KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

newsletter

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KENT'S GOLD CUP

FINDS AT RINGLEMERE FARM, WOODNESBOROUGH NEAR SANDWICH

Funded by English Heritage, the Canterbury Archaeological Trust completed excavations at Ringlemere Farm, Woodnesborough near Sandwich, in April, following the discovery of a splendid gold cup there last November. The early Bronze Age vessel was discovered by local metal-detectorist Cliff Bradshaw. Although damaged by the plough, he was the first to recognise that the cup is very similar to the famous Rillaton gold cup, excavated in Cornwall in 1837. Paul Ashbee provides some further preliminary thoughts on its affinities on pages 4 and 5.

The cup was discovered on the northern edge of a low, but quite distinct mound, lying in the middle of what was then a recently harvested potato field. Mr Bradshaw suspected that this mound might be the remains of an otherwise unrecorded round barrow and examination by the writer suggested that this was probably the case. A subsequent geophysics survey by English Heritage succeeding in locating an enclosing ring-ditch and confirmed this as a very large round barrow site. Barrows that have not been completely ploughed flat are rare in the extensively farmed landscape of east Kent but at Ringlemere the base of the mound actually survived – the last remnants of a great barrow mound that must have originally risen to a height of perhaps twenty feet.

Following an extensive programme of field-walking, excavation work at the site began in March 2002 with the specific aim of determining the precise context of the gold cup. Initially it seemed likely that the vessel came from a Bronze Age grave within the barrow but this proved not to be so. We now think that the cup had been placed in the earth core of the mound - but not at its centre and not with a burial. Perhaps it was deposited here as some sort of offering to the Gods during the actual construction of the mound. However, the core of the mound had later been extensively disturbed by burrowing animals and it is possible that the cup has been moved from its original position.

Above top: Recording and sampling the great ditch that enclosed the barrow mound. Above: Trowelling over the pre-barrow land surface. Note the ancient animal burrows in the foreground.

The Bronze Age Gold Cup discovered by Cliff Bradshaw.

Survival of the base of the barrow mound served to 'trap' evidence of earlier activity below it. Extensive collections of prehistoric struck flints and pottery indicate previous occupation on the site during both the Mesolithic and later Neolithic periods. The close proximity of a small fresh-water stream below the site may well explain the apparent popularity of the area with early settlers.

Keith Parfitt

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due first and foremost to the owners - the Smith family - who readily allowed access to the site and took a great interest in the progress of the work. Thanks are also due to English Heritage for funding the excavation and providing substantial scientific back-up. The Staff at K.C.C.'s Heritage Conservation Group monitored the project throughout and provided assistance in a variety of different ways. In addition to the full-time excavators from CAT, teams of volunteers from the Thanet Trust and Dover Archaeological Group were able to make a valuable contribution to the excavation work. Cliff Bradshaw worked extensively on the dig, undertaking both metal-detecting and excavation. Overall, the Ringlemere story serves as an altogether splendid example of what can be achieved by detectorists and archaeologists working sensibly together.

NB: The site lies on private farm land, which is now under crop. There is no easy public access to the site.

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Tonbridge Historical Society Local History Week 5-12 May 2002

The transfer print vase. Can any readers provide more information as to maker and date?

The week started on Sunday 5th May with an industrial history walk led by Dr Anthony Wilson. This proved to be so popular that Dr Wilson kindly offered to lead another walk on the morning of Sunday 12th May.

On Wednesday Frank Chapman, former editor of the Courier Group and current author of the Warwick column, gave an interesting talk on Tonbridge and its Newspapers in the refurbished Angel Centre, Tonbridge. Afterwards many of the audience enjoyed looking at some of Frank's archive copies of local newspapers and photographs. This event attracted an audience of about 90 including the Mayor, Mrs Joyce Oxley, her husband and our President, Dr Joan Thirsk.

On Thursday Pat Mortlock led two very popular walks around historic Tonbridge. These walks attracted many local residents who were delighted to learn more about the history of the town and it's buildings.

The Pictorial Records and Archives Group, in association with Tonbridge Library, mounted a display of archives and photographs relating to Tonbridge's past. This was scheduled for Thursday and Friday but was extended, by kind permission of the reference librarian, Andrew Lister, until Saturday morning. Approximately 160 people attended this exhibition and seemed appreciative and the displays sparked many discussions. We are grateful for the help given by our members and the Library staff. On Saturday we were fortunate to be able to offer free conducted tours of Ightham Mote and about 150 people took advantage of a fascinating insight into this lovely house. Due thanks go to the National Trust and the guides.

The week was rounded off with a Bygones and Memorabilia session at the Council Chamber, Tonbridge Castle when people were invited to bring along their treasures which had a local interest. About 40 people came along - items included a school medal, a collection of clay pipe fragments retrieved from a small area of someone's garden in Bourne Lane and a vase (see pic). One of the members, Shaun Jeffery, brought along a small exhibition of bottles, prints, postcards etc which drew much discussion. Also, a scrapbook belonging to Mrs Brenda Bentall and some early examples of local papers attracted much interest. Chris Broomfield provided an opportunity for visitors to view a copy of the LDS 1881 Census Index on his laptop computer and was able to make a positive link with a photograph of the Stonestreet family amongst others.

We are very grateful for the time and help given by many members of the Historical Society which helped to bring local history alive to so many.

Shiela Broomfield

The Kent Archaeological Field School hosts a BBC History Magazine Event

From humble beginnings only four years ago the Kent Archaeological Field School has grown to the point that over a thousand people interested in archaeology sign up each year to the twenty-five courses and over one hundred days of archaeology available. Talking to people who attend our courses the same message is heard time and time again. They are excited by what they have seen on television, it either awakens a latent interest or motivates them to participate for the first time. Television is the prime mover for people to seek out courses and our most recent event was a weekend of discovering archaeology organised in association with the BBC

Participants in a previous BBC History event excavate at Deerton Street Roman Villa.

New Books

Front-line Kent – Victor Smith £7.95 including postage 1-901509-64-8 From the introduction of gunpowder artillery in the 14th century to measures against air attack in the Cold War, this book covers a vast range of time and sites. Profusely illustrated (mainly colour) with drawings, photos, maps and plans. Gazetteer of sites to visit cross-referenced with specific time periods. Copies can be obtained from Environmental Management, Strategic Planning Directorate, Kent County Council, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

The Churches of Romney Marsh – Joan Campbell The Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust (to whom cheques payable) £3.00. Romney Marsh is the setting for a group of churches dating back to medieval times when the land was still being

LIBRARY NOTES

ACQUISITIONS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

In addition to publications on topics concerning the History and Archaeology of Kent and on subjects of wider archaeological and historical interest which the KAS is constantly adding to its Library, it is in regular receipt of publications from other County and research organisations in the UK, and also from learned societies and other organisations in Europe. Most of these are supplied to us free, in exchange for the volumes of KAS publications which we send free to those societies with which we are in mutual "corresponding" membership. Many of these relationships date back more than 100 years, some to the foundation of the KAS, and the Library consequently holds complete runs of the annual publications of a good many of the Societies corresponding with us, as, no doubt, they do of ours.

It may be of interest to note the following selection of other societies' publications received by us in the last 2 to 3 months–

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society vol.95, 2001.

English Place Names Society, vol. LXXVIII, 'Place Names of Leicestershire'.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland vol. 130, 2000.

Worcester Recorder no.65 newsletter.

Journal of the British Archaeological Association vol. 154, 2001.

Records of Buckinghamshire vol.42, 2002.

Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society newsletter 114.

Sussex Archaeological Society 'Past and Present' no. 96.

Fornvannen 2001/1 to 2001/4 (Journal of Swedish Antiquarian Research).

Archaeologia Cambriensis vol.CXLVIII 1999. (Cambria; Wales and the Marches).

Landesdenkmalamt Baden-Wurtemberg; Materiel Heften Zur Archaeologie, Heft 62

PreHistory Society newsletter no.40 2002.

Medieval Archaeology Society newsletter 26 2002.

OTHER ADDITIONS

We have recently bought-
Victoria County History of Surrey Vol II,
Victoria County History of Sussex Vol. VI, parts 1,2 and 3. acquisitions which complete our collection of this great publication covering these counties.

Walking the Walls

Collaboration between Kent County Council and the local authorities of Cote D'Opale, France, and of the Province of Flanders, has produced a well researched and splendidly illustrated volume on 'Walking the Walls - Historic Town Defences in Kent, Cote D'Opale and West Flanders'. For serious minded tourists wishing to discover, compare and contrast town defences on either side of the Channel, this is a valuable presentation, and it contains much information useful to historians.

