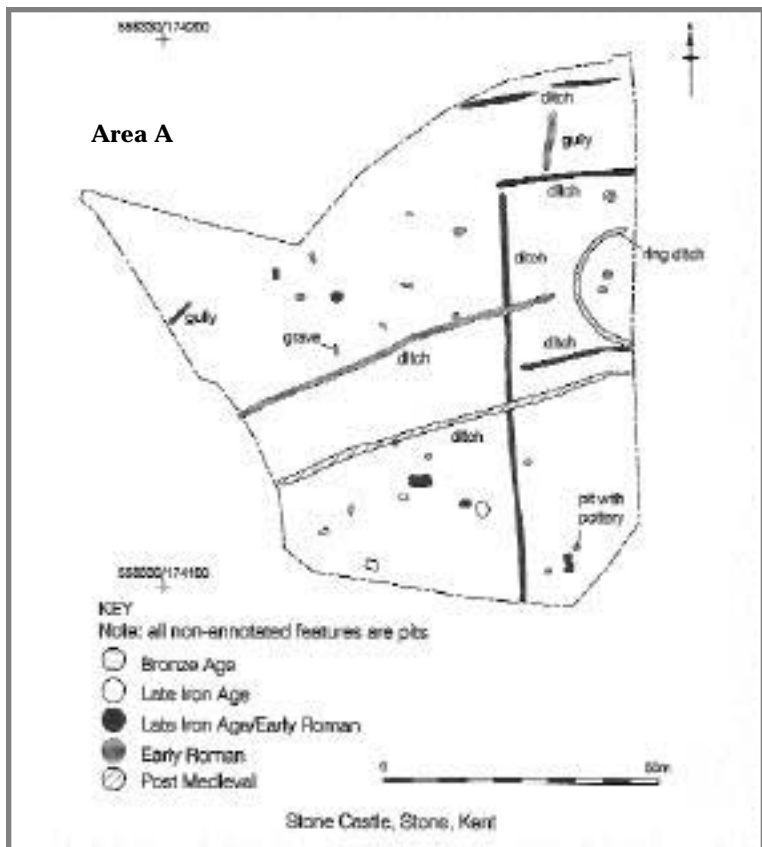
The hand-made plate (above) was part of the award accepted by Chris Pout, Chairman of the Fieldwork Committee.

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Romano British settlement, including a cemetery. Other artefacts of Roman date have been found in the vicinity, including a number of burials.

Area A (above), immediately to the north of Stone Castle covered c. 6000 square metres. The machine stripping revealed a Late Iron Age to Early Roman site, with initial pottery dating suggesting activity from c. 100 BC to AD 80 with a possible earlier Bronze

Age ringditch. Area B, to the northwest of Stone Castle covered an area of 625 square metres, with just three features of an as yet undetermined pre-historic date.

The Bronze Age ringditch enclosure located in the east of Area A constitutes the earliest evidence of occupation, measuring approximately 20m across. Unfortunately only half of this feature was revealed as it extended

beyond the limit of excavation. The Late Iron Age period was represented by a series of rectangular and rounded pits which proved to be incredibly rich in finds material and included several ritually 'killed' pottery vessels and one complete pot. These features are likely to represent deliberately backfilled grain storage pits, with the ceramics being interred as 'offerings' for both the successful storage and germination of seed corn. One burial was also discovered relating to this same period. The skeleton was in a crouched position with the head to the north in a west facing direction and was accompanied by a polished grinding stone.

Between the Late Iron Age and Early Roman period the site appears to have become more developed, with a series of separate field enclosures being established in the form of linear ditches. These contained both pottery and animal bone, and in one instance, several deliberately 'killed' vessels were also unearthed. A continuation in land usage is present in the form of further storage pits containing large amounts of pottery and further deliberately placed 'goods' including a horse skull at the base of one of the features.

The early Roman period is represented by the introduction of a drainage ditch and a gully, which also contained a large amount of broken pottery at its terminus. Further pits of an ovoid definition were also identified which again proved to be rich in finds. Recoveries included a Hod Hill type brooch of first century date and a large amount of wall plaster, suggestive of inhabitation in the immediate vicinity.