Planarch

We are grateful to the Kent County Council for presenting to the Library six volumes representing the fruits of collaborative work in 2000 and 2001 by representatives of local authorities from England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands on aspects of archaeology from the standpoint of planning, legislation, decision making processes, and the protection of the past and the environment. A listing of the titles of the six volumes reveals the wide scope of the work, (which covers each of the four countries' somewhat different approaches in each volume, and attempts to suggest a way forward for the region in the 6th volume) – Organisation of Archaeology; Archaeological Evaluation Strategies; Archaeological Legislation and Planning; Evaluation of Archaeological Decision Making Processes; Protecting the Past in the Present for the Future, SMRs in the Planarch Region.
This work should guide the philosophy and actions of Planners involved in Archaeology, but it may be of greater assistance to the Archaeologist in understanding Planning.

History Magazine. Four archaeologists were on hand to take classes of various aspects of archaeology and the sixty parents and children who attended had a wonderful time. Julian Richards of Meet the Ancestors' fame was on hand to introduce the day and Julian took one of the groups to Stone Chapel and the site of Durolevum to watch geophysical survey in progress whilst the other groups were introduced to flint knapping under the expert tuition of John Lord, human bone identification with Trevor Anderson, and field-walking with Paul Wilkinson. Lunch was served at the Field School with a photo-opportunity with Julian Richards and his TV Landrover. BBC executives who attended were so pleased with the day that more regional events are being planned in association with the Field School for next year.

Dr Paul Wilkinson
Head of School

reclaimed from the sea, each with its own character and all but one still in regular use. With an authoritative text and an introductory piece about the history of the Marsh, this is an essential companion for any visitor.

Beautifully illustrated with high quality colour photographs. Available from The Hon.Secretary RMHCT, Mrs E Marshall, Lansdell House, Rolvenden, Cranbrook TN17 4LW. Please add 50p p&p or £1.00 for larger order.

Kent Census Surname Indexes – Gillian Rickard
£2.50 0-9530968-0-7
A list of those available for Kent parishes, both published and unpublished. Available from 99 Strangers Lane, Canterbury CT1 3XN email GRKentGen@aol.com. Please add 45p p&p inland, £3.35 world surface & Europe, £3.85 airmail rest of the world.

The Roman Channel Crossing of AD 43: The constraints on Claudius's naval strategy – Gerald Grainge
Archaeopress (BAR British Series 332) £30.00 1-84171-297-3
Did the Romans land at Fishbourne or Richborough? A published version of a PhD. thesis, exploring the evidence for the type of ships available to the Romans and their performance, maritime conditions likely to be encountered in the Channel two millennia ago and the skills of mariners of the time.
159pp, 50 illus. Available from Hadrian Books Ltd, 122 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7BP, email bar@hadrianbooks.co.uk.

THE RINGLEMERE GOLD CUP AND ITS AFFINITIES

While the exquisite advanced Early Bronze Age gold cup found on Ringlemere Farm is a significant addition to an English and European mainland series of gold, silver, amber and shale cups, it furthers the argument that the barrows of East Kent's chalklands yielded artifacts[1] which made them outliers of the Wessex' phenomenon of Stonehenge's supportive landscape[2]. Briefly, the Wessex culture's components come from about 100 rich graves, beneath bowl, bell and disc barrows. Defined largely by the European mainland affinities and accompaniments of the daggers found in certain graves, there is the division between Wessex I and Wessex II[3]. The first inhumation burials were superseded by cremations. Bronze pins from Germany, Baltic amber and Mediterranean faience beads were in some graves, and besides funerary gold[4], incense cups, as from Tilmanstone[5] as well as the first collared urns[6] The society which had this funerary wealth brought Stonehenge to its final form [7].

The Ringlemere gold cup is 6 inches in height and 4 inches in diameter at the rim and thus the largest of its compeers. Beaten from a sheet of 20 carat gold, it is ribbed in a mode comparable with its Rillaton counterpart[8] and has a closely similar handle. There is also a pointillé ornament below the rim. However, unlike the Rillaton cup (fig 1), which is considered to be a copy of a beaker[9] it has an ovoid rather than a flat base. In gold the counterpart of such a base is displayed by the plain, handled, gold cup from Fritzdorf near Bonn (fig 2), in the Rheinland[10]. Indeed, the Rillaton and Fritzdorf cups have close similarities of workmanship, particularly of their attached handles, and might have been the work of the same craftsman[11]. It should not be forgotten that Wessex funerary gold may also be largely from the hands of a single craftsman[12]. Found in 1837, in a large barrow's secondary stone cist[13] and published thirty years later[14], the Rillaton cup was sent by the Duchy of Cornwall to William IV and thereafter it was kept in Queen Victoria's Swiss Cottage at Osbourne. It passed into obscurity until after the death of George V, when it was found on his dressing table where it has been used to contain his collar studs![15] During the short reign of Edward VIII it was deposited in the British Museum.

fig. 1

fig. 2

Until the discovery of this Kentish gold cup on Ringlemere Farm, the Fritzdorf cup, with its rounded base, stood alone, for the Rillaton cup has a flat-based beaker-like counterpart found at Eschenz, Canton Thurgau in Switzerland. Without a handle, this has the proportions of a ceramic bell-beaker. Its decoration is overall horizontal zoning and infilled panels while, below the rim, there is a rendering of the familiar comb-stamping[16]. Another gold cup, from Golenkamp near Hanover, in private hands, although of flat-based bucket form, bears similar decoration[17]. The cups from Eschenz and Golenkamp both have circular-ribbed bases recalling that of the Rillaton cup. In its execution the Golenkamp vessel is akin to such developed pieces as the gold tippet[18] and the golden 'ts', possibly post and stake attachments, from Avanton, Vienne in central France, Schifferstadt, Landkreis Speyer and Etzeldorf-Buch, Landkreis Nuremberg in Germany[19]. Parts of gold cups have also been found at Ploumilliau, Cotes-du-Nord, Brittany[20] and Cuxwold in Lincolnshire[21]. Both pieces point to their having been parts of, or intended for, composite golden cups. Three ribbon-handled gold cups from Spain, where they were part of a hoard[22] are said to have had concentric circles ornamenting their bases.

During 1974 the fragments of a much-corroded handled silver cup, composite and of a form comparable with the Fritzdorf golden cup, were dug from a large barrow, called Brun Bras, in Saint-Adrien about 6 miles south of Guingamp in Brittany[23]. Silver is not unknown in Breton earlier Bronze Age contexts. There are pins and even wire spiral arm-rings, while the fragments of what was termed a silver bowl from a barrow at St.Fiacre, Morbihan[24] may have been those of a cup.

Of England's amber cups, that from a considerable barrow at Hove, Sussex, is possibly the best known[25]. Its handle ornamentation is comparable with the golden cups but its squat form may have been dictated by the block of amber from which it was carved. Found in an oak coffin where it could have furnished an inhumation burial, it was accompanied by a Wessex II dagger, a whetstone and a battleaxe. The only other amber example, that from the Clandon Barrow near Dorchester, in Dorset[26] has an ovoid, almost pointed base and its handle is missing. Nonetheless, it is, although undecorated, comparable with the Fritzdorf golden cup and, as far as can be seen, our Kentish Ringlemere cup. It was accompanied by an atypical Wessex II dagger, a sheet-gold lozenge, a shale macehead with golden studs, a perforated incense cup and a collared urn.

The shale cups, detailed by R.L.S. Newall (1928), two from the 'Amesbury district' in Wiltshire and two from Honiton in Devon[27], have line-ornamented handles similar to those of the Ringlemere, Rillaton and Fritzdorf golden cups, and ovoid bases. One of the Amesbury examples has zoned encircling line decoration, as does one from Devon. This has zigzag line ornament inside its rim. The bases are ovoid and, like the amber cup from the Clandon Barrow, almost pointed. The second cup from Amesbury has around it a single zone of lines as does that from Farway Down, Honiton (fig. 3). The base of this Amesbury cup could be best

fig 3

defined as a flattened ovoid. In general terms the form of these shale cups is that of our new Ringlemere cup, a likeness accentuated by the decoration of the handles.