*Alexis Haslam*

determined to deal adequately with important developments in the

*"... excellently designed and full of fascinating information ..."*  
*Christopher & Katharine Draper*

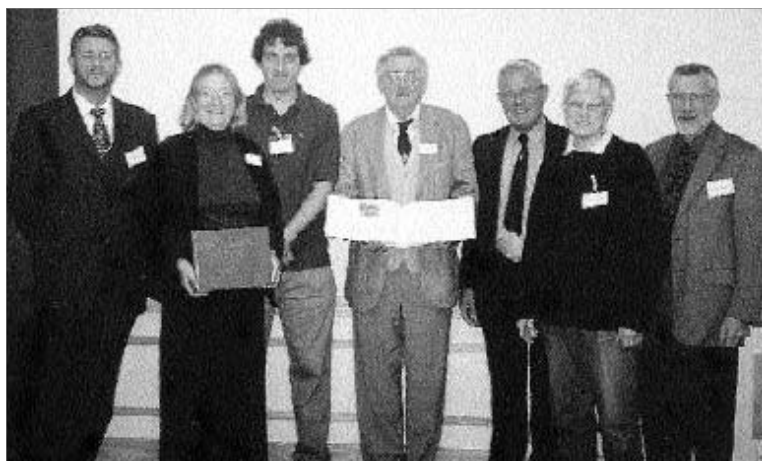
Modern period, e.g. the growth of utilities, leisure pursuits, newspapers, etc., generally neglected in most county atlases and other histories.

The launch of the Atlas, hosted by the KAS, took place on the evening of November 18 at Darwin College, University of Kent, presided over by its Master, Dr Anthony Ward - who also took the accompanying photograph. He introduced speeches from John Whyman (Vice President of the Society, deputising for the President), Peter Vujakovic (Head of Geographical and Life Sciences Dept, CCCUC) and David Killingray. Noel Osborne, Managing Director of

Phillimore, spoke of the series of county historical atlases which his company is planning to produce.

\* This does not include Institutional Subscribers and Corresponding Societies.

*Below, left to right: Peter Vujakovic, Elizabeth Edwards, John Hills, Terry Lawson, John Whyman, Sheila Sweetinburgh and David Killingray.*



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# LIBRARY NOTES

## THE GORDON WARD CATALOGUE

### IN THE STEPS OF DOCTOR WARD – CATALOGUING AN UNUSUAL ARCHIVE.

Dr. Reginald Gordon Ward, M.D., F.S.A., died in 1962, at the age of 77. A GP, practising at Sevenoaks, he was also a member of the KAS from 1927 until his death. He was a member of the KAS Council, and was made an Honorary member in 1954 in recognition of his services to the Society. His range of interests was very wide, covering Saxon charters, manorial records, Wealden dens, the Yokes, Hengist and Horsa, topography and place names. He was always in demand as a lecturer at venues throughout Kent and was also revered as a well known philatelist. He accumulated a vast collection of papers, a large proportion of which is lodged at the Centre for Kentish Studies, however a smaller, but none the less intriguing one, was deposited in the Society's Library. To describe it as eclectic would be an understatement, since the collection comprises a vast variety of notes, printed ephemera, post cards, prints, handbills, letters, maps, tickets, advertisements, cuttings, essays, opinions, speculations, sale catalogues and much more. Gordon Ward did not confine his interests to his own locality, and virtually the whole of the County is represented in the files, although naturally, the areas nearest to Sevenoaks received his greatest attention.

Since the Society first acquired the archive, it has been housed in the Library Room at Maidstone Museum where it has been available for use by members. At an early stage, it was roughly sorted into foolscap folders, following Gordon Ward's own method, which was to file his items by place. This enabled members to make a rough search of the archive in order to back up information that they had obtained from other sources, but this was obviously an unsatisfactory and haphazard way of doing research. The task of cataloguing, sorting, indexing and conservation always seemed to be daunting, and the need to physically sort through the vast collection when a particular item was needed, meant that damage to fragile items was unavoidable. However, the encouraging results of the information technology that has now been brought into the Library have meant that, at last, the development of this overdue project can begin. It was agreed that the contents of the Gordon Ward Archive should be catalogued directly onto the Society's web site, so that members, or any interested person, could know exactly what was present and available, thus making actual visits to the Library itself more constructive and profitable in terms of time and expertise. A second benefit would be to minimise physical handling of the items. Lastly, it was considered important for the Society to know exactly what it owned in this unique collection.