Functionally, the gold cups such as Rillaton and Ringlemere, were likely to have been drinking cups, a term originally applied to beakers by Colt Hoare and Thurnam (1878, 388), 'beaker' being a term introduced by John Abercromby (1904). Although the nature of the drinks consumed in beakers and the golden cups, two of which closely resemble these ceramic vessels, is elusive, residues have been found. An age-bent horn ladle found in a beaker during the 19th century at Inverurie, Scotland[28] hints only at a liquid carefully measured. However, more recently[29] traces of mead, flavoured with meadowsweet, have been detected in a late style beaker, also from Scotland. It has been suggested that beer or ale was regularly consumed to redress the vitamin deficiencies of small communities. Besides the finely finished ceramic beakers it is likely that there was a range of wooden cups and bowls in Neolithic and Bronze Age times. Curwen (1954,153) refers to a Danish wooden cup of the same form as the Hove amber cup. An Italian handled wooden bowl illustrates the capabilities of the wood-workers[30]. Fragments of a fine later Bronze Age wooden bowl were recovered from the Wilsford Shaft, at no great distance from Stonehenge[31].

A piece of a pointillé ornamented ogival dagger was associated with the Rillaton cup, which, as has been stressed, has close affinities with that from Fritzdorf and our new Ringlemere cup. Ogival daggers define, for the most part, Wessex II, approximately the two centuries prior to 1500BC. Such a dagger also accompanied the Hove amber cup, and a not dissimilar dagger the shale cup from Farway Down. It can be contended that two of our golden cups, those from Rillaton and Eschenz, are patently copies of ceramic beakers. Yet, when they were made, beakers were almost a millennium in the past thus, in a manner for example, that recalls the Wessex gold-encased shale cones which are patently aggrandised versions of Beaker shale buttons. Indeed, it can be said that most of the Wessex goldwork has a general Beaker character[32]. It is possible that the cups of gold, amber and shale were intentionally archaistic pieces, presumably calculated to invoke the more of an earlier age. The round and ovoid bottomed vessels, unless immediately drained and laid down, would have needed stands. Although in part recalling beakers, these rounded and ovoid bases invoke a yet more ancient past, perhaps even the well-finished, leathery vessels of the Neolithic!

As was remarked at the outset of this résumé, our advanced Early Bronze Age gold cup from Ringlemere moves the prehistory of this period in Kent into a fresh dimension. It must be stressed that these comments concerning its character and affinities are provisional and from printed and pictorial details, for this remarkable piece, when seen, could impel further ideas and investigations. It does show however, that East Kent, like Cornwall, is likely to have been a significant extension of the remarkable Wessex Bronze Age phenomenon. It has been said that the past is a foreign country; it is a place where one is often surprised by dramatic change.

Paul Ashbee

Notes

1 Ashbee & Dunning 1960
2 Piggott 1938, 92; Gerloff 1975; Ashbee 1978, 160-80
3 ApSimon 1954
4 Coles & Taylor 1971
5 Ashbee & Dunning 1960, 50
6 Longworth 1984
7 Cleal et al 1995
8 Ashbee 1960, 117-18 Pl XXIV, a,b
9 Clarke 1970, frontispiece
10 von Uslar 1995; Ashbee 1960, Pl XXIV, c; Piggott 1965, 134, Pl XVII, a Bibliography
11 Ashbee 1977, 157
12 Coles & Taylor 1971
13 Grinsell 1953, 125-6
14 Smirke 1867
15 Hawkes 1951, 160
16 Hardmeyer u. Burgi 1975; Kinnes 1975; Ashbee 1977
17 Ashbee 1977, 157
18 Powell 1953; Ashbee 1960, 115 Pl XIX; Taylor 1980, 52
19 Powell 1966, 155 Pls 148-9; Eogan 1994, Pl IX
20 Briard 1968, 319 fig 21
21 Gerloff 1975, 257 Pl 57, N
22 Gerloff 1975, 257
23 Briard 1978; Ashbee 1979; Clarke et al 1985, 135
24 Piggott 1938, 99-100
25 Curwen & Curwen 1924; Curwen 1954, 152-3 Pl XIII
26 Drew & Piggott 1937; Clarke et al 1985 122-3
27 Fox 1964, 71-3 Pls 25-6
28 Ashbee 1960, 122
29 Harrison 1980, 104
30 Coles & Lawson 1987, 91 fig 66
31 Ashbee et al 1989, 55 fig 51, 12
32 Coles & Taylor 1971

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Conferences, Lectures, Events

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Romney Marsh Through the Ages conference on Saturday 14th September at Imperial College, Wye 10.30am-5pm. Organised by Romney Marsh Research Trust.

Landscape change on Romney Marsh: recent advances – Dr Martyn Waller

Romney Marsh and coastal change in the UK – Dr Antony Long

Recent Archaeological research on Romney Marsh – Luke Barber

Romney Marsh ports – Dr Helen Clarke & Gustav Milne

The origins of the pastoral economy of Romney Marsh 1200-1550 – Andrew Butcher

The evolution of the agrarian economy of the Romney Marsh region 1550-1850 – Dr Stephen Hipkin

Summary & discussion – Dr Stephen Rippon

Cost £30, including tea, coffee & lunch.

Sunday 15th September, field trip by coach 10am-4pm to view recent & ongoing research on the Marsh. Cost £10

SAE to Mrs D Beck, 27 Station Road, Lydd, Romney Marsh, TN29 9ED.

The Dover Bronze Age Boat in Context: Society and Water Transport in Prehistoric Europe Conference 2002. Thursday 31st October – Saturday 2nd November in the 14th century Maison Dieu, Dover.

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the excavation of the Dover Boat, the Boat Trust has organised a prestigious international conference. 17 eminent speakers, over a third from the Continent, will lecture on a range of topics relating to the Bronze Age, providing a forum for stimulating debate into issues relating to the Boat and its place in international archaeology. Cost £80.00 per delegate, excluding accommodation but including light buffet lunch each day.

Wednesday 30th October - welcome reception in the Boat Gallery in Dover Museum.

31st October - informal dinner at a specialist marina-side fish restaurant.

2nd November - two optional study trips, one to France, the other to review east Kent archaeological sites.

To register contact Denise Ryland, Conference Co-ordinator, Tours of the Realm, Hammond House, Limekiln Street, Dover CT17 9EE.

Kent Archaeology along the Thames Foreshore on Saturday 2nd November 2-5.30pm at Christ Church University College, Canterbury. Organised by the Council for Kentish Archaeology.

Maritime Archaeology on the Foreshore... – Gustav Milne, UCL

... and the Prehistoric Forest at Erith – Dr Sophie Seel UCL

Defending London's River – Victor Smith, Thames Defence Heritage

Roman Reculver: the Changing Coastline – Brian Philp KARU

Tickets £3 (cheques to CKA) from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, TN15 8HP

Meet the Romans at Crofton Roman Villa, Orpington on Sunday 18th August 10am-5pm. Secundus, a Roman soldier and his sister Agrippina will give displays:

10am & 2pm Clothes, Make-up & Jewellery

11am & 3pm Armour, Weapons & Battle Tactics

12pm & 4pm Entertainment: Gladiators & Games

Entry £1.50/£1.00 Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit 020 8463 4737

Isle of Thanet Archaeology Society - Talks

A Hidden Treasure – Quex House and The Powell Cotton Museum by John Harrison, the curator, on Wednesday 11th September

Recovering Thanet's Past; A round up of the work carried out this year in Thanet by the Trust for Thanet Archaeology's Director Dr David Perkins and his team on Wednesday 20th November

Talks take place at St Georges School, Westwood Road, Broadstairs from 7.45pm. Doors open at 7.15pm. Ample free car parking. Tickets £3.50 on the door or £3.00 in advance from Events Secretary, Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society, Crampton Tower Yard, High Street, Broadstairs CT10 2AB.

Also: Meet the Romans! on Saturday 26th October at the Village Hall, Minster, Thanet. Further details from the contact address above.

Excavations at Scadbury Moated Manor, Chislehurst – Open Day on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September from 2 – 4.30pm. Self-guided trail around the excavations; see work currently being carried out as well as the remains of the foundations of the buildings associated with the Walsingham family. Members of the Orpington & District Archaeological Society will be on hand to answer questions.

Admission free, limited car parking available close to the site by ticket only. Ticket application, enclosing a s.a.e. and stating required day to ODAS, 27 Eynsford Close, Petts Wood, BR5 1DP.

Also from O.D.A.S:

Wednesday 4th September – Medieval/Elizabethan Garden Design, by Deborah Kemp

Wednesday 2nd October – Archaeology of the Hebrides, by Janet Clayton & Michael Meekums

Wednesday 6th November – Current Archaeology by Andrew Selkirk

All talks start at 8pm in The Priory, Orpington. Admission free, open to everyone (although space is limited and priority will be given to ODAS members if necessary).

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAYS 2002

Events for the whole family; bring your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews too!

North Downs Young Archaeologists with KCC Heritage present an 'Iron Age' Family Fun Day at White Horse Wood Country Park, Thurnham (off the A249 through Detling) on Sunday 21st July from 12-4pm. Meet the tribe of the Cantiaci, make edible torcs, taste prehistoric food, try wattle & daubing, be painted with woad!

Further details: Lyn Palmer 01892 533661/Susie Lee 01732 810556

Crofton Roman Villa, Crofton Road, Orpington on Sunday 21st July from 10am-5pm. Excavate a 'finds' tray, discover hidden artefacts, make a plan & draw your discoveries, make mosaics, dress up as Romans & play Roman games.

Entry £1, YAC members free. Further details: Kent Archaeological Unit 020 8462 4737 or Bromley Museum 01689 873826

Digging Up the Park 2002 on Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st July in Central Park, Dartford from 1-5pm during the Dartford Festival. An exhibition 'dig' as part of a display featuring the work of the Dartford District Archaeology Group. Further details: Chris Baker, Director of DDAG, 01322 224739.

The Museum of London & LAARC have many events going on over the weekend with a shuttle bus running between the 2 venues. Of special interest is the Societies Fair on Saturday 20th July from 10am-5.45pm and on Sunday 21st July from 12-5.45pm, giving the opportunity to meet many representatives from numerous local archaeology societies and find out more about their activities. Further details: 020 7814 5777

Mystery Photos

The location of the mystery photo in our April issue (one of many unprovenanced images held in the KAS library collection) was identified by Chris Gibbs, Chairman of the Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society. He writes: "This is a view across Margate Sands probably taken on the promenade near the clock tower looking westward. Looking at a similar picture it also shows the flagstaff in the middle distance and the outline of the buildings near it (the Nayland Rock Hotel) look the same. Quite apart from that, there is a nowhere in Kent with a wide sandy beach and buildings such as this."

This month our photo (see opposite) is a more personal scene. Do you recognise the rear of the house - or perhaps even the gentleman with a mourning band, leaning on the broom?

DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS SPOT?

Please contact the editor at 55 Stone Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2QU

The Ancient Monuments Society

The society, founded in 1924, is concerned with the conservation and study of buildings of all ages and types. They are a 'National Amenity Society' and as such are consulted by local authorities in England and Wales on applications for listed building consent, whether partial or whole demolition. They handle some 7000 such cases each year, commenting on a broad range of cases both secular and ecclesiastical.

They work in partnership with The Friends of Friendless Churches, who own 31 disused but beautiful and interesting historic churches which they have saved from demolition and decay. The Friends are the proud owners of the medieval ruins and 19th century mortuary chapel of St Mary's Eastwell, Kent, where they have carried out an extensive programme of repairs on the tower and are about to introduce a screen by an artist blacksmith at the base of the tower.

Each year the Societies jointly publish three 40 page Newsletters and a 150 page volume of Transactions – the latter a collection of scholarly articles on subjects as diverse as brick noggin, vernacular architecture (including Kent and the South East) Victorian cemeteries and burial chambers. They also run a series of Autumn Lectures at the Courtauld Institute, Strand, London. This year's theme is 'The Architecture of Shops and Shopping'.

The AMS and the Friends run a joint membership scheme at £18 (£12 for senior citizens) and can be contacted through the Membership Secretary, St Ann's Vestry Hall, 2 Church Entry, London EC4V 5HB, tel: 020 7236 3934, email: office@ancientmonumentssociety.org.uk.

St Mary's Eastwell

NOTICE BOARD

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Thank you to all of you who have renewed or pointed out the error of my ways in response to my letter sent to non-renewals in May. Apologies for the errors brought to my attention – it can only get better! I have received over 40 membership applications recently. I have a large stock of forms so please contact me for a bundle to take to your local society or to any conferences you may be attending. Remember that all membership matters should be sent direct to me – Shiela Broomfield, 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge TN11 9HD 01732 838698 or membership@kentarchaeology.org.uk

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The Society has appointed a communications officer to improve links with the media and to help publicise members' activities and achievements.

John Hammond is a professional journalist with more than 25 year's experience.

He volunteered to take on this new role after being asked to join the Membership and Publicity Committee. He has also agreed to serve on the governing Council.

John, who lives in Minster-on-Sea, has had a lifelong interest in archaeology but only recently found the time to pursue this with more vigour.

He is currently studying part-time at the University of Kent and hopes to achieve a degree in the Theory of Archaeology.

John Hammond holds up a Roman bone hairpin which was one of several finds he made while working as a volunteer on the Big Dig in Canterbury

He is a director of the Sheppey Heritage Trust and chairman of Sheerness Town Centre Management.

During his career as a journalist he has covered such stories as the Zeebrugge Disaster, The Falklands War and the Iranian Embassy Siege.

For the past decade he has run his own public relations and publishing business while keeping his hand in with freelance journalism for the local and national press, television and radio.

He also holds a second dan black belt in karate and was a member of the England squad, which competed in the 1995 Japan Karate Association European Championships, held in Holland.

He has two sons, Matthew (20) who is studying for a degree in Broadcast Journalism at Nottingham Trent University and Simon (17) who is in the sixth form at Borden Grammar School, Sittingbourne.

His wife Sue is a senior lecturer in education at Christ Church University College, Canterbury.

John said: "I am delighted to have this opportunity. I am passionate about our past and believe there has never been a better time to inspire other people.

Popular television programmes like Time Team and Meet the Ancestors have shown people that archaeology and historical research are not dull, boring pursuits. They can be thrilling and romantic. Few things beat that moment of discovery when the pages of a book or the damp soil give up their secrets."

If you have any information which John can use, whether it is about a society event or something you have personally been involved in, contact him on 01795 871199 or email jmhammond@btinternet.com

RECORDS FORUM

The Publications Committee announces that a Records Forum will take place between 2-5pm on Saturday 1st October at the Charing Barn, Charing. It is Admission Free to any interested individual who wishes to meet and discuss with others records publications issues.

The programme is as follows:

1) Welcome and Introduction by Paul Oldham, the Society's President

2) Terry Lawson, the Society's Honorary Editor, will draw attention to recent publications

3) Mrs Tricia Rowsby, County Archivist from the Centre for Kentish Studies, will talk about archive services and records developments, with some personal thoughts on what she would like to see published, leading into:

4) A general discussion concerning records publications, including the possibility of establishing an independent subscription-financed Kent Records Society, this issue to be addressed by Dr Joan Thirsk, a member of the Publications Committee.

John Whyman

Chairman
Publications
Committee

FESTIVE DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

This year's Christmas Lunch will be held on the 30th November at the Hop Farm, Paddock Wood. Further details in the October Newsletter.

CONTACT ADDRESSES

The contact addresses of the Hon Membership Secretary and the Newsletter Editor appear within this publication. Other useful addresses include:

Hon. General Secretary,
Andrew Moffat, Three Elms,
Woodlands Lane, Shorne,
Gravesend DA12 3HH Email
secretary@kentarchaeology.org.uk

Hon. Treasurer,
Robin Thomas, 1 Abchurch Yard,
Abchurch Lane,
London EC4N 7BA
Email
treasurer@kentarchaeology.org.uk

ABBEY FARM: ROMANO-BRITISH COMPLEX - EXCAVATION 2002

The villa, located by aerial photography in 1979, had a commanding view of the Wantsum Channel and the Saxon Shore Fort of Richborough (Rutupiae). Since the start of the project, the extensive villa, a latrine to the north-west, an impressive bath-house and a fourth building to the south-east have been excavated.

In August the K.A.S. plans to return to Abbey Farm, Minster-in-Thanet for the sixth season of fieldwork and excavation at this Romano-British villa complex. The programme of work will be in conjunction with the Trust for Thanet Archaeology. It will be directed by Keith Parfitt of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust who will be advised by Dr David Perkins.

It is envisaged that the fieldwork will include; continuation with the resistivity survey begun in 2001, a metal detector survey and field-walking survey on land close to the complex. Pot washing and initial attention to artefacts will also be undertaken.