Initially, it was necessary to make a survey of the collection and to sort each place file into a useable

sequence. A band of hardy volunteers was recruited for this purpose, and over many months, they carefully collated each file, and made a manual list of every item that was present. This was detailed, painstaking work. After this, the task of entering the whole collection onto the database could begin. In order that members could have immediate benefit, it was decided that the web site would show the catalogue as it progressed, and now after some months of careful work, we are currently entering places with names beginning in the latter part of the alphabetical sequence. A special attempt has been made to create a standard style throughout, although owing to the widely differing format of virtually every item contained in the archive, one could not for instance, easily provide a standard library entry as is the case for books. However, the guiding principle has been to enter any item in such a way that its content and significance are clear, and in such a way that the system will produce the information if a reasonably phrased enquiry is made. It is possible to enquire under PLACE NAME, and under a SUBJECT or a KEY WORD e.g. BROADSTAIRS, CASTLE, ROMAN, MOTOR CAR etc. etc. Names of individuals, or their occupations, are also keyworded if they seem to be significant e.g. BLACKSMITH, HARDIMAN. The system is very easy to use, and an enquiry under a place name will instantly produce the whole contents of the archive as relevant to that place.

It is expected that the complete Gordon Ward archive will have been entered onto the database by the end of 2004. However, the next task will be to ensure that the complete collection is removed from the temporary, and totally unsuitable foolscap folders, and into proper archival storage. There will be more work for keen volunteers to assist with this process during this year.

What does the collection tell us about Kent? The answer is a great amount. Gordon Ward was obviously an avid collector/ cutter up of journals, newspapers and other matter. He appears never to have knowingly thrown away any items which had a Kentish connection and came into his possession. Because he was so well known, he was invited to many local occasions and events, and he had connections over the whole of the County. He was never unwilling to help any person who had a genuine historical or archaeological question to ask, and he was totally generous with his knowledge and information, the results of which are amply illustrated in the files. The collection also contains letters and notes from many other famous Kent antiquarians, and the subjects that they avidly debated cover a bewildering variety of ground. Gordon Ward's enthusiasm was ignited by virtually any Kent topic – ancient horseshoes, nails, tokens, lost roads, tracks, ancient customs, buildings ancient and modern. He clipped information from numerous sources, and however trivial in their origins, many of the cuttings, leaflets, handbills and letters give an insight into village life during his lifetime. There is a sense of poignancy in observing how, by the end of WWII, the arcadia that had been an antiquarian's lot in Britain, was totally swept away by the urge to modernise. Maps, especially tithe maps and parish boundaries, were an abiding source of interest to him, and he collected and annotated 19th century sale maps from all over the County. Some of his own maps, delicately traced and colour coded, are works of art in their own





# WHAT'S ON



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## KAS EVENTS

### **KAS Churches Committee Visit Saturday 23 April**

You are invited to visit the two West Kent churches of Stone (near Dartford) and Southfleet. We meet at Stone at 1.45 for 2pm. Tea and biscuits will be provided at Southfleet. Cost of the tours is £2 (students £1) with tea extra at £1. All payments on the day.

A booking slip for the visit is enclosed; it would be helpful if return was made by April 16.

### **KAS Churches Committee Event 'Reading A Church' with Professor Nigel Saul on Saturday 12 March**

An all-day event at St Helen's Church, Cliffe-at-Hoo.

Professor Saul, a distinguished medievalist at the Royal Holloway, University of London, is the principal speaker both morning and afternoon. He will use the many and varied features of Cliffe church to enable us to interpret churches as a genre with their history, architecture and ideology interrelated.

Cost £5.00 per person for the day, optional lunch £5.00. Numbers may have to be restricted and early booking is advised. A booking slip for the event is enclosed, to be returned by 15 February please.