The programme of excavation will seek other buildings and the boundary of occupation.

The dig, which is open to people aged 16 years and above, will be held over a two week period and it will start on Sunday 25th August 2002. To participate, there will be a registration fee for members of £20 for one week and £35 for two, or £25 and £40 respectively for non-members.

To register for the excavation please fill in the form below.

Abbey Farm Excavation . I should like to register for the planned excavation for one/two week(s) (delete as applicable).

State dates:.....
(25/08/02 to 30/08/02 or 01/09/02 to 06/09/02 or 25/08/02 to 06/09/02

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to the Kent Archaeological Society.

Name ..... Age .....

Address ..... Tel. No. .....

..... Email .....

.....

Send Application to: David Bacchus
Telford Lodge, Roebuck Road
Rochester, Kent ME1 1UD
Tel: 01634 843495
Email: d-bacchus@talk21.com

I am/am not a member of the KAS or the Thanet Archaeological Society

NOTICE BOARD

Events and Diary

This is the third 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.

THE LOLLARDS
- first English challenge to orthodoxy

By 1372 when he had taken his Doctors' degree Wycliffe had probably been at Oxford for some 27 years and was an experienced lecturer and the author of papers on Biblical studies and philosophy. Moreover he excelled in the medieval academic discipline of disputation involving the advancing and demolition of hypotheses. As an intellectual instrument Wycliffe was honed to perfection - as speaker, writer, thinker and dialectitian. By now one of the dominant figures in the university he was considered by others as well as by himself to be suitable for preferment. In this he was disappointed and his attention was increasingly turned to critical analyses of the received doctrines and practices of the medieval church. Because the beliefs of the church constituted the intellectual landscape of the age his views had social and political repercussions.

It is cardinal to an understanding of Wycliffe's teaching to appreciate his emphasis on the authority of the bible. It was to be regarded as the sole fount of doctrine and the rule by which opinions were measured. He commended knowledge of scripture in both Latin and the vernacular. The so called Wycliffe Bible was probably his in inspiration rather than translation. Nevertheless it was meant to offer to literate men a direct access to what Wycliffe regarded as the foremost means of grace. Wycliffe's thinking ranged widely. One central theme in his teaching concerned the eucharist. He believed in the real presence of Christ at the consecration but rejected the notion that the consecrated elements were physically changed. This is a position held by many contemporary believers. It is now, as the reformer made it then, a point of sharp division. The examination and trials of Lollards frequently highlighted the view of the Eucharist held by the suspected heretics.

Auricular confession to a priest, held to be at least an annual necessity, was considered by Wycliffe to be a matter of choice and not an obligation. He particularly opposed the requirement for priestly absolution as a determinant of divine forgiveness. Only God, Wycliffe argued, could forgive sin. The current practice of 'pardons' being sold was repugnant to him. Any ecclesiastical absolution not requiring repentance was anathema.

Pilgrimage, Wycliffe suggested, ought more profitably be made to the poor and sick than to some distant shrine to do homage to the likeness or relics of some saint. He conceded that images had a value as 'books' for the illiterate but recognised they could easily lead to idolatrous worship.

Wycliffe recognised the need for an institutional church but saw it as a fact to be held lightly because the true and actual church he considered to consist of all those predestined to salvation. It followed that authority within the church could be exercised only by those who were themselves in a state of grace. His treatises De Dominio Divino and De Civili Dominio had forcibly made this point with regard not only to bishops and priests but also to those who held office in the state. When he went on to publish De Potestate Pape he expressed the view that even the Pontiff lacked legitimacy unless he too was in a state of grace. Consequently obedience to the pope was due only if the pope closely followed Christ and the first apostles.

Disendowment Wycliffe prescribed as the only effective cure for a church corrupted by power and riches. Monastic endowments had earlier been suggested as items for confiscation in the reign of Edward III although no action had been taken. Now Wycliffe advanced the idea that all clergy should be limited to what was necessary for their immediate needs. Wycliffe's teaching vindicated intellectually the reservations of many on the enormous wealth of the medieval church. This had accrued from the gifts and bequests of the faithful over many generations. This wealth included vast holdings of lands by monasteries and by bishops, all of it being regarded as inalienable. The peasant engaged in the daily struggle for sustenance and the prince or magnate seeking to share the burden of funding a foreign war both looked with longing on the wealth of the great monastic houses and princely bishops. Wycliffe thought that the royal power should be used to confiscate the endowments of the institutional church. These he regarded as being in starkest contrast to the Gospel account of Christ's poverty and his teaching on the dangers of wealth to the soul. Royal intervention to curtail other church privileges was advocated. Right of sanctuary in church premises and the exemption of clerks from trial in the king's courts were both attacked. Papal interference in the making and application of law Wycliffe regarded as unacceptable. He thought that scripture should be the basis of all law though he was perceptive enough to realise that this would not meet all cases.

For senior churchmen holding offices of state Wycliffe had especial contempt, acidly calling them hermaphrodites. Quoting St Matthew and St. Paul the scholar fulminated against the priests who neglected their preaching and pastoral duties to devote their talents to the royal service. Archbishop Sudbury, who was also chancellor, was one prominent example. Wycliffe's preaching against these 'Caesarean clergy' drew down upon him much episcopal wrath.

Monks and nuns he believed were offering to the founders of their orders, like Benedict or Dominic, the loyalty which was due to Christ alone. With the friars he had much more sympathy because of their preaching and teaching. But when scholarly friars attacked Wycliffe's own views especially on the eucharist he turned his critical attention to the mendicants with especial intensity. His enmity was reciprocated, not least by the Carmelites.

It was evident that the reformer's views would attract the condemnation of the Pope and the English bishops. His tenets cut at the very grounds of clerical authority. If it was not necessary to have a priest to make 'God's body' or to hear confession and give absolution, if the very authority of Pope, bishop or priest depended on his being in a state of grace as perceived by the individual, the whole edifice was shaken.

In a society in which state and church were so intertwined Wycliffe's views clearly had social and political implications. When he and his closest Oxford disciples worked to disseminate the reforming views outside academic circles the toscin

sounded in both episcopal and governmental circles.

While their Lollard doctrines were merely being urged in the Oxford schools there was a limited inclination for condemnation although the church authorities used Carmelite friars within the university to exercise a watching brief. But when Wycliffe and his academic acolytes made strenuous efforts to popularise their disturbing ideas especially among the knightly classes there was considerable disquiet.

Benedictine monks, inveterate enemies of Wycliffe, supplied Pope Gregory with selections from Wycliffe's works which they considered suspect. Bishop Brinton of Rochester, himself a Benedictine, was probably among them. In 1377 Papal disapproval of Lollard doctrine was expressed and the following year Wycliffe appeared at an episcopal council and was rebuked for teachings deemed damaging to social order.

The Peasant's Revolt triggered reaction from church and crown. The rebellion had many causes, economic and political. Wycliffe's personal involvement is doubtful but his enemies correctly perceived that some of the rebels' complaints were highly consonant with Lollard opinions especially with regard to clerical venality. To Wycliffe's foes the revolt provided critical ammunition in plenty. In his writings Wycliffe himself expressed horror for the murder of Archbishop Sudbury and for rebellion against the crown. Nevertheless his writings provided good pickings for those who asserted his influence on the populist priest John Ball and on Wat Tyler the leader and spokesman of the rebels.

In 1381 despite the great support Wycliffe enjoyed at Oxford a university commission found him guilty of doctrinal error and forbade him to continue teaching. He appealed in vain to Richard II and retired from Oxford to Lutterworth. The following year Archbishop Courtenay stepped up the anti-Lollard campaign. A formidable 'packed' council was set up at Oxford to condemn heretical teaching. Wycliffe's enjoyment of John of Gaunt's royal patronage may account for the reluctance of authority to take more severe measures.

Enormous pressure was bought to bear upon Wycliffe's principal lieutenants. Cited before diocesan bishops for heresy some significant leaders abjured Lollard views. The real possibility of confinement and the certain denial of preferment were persuasive arguments. While Archbishop Courtenay masterminded the destruction of Lollard influence in Oxford his diocesan colleagues mounted an ongoing programme of heresy hunting which continued for decades. This was supplemented by the passing of the statute 'De Heretico Comburendo' in 1401. Dr McHardy suggests that this legislation was drafted hurriedly with strong clerical support. For the first time in England those who expressed views differing from received teaching were liable to be burnt at the stake. Thus by a programme of anti Lollard propaganda reinforced by episcopal witch hunting and condemnation, Lollardy as a threat to church order and royal authority seemed to be crushed. With Wycliffe's death in 1384 and the subsequent submission of most of his Oxford supporters the movement lost its intellectual leadership. Yet two consequences, both with resonance in Kent, have yet to be mentioned.

While most of the donnish disciples had reneged, a handful of clerics who had embraced the reformers with more conviction, enthusiastically evangelised. One of these, William Swinderby, had probably been responsible for converting the man who became populist history's hero, Sir John Oldcastle, later Lord Cobham. This Hereford squire who had achieved fame and royal approval as a soldier embraced Lollardy with a degree of enthusiasm which became apparent about 1410. He corresponded with John Hus the Bohemian reformer and encouraged heretical preachers in Kent, London and Herefordshire. When he incurred episcopal disapproval he remained defiant, shutting the gates of his castle at Cooling against the archbishops' summons. His subsequent examination by the archbishop's council and the failure of his attempts to convince Henry V of the truth of his views led him to attempt an armed insurrection after he had escaped by night from the Tower of London. His rebellion was botched, brief and ill supported. Scores of his humbler followers died though Oldcastle himself survived in hiding for three more years.

Less immediate but more significant was the continued existence a century later of communities revealed by Archbishop Warham's proceedings against Kentish Lollards in 1511 and 1512. Their beliefs included a denial of transubstantiation and the value of confession and of the mediation of saints. William Carder of Tenterden burned while his fellow heretics were made to watch because he held that the bread of the altar was 'only brede'.

Edward Walker, the Maidstone cutler, went to the stake because his reading of a gospel in English led him to deny the value of 'worshipping of seynts'. Tenterden, Benenden, Staplehurst, Cranbrook, Canterbury, Boxley, Rolvenden and Godmersham all contributed to the total of 53 persons brought to trial, most at Warham's palace at Knole. Such communities may have eased the reception of protestant belief at the Reformation. Where Wycliffe's challenge was cerebral and Oldcastle's military, these artisans and yeomen in Kent and other counties were evidence of a less articulate but widespread discontent with Catholic teaching and practice.

It is necessary to distinguish Wycliffe's arguments from those of his less sophisticated followers who had neither the Latin nor the dialectic skill to penetrate their master's subtleties. This sometimes led to grotesque statements of belief but as Anne Hudson has well observed in her examination of vernacular Wycliffite writings there is substantial common ground between the Oxford ferment of the late 1300s and the tenets of humbler Lollards in the early 16th century. Wycliffe sparked dangerous aspirations of lay access to the divine which have become the stock in trade of most protestants. His acute mind exposed fault lines still unresolved in 2002. The extent to which the Lollard challenge prepared or hindered the way to the later acceptance of the break with Rome and the establishment of an autonomous national church has been much debated. The late great K B McFarlane concluded that Wycliffe did more than anyone 'to discredit moderate reform'. Margaret Aston's dictum that 'Lollards might not actually make protestants but they would sow fertile seeds of doubt' is more felicitous. It certainly seems true that continuing Lollard communities in Kent helped the rapid and popular acceptance of the Reformation in the county.

What or who constitutes the church? How should we understand the eucharist? What gives authority validity? Should institutional or inward religion be foremost? Whether the archheretic of 1380 is still a heretic or is now to be seen as a prophet can still provoke controversy. Wycliffe's true stature has been obscured by two opposing tendencies. He has become the icon of evangelical hagiography and the bete noir of Anglo-Catholics. On McFarlane's observation there can be agreement, 'He was prepared to believe authority wrong'. Was that crime or achievement?

Philip Lawrence

John Wycliffe and English Non Conformity. K B. Mcfarlane 1952

Lollards and Reformers. Margaret Aston 1984

The Premature Reformation. Anne Hudson 1988

Early Modern Kent. Ed Michael Zell 2000

Lollardy and the Gentry in the Later Middle Ages. Ed Aston and Richmond 1997

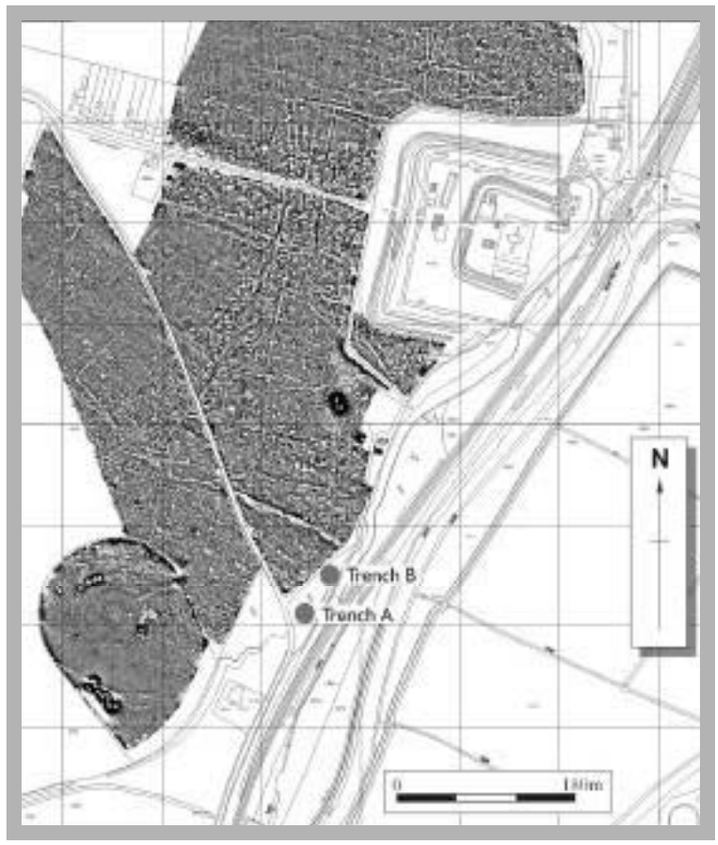
The Stripping of the Altars. E Duffy 1992

RICHBOROUGH

Results from Survey and Excavation, 2001

The well-known site of Richborough has long been characterised as a military site. Its history is, however, more complex than this. Ever since Leland, it has been apparent that the hill around the walls of the Saxon shore fort had been occupied. The terms vicus and civilian settlement have been applied to this area, implying that the settlement was at all times an adjunct to a military installation. The excavations undertaken by J.P. Bushe Fox in the 1920s themselves suggest otherwise, as the Claudian bridgehead and supply base were overlain by streets and buildings of urban character, around the great quadrifons arch. The fortification of the arch with triple ditches, and the subsequent Saxon Shore fort, were apparently superimposed upon the street pattern in the mid and late third century. The quadrifons marked Richborough as the official gateway to Britain.

Over the last few years a partnership project involving the Universities of Kent, Southampton and Cambridge, Kent County Council, and the Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage has been established to look at Richborough in new ways. It has several aims relating to the landscape of Richborough island, changes in the palaeogeography of the area and the infilling of the Wantsum Channel. It seeks to understand Iron Age, Roman and early Medieval settlement, and subsequent landscape development along the shores of the Wantsum Channel, and to enhance our knowledge of Iron Age, Roman and early Medieval settlement along the southern side of the Wantsum Channel between Sandwich/Worth in the east and Ickham and the River Stour in the west, in order to gain a fuller understanding of the context within which the Roman settlement was situated. Not least of the aims is to characterise the settlement surrounding the excavated Saxon Shore fort, to obtain a detailed understanding of the ancient topography of Richborough island and to try to locate and investigate the harbour. It is this final aim which has been addressed by the work in 2001.



Thus far three main techniques have been used. The work has been undertaken by various parts of the Projects Division of English Heritage. In January 2001, magnetometry and resistivity surveys were conducted on the amphitheatre. Resistivity proved to be the most effective technique here, and the identity of the amphitheatre was confirmed. It was of classic elliptical shape, with entrances at the ends of the ellipse. Unusual were a pair of opposed circular masses on each side of the short axis. Radar survey conducted in July showed that these features were more deeply founded than the rest of the amphitheatre. They are tentatively identified as towers, though the possibility that they might be shrines or elaborate entrances still remains. Magnetometry proved successful in identifying streets and buildings around the amphitheatre, and was extended through September, to cover 21ha of the area around the fort and amphitheatre. Additional data were produced by aerial photographic analysis. Both techniques showed streets, buildings and enclosures. Watling Street was one of two principal roads, along which buildings were ranged. Watling Street was apparently the axis of a street grid, four insulae of which were taken to build the Shore fort. Behind the street frontage was a complex pattern of enclosures, which may be field systems, and are conceivably Iron Age in date. Much more analysis is needed.