### **Copyhold Tenure in Kent Saturday 19 March 2005, 10.30 am to 12 noon, and 2 to 3.30 pm.** Lecture to KAS Members at Maidstone by Arthur Ruderman, B.Sc. (Econ.), CPFA, DPA., Dip.Loc.Hist.(Kent).

'Copyhold tenure is rare in Kent'. There is no doubt that for much of Kent this statement (taken from *Perambulation of Kent*, by William Lambarde, first published in 1570) is true, although there are two manors known, Ashford and Folkestone, where significant areas were held by this tenure, most of which continued in this way until the tenure was abolished by Law of Property Act, 1922. In addition, small parcels of land in several manors in other parishes have been found, held by the same tenure.

The lectures will seek to explain the origins of the tenure, well before the Norman Conquest, and the way in which it worked. The morning session will consist firstly of a lecture, with illustrations of the documents in which the transactions were recorded, and the areas (not only in Kent, or England) where the custom prevailed. This will be followed by details of the long Parliamentary battle that lasted from the early 1800's to 1922, for the abolition of the system.

The afternoon session will be a more general discussion. It is hoped that members of the audience

will be prepared to give examples of copyhold land that they have found in manors that they have studied; indeed if they are able to send the speaker brief details beforehand (preferably by e-mail to arthur@ruderman.fsnet.co.uk), this would enable the additional material to be included in the days proceedings.

Telephone Denis Anstey on 01634 240015 or email to d@degian.demon.co.uk to make reservations. Cost £2.00, pay on the day.

### **KAS Summer Excursion 2005 'Looking at Lincolnshire'**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we will be visiting Lincolnshire rather than Cumbria as originally suggested. Our excursion will be for 5 days, from 13 - 17 June inclusive, staying in a 3 star hotel. Our coach will take us to various places and we hope to visit some or all of the following; Lincoln Cathedral and the Roman colonia and medieval city, Gainsborough Old Hall, Tattershall Castle, Belton House and Woolsthorpe Manor (Newton's home). We also hope to have a guided tour of Stamford and nearby Burghly Hall.

Full details can be obtained from the Hon. Excursions Secretary, Joy Saynor, at Friars, 28 High Street, Shoreham, Sevenoaks TN14 7TD, email: saynor.shoreham@amservice.com.

### **The KAS History and Archaeology Show will be held on Saturday 29th October 2005.**

Lessons learned from the first show include (1) restricting the show area to the ground floor and the three art galleries, (2) better publicity, (3) better signage and (4) on-site catering. Early in the New Year details will be forwarded to our affiliated societies and other organisations who participated in the last show. Other organisations are welcome. Please write to The History and Archaeology Show, K.A.S., Maidstone Museum and Bentlif Art Gallery, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone ME14 1LH.

## OTHER EVENTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

## LECTURES

### **Crayford Manor House Historical & Archaeological Society Saturday 12 February**

*The History of Tower Hamlets* by Malcolm Barr-Hamilton



Winter 2004/5

**Saturday 12 March**

*The Cutty Sark* by Roger McLean

**Saturday 9 April**

*Lord Castlereagh and Lord Bexley* by John Mercer

All lectures held at the Baker Trust Hall, Maxim Road, Crayford at 7.30pm. Cost for non-members of CMHHAS is £1.00.

**Canterbury Archaeological Society Lectures**

Lectures take place in the Ramsay Lecture Hall, Canterbury Christ Church College, starting at 6pm.

**Saturday 12 February**

*Early Exotics: A Harvest from the Late 17th century Dutch and English Colonies* Dr Elizabeth Edwards

**Saturday 5 March**

*Crusader Castles* by Richard Eales

**Tonbridge Historical Society Lecture Series**

7.45pm in the Adult Education Centre, Tonbridge.