Finally, two small excavation areas were opened up. Trench A was designed to re-examine one of two small temples excavated by Bushe-Fox in 1926. This area

demonstrated that the temples were probably built early in the history of the site, but were demolished, and lay in an area of rubbish pitting by the mid-fourth century. This has implications concerning the early ritual status of the gateway to Britain, but may also inform the decline and shrinkage of the settlement. A feature which pre-dated the temples may have been a prehistoric field boundary. Trench B was situated on the edge of the cliff to the east of the island. It showed that the land-form today is very different to that of the early Roman period, with 800mm of Roman strata (much of it make-up dumping) underlying 1.20m of colluvial deposits. The reason for the depth of colluvium is hard to find - possibly the area of the trench occupied a natural gully in the side of the island. At all events, it seems at least possible that the flank of the island was originally a shallow slope down to a sandy beach. This will be further explored this year, but suggests that the Claudian ditches, far from being the western side of a large, and much eroded fort, were actually the defences of a linear strip of beach upon which the Claudian vessels were drawn up.

Tony Wilmott

Women in Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Society

This conference was the second in a series of (hopefully) five and was as interesting and far-reaching as the first. Alan Ward, the main organiser of the series, succeeded in asking five female lecturers to present papers on the subject of Women in Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Society.

Barbara Yorke, professor of Early Medieval History at King Alfred's College, Winchester, gave the first paper on The Royal Nunneries of Anglo-Saxon Kent. There are many problems associated with the dating and founding of the five royal nunneries of Kent (Minster in Thanet, Lyminge, Minster in Sheppey, Folkestone and Hoo) as any surviving documents are riddled with inaccuracies. The Venerable Bede did not refer to any of the nunneries which is another major problem. Many of the institutions were double communities housing both monks and nuns. The lecture ended with some illustrations of traces of Anglo-Saxon masonry to be seen at Lyminge, Minster in Thanet and elsewhere.

Caroline Barron, professor of History at Royal Holloway, University of London, took Women in Medieval London as her subject. Documentary evidence is much more available and the City records make it clear that women in London were accorded more status than their rural counterparts. On the death of their husbands they were allowed to continue the business and also to employ apprentices in their own right. This brief period ended after 1500 because of shortage of work and the growth of capitalism.

The morning session ended with Sheila Sweetingburgh, a freelance historian and part time teacher, who spoke on Joining the sisters: female inmates in Kent's late medieval hospitals. She discussed the probable criteria for selection of the sisters and also how they may have spent their time as part of a semi-religious community. She ended her lecture with an assessment of the provisions and bequests the inmates made in their wills with mention of their pious and charitable concerns and their relationships with family and friends.

After lunch Toni Mount, part time teacher for the WEA, spoke on What of the Medieval Housewife? She treated us to a witty and informative look at the everyday life of the Medieval housewife making extensive use of original source material such as the Goodman of Paris and How the Good Wife taught her Daughter. Her lecture explained many improbabilities concerning dress, etiquette and recipes. This was an erudite yet light-hearted lecture and so appropriate for the session after lunch.

The day ended with Charlotte Behr, senior lecturer in Roman and Early Medieval History at the University of Surrey, Roehampton, going back to the Anglo-Saxon period speaking on High Status Women and Pagan Images. She concentrated on the high status graves of females in east Kent, discussing the interpretation of the grave assemblages and asking to what degree the interpretation of customs of death and burial are meaningful for our understanding of the world of the living.

The conference provided us with a fascinating insight into this interesting period which benefits from both archaeology and history. I look forward to next year's conference with heightened anticipation and suggest that you book your places as soon as the programme is announced! My thanks to Alan Ward for his notes which have proved invaluable.

Shiela Broomfield

WOMEN IN ANGLO-SAXON AND MEDIEVAL SOCIETY WOMEN IN ANGLO-SAXON AND MEDIEVAL SOCIETY WOMEN IN ANGLO-SAXON AND MEDIEVAL SOCIETY WOMEN IN ANGLO-SAXON AND MEDIEVAL SOCIETY WOMEN IN ANGLO-SAXON

New Website for KAS

The KAS is to set up a new Website, in order to take further the Society's declared intention to make as much material as possible from KAS archives and publications available for posting electronically. Initially, the website will consist of a series of administrative pages; a members section containing on-line searchable catalogues of the Library's books and papers, and of Visual records; and a Publications section with downloadable publications, papers, reports, articles, and records. The publications section will afford the KAS Hon. Editor and the KAS Publications Committee an electronic outlet which is at present lacking, and which will be open to contributions from other committees and members of the KAS. Contributions from universities and other research organisations will be welcome. The content of publications will be controlled by the Editor, who will, drawing on the expertise of experts as necessary, ensure quality control. The new website will be hosted by nVeracity and will be cross-linked and complementary to the existing website hosted by Medway Internet.
It is hoped that the new Website will be operational by the autumn of this year.

For further information, contact
Denis Anstey
Email d@degian.demon.co.uk
Tel 01634 240015.

THE WRITING UP AND PUBLICATION OF PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AND FIELDWORK IN KENT

WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP WRITING UP

Just over two years ago, the KAS Council decided that the Society should take the initiative and try to do something positive about the writing up and publication of some of the past archaeological excavations and fieldwork carried out in the Ancient County of Kent. It recognised that this would be a formidable task but that it should try and do something before more records and results are lost. This brief review aims to summarise what has happened A special sub-committee of the Society's Fieldwork Committee was set up, with the brief to progress the project. Its members were widely drawn for their experience and I was asked to act as its Chairman. The sub-committee met on four occasions.

Anyone involved in any way with archaeology will know of excavations and fieldwork, which have not been written up, let alone published. Depending on the extent of an excavation, once it has been done, then the results, particularly the stratigraphy, cannot be replicated, so, unless the results are written up, they are effectively lost to future archaeologists, historians and the general public.

The sub-committee made extensive enquiries and using the National Monuments Record (NMR) Event Records, and their own experience, found that only about 25% of the excavations carried out by amateurs since 1945 had been published – a frightening figure. The sub-committee's final estimate was that in the whole of the Ancient County of Kent, including the four London Boroughs, about 600 amateur excavations had been carried out post 1945, which had not been published. The sub-committee recognised that many of these would never be written up for a whole variety of reasons, but that many could be, given the right spirit, reasonable resources and good organisation.

Plans were considered for publicising the initiative throughout the course of the project, in order to ensure a flow of information about sites and results from them and the basis for prioritising the writing up of results was set down.

It was recognised that because of the magnitude of the task, it would be impractical for it to be done on a volunteer basis, so it was decided that it could only realistically be considered if an experienced archaeologist, with a good track record of writing up reports, be engaged. The cost of such an approach would be well outside the financial reach of the KAS, so discussions were held with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to see if they could help. We were given every encouragement and a detailed budget costing just under £100,000 – 90% of this would be funded by Grant from the HLF and 10% from the Society, who would also pay for the reasonable costs of publication (much of the material for publication would be offered to Archaeologia Cantiana, the primary medium for publication of archaeological material in Kent). The project would last between 2.5 and 3 years, depending on various factors. In order to ensure good progress, a Project Advisory Committee would be set up, to include independent experts, including the County Archaeological Officer and English Heritage.

A detailed proposal was then submitted to the HLF, with reasonable expectations that it would be accepted, subject perhaps to negotiations on points of detail. Sadly it was not. Much correspondence has ensued. This is not the place to try and summarise it, but the proposal was not supported for a number of reasons, despite the earlier encouragement which we were given. One reason was that we were unable to say specifically how many sites would be written up, the basis for their specific selection and their specific heritage benefits – we could not do any of these things without first collecting detailed information (i.e. the results of the excavations & fieldwork) on all of the sites. From a practical point of view we had seen this as an ongoing part of the project, gathering momentum as it progressed. To complete such an exercise in isolation would be a very time consuming and expensive project in its own right, which we would be expected to fund 100% out of our own financial resources before a project with HLF support could be started. Clearly we could not contemplate such an exercise. Another reason was that the HLF wish to widen popular access to our heritage to develop new audiences. In other words, presenting results in such a way that précis of them could be read and understood by a much wider audience. At first sight this seemed a laudable objective but when thought through, we recognised that it would be expensive in time and effort and would significantly detract from our primary objective i.e. the writing up and publication of as many excavation reports as possible.