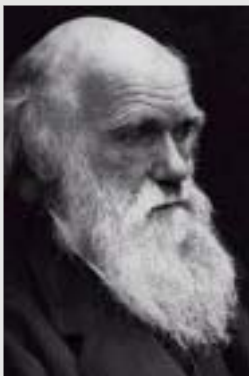
**Thursday 17 February**

*Support for the Fleet: the Royal Dockyards at the time of Trafalgar* Jonathan Coad

**Thursday 7 April**

AGM followed by lecture  
Further details tel: 01732 838698

University of Kent Annual Darwin Lecture



*'Archaeology, Genetics and the Origins of Linguistic Diversity?'*  
by Professor Lord Colin Renfrew  
Friday 22 April at 6pm in the Brabourne Lecture Theatre, Keynes College, University of Kent at Canterbury.  
Admission is **free** and all are welcome

**Bexley Local Studies & Archive Centre Winter Talks**

7.30pm at Hall Place.

**Wednesday 23 March**

*Rural Survivors* Malcolm Barr-Hamilton

To order tickets and for further information tel: 020 8301 1545.

**Sevenoaks Historical Society Talks**

Held on Thursdays at the Undercroft, St Nicholas' Church at 8pm. All talks £1.50.

**27 January**

*The Coastal Shipping Trades and Harbours of the Thames Estuary 1800-1950* Roy Walker

**24 February**

*The Story of the Dance Band Days - 1920s, 30s and 40s* Don Dray

**24 March**

*The Life of William Morris* Dai Evans, Property Manager, Petworth

**21 April**

*The Edwardian Eye of Andrew Pitcairn-Knowles*, early photo-journalist Richard Pitcairn-Knowles

**CONFERENCES**

**Historic Houses in Kent** presented by the Council for Kentish Archaeology on **Saturday 9 April** at Sevenoaks Community Centre, Crampton Road, Sevenoaks.

*Hever Castle 100 years ago* Robert Pullin (Managing Director, Hever Castle)

*The Archaeology of Ightham Mote* Dr Peter Rumley (Assistant Project Archaeologist, Ightham Mote)

*Roman Villas in the Darent Valley* Brian Philp (KARU) Tickets £4.00 (cheques payable to CKA) from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP. Please enclose SAE.

**EVENTS ELSEWHERE**

**British Archaeological Association**

The Association welcomes visitors who wish to attend occasional meetings. Meetings are on Wednesdays at 5pm in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly. It is requested that non-BAA members make themselves known to the Hon. Director and sign the Visitor's Book.

**2 February**

*The façade of the great church from the 4th to the 12th centuries* Barrie Singleton

**2 March**

*The Hotel Saint-Pol, Paris, main residence of the Valois kings 1364-1422* Mary Whiteley

**6 April**

*Who, where, what and why? Trondheim Cathedral and its decoration in the 12th century* James F King

**4 May**

*Architecture and patronage at Croxden Abbey* Dr Jackie Hall

**GAP ON THE BOOKSHELF?**

A few copies of *Archaeologia Cantiana* have been given to the editor for dispersal:

Vol XCV - 1979	Vol XCVI - 1980
Vol XCVII - 1981	Vol XCVIII - 1982
Vol C - 1984	Vol CI - 1984
Vol CXIX - 1999	

Free to good homes! Postage costs only required. Please contact the editor at the usual addresses to arrange delivery.

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# KENT MAPS & TITHE AWARD SCHEDULES

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KENTMAPS

The Tithe Commutation surveys, carried out from the 1830s to 1840s, provide a great deal of information about land ownership, tenancy and land use at the time. Over 400 Kent Tithe Maps have now been digitised by the Centre for Kentish Studies (C.K.S.) with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The tithe map for each parish is on a CD-Rom. They are now available to view in the three county record offices and are also in the major town libraries for their own areas. The tithe map CD-Rom's can also be purchased, now for only £15 per CD, from either

the Centre for Kentish Studies (01622 694363), or the Canterbury Cathedral Archives (01227 865330).

Regrettably funding was not available to digitise the accompanying tithe award schedules. However a slim notebook in the KAS Library lists the details of twelve tithe award schedules from parishes to the West of Maidstone. These have been typed up and made available on our website. Following on from that, members of the K.A.S., assisted by many individuals and Local Societies, are in the process of putting further transcriptions of the schedules up

on the website for wider consultation. To date over fifty parishes have been covered. Only another three hundred and fifty-three to do!!!

If you would like to contribute a transcription or help with this project please contact Ted Connell at ted.connell@btinternet.com tel; 01474 872763, 110, Manor Forstal, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent DA3 8JQ.

To view the work carried out so far, log on to our website at [www.kentarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk) then click on 'Research' and then click on 'Kent Maps & Tithe Award Schedules'.

# <http://www.kentarchaeology.ac>

The library committee set up the .ac website to be under the supervision of the KAS Honorary Librarian, with content control to be exercised by the KAS Honorary Editor. The project draws on professional advice in the areas of website design and library standards. The site is designed to be a peer-reviewed site adhering to standards set by the Editor with a view to gaining academic acceptance. Any committee wishing to be represented on the site must comply with the set standards. The site was designed to be a free on-line resource for the use of the general public worldwide and to assert our educational charity status.

## On-line publishing

The following items have been added since the last newsletter:

eBOOK\_Kentish Dialect

The full title of this 1888 publication is 'A Dictionary of the KENTISH DIALECT and provincialisms

in use in the county of Kent'.

Basan and Bata: The Occupational Surnames of Two Pre-Conquest Monks of Canterbury. As hereditary surnames were not common in Anglo-Saxon England, men of the same name were differentiated by sobriquets based on their place of origin, ...

Note that Kentish Dialect is an ebook and has a large file size. This will be no problem to broadband users but dial-up users can expect it to take up to 30 minutes.

## Catalogues

The visual records group continue to add more data.

The Gordon Ward Archive of ephemera relating to towns and villages in Kent should be complete by the time this newsletter is published.

As new books are acquired they are added to the library book

stock on-line catalogue.

Work is in hand to add a new catalogue which will detail the many documents lodged by the Society at Kent Archives. Researchers will be able to search the whole catalogue by place/chosen words including the use of wild cards etc. This new database should appear in spring 2005.

## Forum (a new facility)

A new facility has been added and can be accessed at <http://forum.kentarchaeology.ac> The first forum to be activated is Kent Place and Field Names moderated by Karl Wittwer and Paul Cullen. If any other special interest group wishes to have a forum please contact me with the names of at least two responsible moderators willing to undertake the task. Nothing appears until approved by a moderator.

*Denis Anstey*

*Project Manager*

*Email [d@degian.demon.co.uk](mailto:d@degian.demon.co.uk)*



Winter 2004/5

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WINTER 2004/5

Dear Editor

I am currently researching Tudor and early Stuart deer parks in Kent (1500-1660) for an MPhil/PhD at Canterbury Christ Church University College. Taking Lambarde's list of the 1570s and others on maps or mentioned in other documentary evidence, I hope (where possible) to trace the boundaries of these deer parks in the landscape today and to explore documentary evidence for various aspects of their management.

I am writing this to appeal to readers for help in tracing these parks and in locating documentary sources, perhaps family estate papers which remain in private collections. I am hoping that the various Local History Societies or local historians who might know of deer parks in their locality will come forward and share their interest and expertise with me.

Lambarde's list is as follows:

Aldington disparked	Alington disparked	Ashowre	At Ashford
Bedgebury	Brasted disparked	Broxam disparked	Byrling
Cage disparked	Calehyll	Cobham	Cooling
Eltham x 3	Folkston disparked	Glassenbury	Grenewich
Groombridge	Halden disparked	Hamswell	Henden disparked
Hever disparked	Hungershall	Ightam disparked	Knoll
Langley disparked	Leeds	Lullingstone	Lye disparked
Mereworth disparked	North frythe x 3	Otford x 2 - 1 disparked	Oxenhoth x 2 disparked
Panthyurst disparked	Penshurst	Postern disparked	Postling
St Augustines	Saltwood disparked	Shoreland disparked	Sissingherst
Southparke	Stonehyrst disparked	Stowting	Sutton disparked
Westenhanger x 2	Wrotham disparked		

Other parks which have come to my attention.

Speed's map has: Bromley (Bishop of Rochester), Scott's hall (nr Smeeth), Hanger, Bocton-Malherbe, Throughley (Throwley), Eastwell, Lynsted Park. Saxton's map adds: Forde nr Canterbury, Hastingligh, Hemsted nr Sissinghurst, Ulcum (Ulcombe) nr Lenham. Also: Mote, Maidstone (1st mentioned as park 1500), West Wickham (evidence of park still with deer in 1567), Chilham (228a), East Wickham, Mersham-Hatch (380a), Godinton, nr Great Chart, Lees Court nr Challock.

I would be most grateful for any help in making the research as comprehensive as possible and can be contacted via details below.

Mrs Susan Pittman  
27 Old Chapel Road, Crockenhill, Swanley BR8 8LL  
01322 669923  
pittman@crockenhill.freeserve.co.uk

## WEALDEN SETTLEMENT STUDY CIRCLE

In September 2002 several people who had been independently researching aspects of late Saxon and post-Conquest settlement of the Weald set up the Wealden Settlement Study Circle, defined as 'an informal network of people undertaking academically respectable research on the settlement of the Weald of Sussex, Surrey and Kent, particularly in the Saxon and post-Conquest eras, membership of

which is by recommendation or invitation'.

There are 15 members, from various parts of Sussex and Surrey, though none as yet from Kent. Although the main interest of most is based on documentary research, allied to study of the landscape, relationships with prehistory on the one hand and modern developments on the other, are not ruled out. Meetings to discuss common interests, held twice or thrice a year in East Grinstead, and personal communications, have helped everyone widen and deepen their knowledge and understanding of their own particular pursuits.

Further information may be obtained from M J Leppard (Convenor), 20 St George's Court, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 1QP, tel: 01342 322511.

## THE KENT HISTORY FUND

The Kent History Fund, administered by the Publications Committee, awards grants to assist serious research leading to publication. Applications are invited from local history societies affiliated to the KHF (Kent History Federation) or KAS, and from individuals who are either members of KAS or of a local history society affiliated to either the KHF or KAS. Professional historians and postgraduates are not eligible to apply.

Anyone wishing to apply should write to Dr J M Gibson, 27 Pine Grove, Maidstone, ME14 2AJ, requesting an application form.

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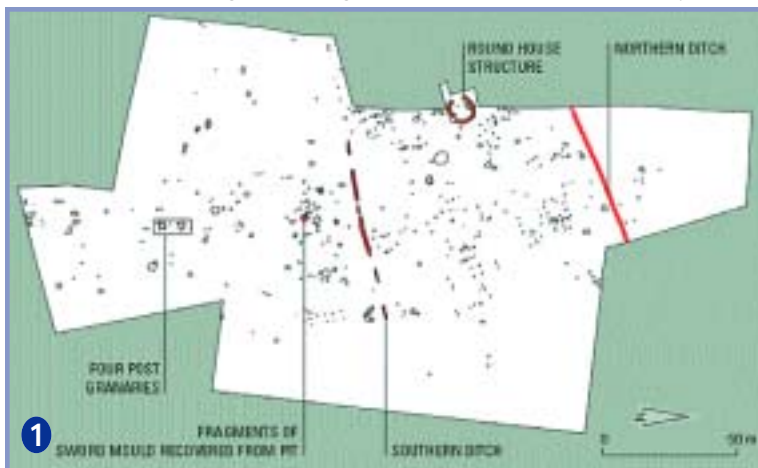
# HOLBOROUGH QUARRY

Archaeological excavation during the summer and autumn of this year by Canterbury Archaeological Trust, to the east of Holborough Quarry at Snodland in Kent, has identified the site of a Late Bronze Age settlement (c. 900 BC). This excavation followed a programme of evaluation and mapping also carried out by the Trust. The site lies within an area which has revealed a comparatively high concentration of archaeology encapsulating the prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. Much of this came to light during the quarrying work and included Mesolithic and Neolithic artefacts, a Roman burial mound and evidence of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

Although the site has been truncated by agricultural activity over a protracted period, with only deeply cut features surviving the plough,

bonised pulses and grains recovered from soil samples indicate the growing of cereals and vegetables. Further evidence for agricultural activity in the form of four-posted structures, which are usually interpreted as granaries, were also identified.

Elsewhere the site appears to have been subdivided by two linear ditches, both aligned east-west. The northern ditch may have defined the northern boundary of settlement, with few features surviving to the north of it. The southern ditch (a segmented feature, with lengths of ditch separated by causeways) was also a site boundary, but perhaps separated activity areas



the spatial spread and close grouping, particularly of post holes, clearly suggests the presence of built structures and activity areas representing a settlement of some significance (fig.1).

A single ring ditch surrounding the post holes of at least one major roundhouse survived against the western boundary of the excavation. Rubbish pits found immediately east of the structure, support the assumption that the ring ditch represented a structure of domestic type. Amongst the finds from the pits was a large collection of Late Bronze Age flint-tempered pottery and a number of baked clay loomweights, testifying to the manufacture of woollen textiles. A large number of animal bones recovered from the pits clearly indicate the keeping of livestock, while car-

within the settlement. The eastern settlement boundary adjoins the quarry, the western boundary was undefined.

The area between the two ditches appears to have been for domestic use. A number of rectangular and circular structures defined by groupings of post holes were suggested. To the south of the putative domestic area were a significant number of pits and fewer post holes, which probably represent drying racks, cattle pens and other structures associated production of food and other day to day activities. Most significant perhaps was the survival of at least ten pits containing cremated human bone, testifying to burials south of the domestic area. A further three cremations were identified on the western side of the site, extending westward from the end of

the southern ditch.

Although most of the pits in the southern zone contained domestic refuse, a number of pits in a group located a short way south of the southern boundary provided rare evidence for metal working. Amongst the group one pit contained a large assemblage of clay mould fragments (figs. 2&3). These have now been cursorily studied by Dr Stuart Needham of The British Museum, Department of Prehistory - one of the leading specialists in prehistoric metalworking. Dr Needham has reported that the moulds from the Holborough site represent one of the best assemblages he has seen from the British Isles and are of national importance. The mould fragments, representing the clay casing for a Bronze sword (probably of Ewart type, fig.4) manufactured approximately 3000 years ago in the Late Bronze Age, will without doubt place Holborough Quarry as a 'type site' in the archaeological literature in years to come.

The site has been handed back to



Berkeley Homes (Eastern), who funded the excavations, although further work next summer to complete the investigation will have to wait until the relocation of a badger sett.

Damien Boden  
Site Director

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# IRON AGE COMES TO SCHOOL

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The second week in October was a very unusual one in the life of St Lawrence CE Primary School in Seal, Kent; the usual curriculum was suspended and the children and staff came to school wearing old clothes! This was because we were all spending a week under the instruction of archaeologists from ESAMP (East Sussex Archaeology and Museums Project)\* engaging in a variety of Iron Age activities. These included pottery, weaving on an authentic loom, wood working using pole lathes, string making using nettles, fire making and cooking. But the most exciting project was the building of an Iron Age Hut in the school woods. The building, which is now complete, is based on archaeological evidence of prehistoric houses and the materials used are those which would have been available to prehistoric house



*Pupils suitably dressed for weaving outside.*



*Above left: handsome coil pots and right: the Iron Age Hut.*

builders in Kent. The shape, design and all the techniques were kept as authentic as possible. The children were involved in every stage of the building from mixing the daub in a 'daub pit' (very messy) to wattling the hazel rods and thatching the roof. They are now extremely proud of their hut and can discuss at length how it was made and what it would really have been like to live in the Iron Age. Interestingly, several children are convinced that they would have been happier!

The building should last about 30 years and so it will be a bit of living history for a whole generation of children. It is well worth a visit!

*Alison Saunders  
(Headteacher)*

\* ESAMP is a training organisation, offering a wide range of training opportunities to individuals within a number of museums and within the fields of archaeological reconstruction and experimental archaeology. They undertake commissions from heritage and educational organisations to reconstruct past buildings and technologies, and have put up over 20 buildings ranging from the Mesolithic through to the Saxon period. They also run courses in ancient crafts and technologies.

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

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

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