So, despite an enormous effort by members of the Society, the project file has been closed. That in itself is sad, but even more sadly, it means that the results from many of the 600 or so excavations and fieldwork identified will now never see the light of day and be available to a wider audience.

Before closing this very brief review, I would like to thank those members of the Council, Fieldwork Committee and its sub-committee who gave freely of their time to progress the project and in particular Paul Oldham, our President, who has been 100% supportive throughout.

Tom Hollobone OBE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUMMER 2002

Dear Editor

I wonder whether any of your readers could identify the object in this photograph?
It is believed to be a builder's mark. It appears on the outside rear wall

(thought to be fifteenth century) of Brook House, Leeds, formerly the saddler's shop.

Miriam Scott

Dear Editor

CHRONOGRAMS

I recently came across an example in St Mary's Wellwyn and wondered whether there were any examples in Kent. Chronograms combine an inscription and a date picked out in the capital letters and to be read as Roman numerals. I suspect that I, like others, may have read these in the past without realising their significance.

SIBI.ET.PAROCHIANIS.HAEC.CHORI.ALA.DE.SVO.

CVRA.CAROLI.WILLES.WILSHERE.CONDITA.EST.

The meaning and the date are as follows:
This choir aisle of his responsibility was built by
Charles Willes Wiltshire for himself and the parish.

1+1 +100+1+1 +100 +100+1 +50 +500 +5
+100+5 +100+50+1 +1+50+50 +1+50 +100+50+1 =1869

Duncan Harrington

Ethelbert & Bertha Project

A scheme has been launched to erect in Canterbury seven-foot bronze statues of King Ethelbert and Queen Bertha of Kent, patrons of St Augustine and of the Conversion of the English in the closing years of the sixth century. The motive for doing this was a realization of widespread unawareness, not only amongst visitors, but also the local public, of how Canterbury came to occupy its present status as one of the world's major religious centres instead of being simply another Kentish market town.

Ethelbert was not only the first Christian English King but also the greatest of Kent's rulers, according to Bede the third 'Bretwalda' or overlord of all the English kingdoms south of the Humber. It is significant that Pope Gregory the Great addresses him not as Rex Cantiacorum but as Rex Anglorum. Following his conversion, he founded cathedrals at Canterbury, Rochester and London (St.Pauls), a monastery at Canterbury (later St Augustine's), as well as the first English school. He also issued, circa 603, a Code of Laws, the first document ever to be written in the English tongue.

Bertha was the daughter of the Frankish King of Paris, and as a Merovingian, and great granddaughter of Clovis, founder of the French monarchy, a member of the most powerful dynasty on the Continent. She was brought up as a Christian and educated at Tours, marrying Ethelbert at about the age of eighteen. Coming to Canterbury circa 580, she brought her own chaplain with her (Bishop Liudhard) and worshipped in the old Romano-British church on the Richborough road, later dedicated to St Martin of Tours, which had been renovated for her. She undoubtedly prepared the way for her husband's conversion, so that the Pope, in writing to her, said that the word of her fame had even reached the Emperor in Constantinople.

The maquettes (half size prototypes of the two statues) w ed by Steve Melton of th stitute of Art & Desig tist of national reputation in this field. Although nothing is known of the king queen's actual appea care has been taken to duce, as authentically a sible, their dress, hairst jewellery and acco trements. In their recent visit to Canterbury on Maundy Thursday, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh saw the maquettes and expressed their interest and approval, the Duke asking where the statues were to be placed.

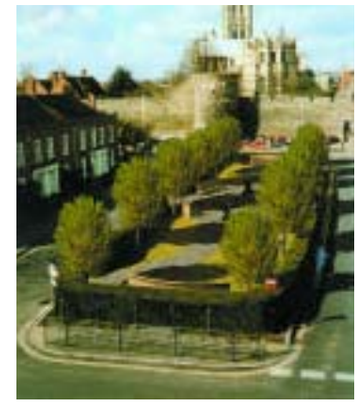
They will be erected on Lady Woottons Green, the garden lying between the gateway of St Augustine's Abbey and the City Wall. The king will be shown coming from his Hall, where now stands the Cathedral, and the queen returning from St Martin's Church, the two placed about a dozen paces apart. Thus the statues will not only be an attractive feature on what is known as 'Queen Bertha's Walk', but will form a crucial link between the two most important sites (Cathedral and Abbey) of Canterbury as a World Heritage Site.

An appeal for £80,000 has been launched by the Lord Mayor to fund the two statues and their plinths. Although this is a large sum (the names of donors contributing £4,000 or more will be inscribed on the monument), the number of small donations will be heavily influen- tial with the major funding bodies being pproached. Anyone who would like to support this important civic heritage project, designed to enhance the beauty and interest of the City, is invited to contact the Chairman of the Canterbury Commemoration Society, the sponsoring body:

Mr Martin Taylor, Elm House, Adisham, Kent CT3 3LH

Any donations and cheques (payable to 'The Canterbury Commemoration Society', reg. charity no.1057977) will be most gratefully received and acknowledged.

Brian Porter



Lady Wootton's Green: proposed restoration

Brian Philp - Director, Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit ACIS, MBIM, MIFA,FSA

The busy hum of many small voices greeted me on entering Crofton Roman Villa. A school group were exploring the touch table and creating their own mosaics after listening to an explanation of the site from its excavator, archaeologist Brian Philp. I had come to the Villa to talk to Brian about the celebration of his own personal golden jubilee, of 50 years of rescue archaeology around Kent. Now however, I observed for a while his role as an educator with a natural affinity with children.

Many educational groups have passed through Crofton since it opened to the public in 1992, enthused by the Roman Activities Workshops given by Brian and his wife Edna. But the rescue from destruction of this site and its success over the last decade is only part of a story which began in 1952 when a schoolboy on a cycling tour chanced across the eroding cliff-face at the Roman fort at Reculver...

The youthful Brian, shown finds from the beach, was soon to locate a complete Roman pottery vessel in a "predictable, youthful response". Later years saw a more measured approach – indeed applying the principles of business management, "with integrity", has been his watchword. These principles were learnt in his initial career in the City, which incidentally allowed him to gaze down at the emerging Mithras Temple. I suspect that Brian was not too saddened to have this career interrupted by National Service with the RAF in 1955 as it provided good opportunities for his archaeological enthusiasms! A posting in West Germany led to excavation of Roman and Frankish sites, also a measured survey of pre-Roman barrows.

As one of the 150 men in Air Control of the 2nd ATAF, Brian was selected for a spell in intelligence, simply on the grounds of being a known archaeologist; however, "I still can't make the connection between archaeology and intelligence...". Although his return to civilian life in 1957 saw him complete exams to become a Chartered Company Secretary, he decided to build on already extensive archaeological experience (at Lullingstone, Reculver and other sites) and make archaeology his career. His first 'paid' excavation soon followed, for Hanover Museum, living alone in a small tent in a silent German forest, with no bedding and sub-zero temperatures!

Government investment in archaeology in the early 70's led to many archaeological units forming – suddenly everyone wanted in on the act. By this time Brian had already been practising rescue archaeology for nearly 20 years; "I told fellow archaeologists to leave the 'sun-soaked hillfort' syndrome of traditional post-war digging and join me in the front line!" Funding for rescue work for those two decades came from 'Pictorial Colour Slides' formed in 1960 to photograph and sell images of museum collections and sites across the country. But making ends meet wasn't always easy; at one stage Brian was down to his last £10. "I had 2 gold coins over 400 years old, left to me by my grandfather and worth £2000, but wouldn't sell". He still has those family coins.

"This is called a flue' captions the drawing of Brian which came as part of a thank you letter from Joseph Donnell, a young student from Warren Road School, Orpington

The Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit was formed in 1971 from volunteer excavation teams already operating with Brian, such as the Reculver and the West Kent Border Groups. Over the last 30 years some 500 projects have been completed. Brian mentions 3 of the most memorable as the on-going exploration at Reculver until the present day, the Roman Forum in London where his team uncovered the unknown earlier 'proto-forum' and the Roman Painted House at Dover, which revealed 'the finest collection of in situ wall plaster... north of the Alps'. He opened the Roman House as a majpr tourist attraction in 1973 and so far it has had over 600,000 visitors and won four national awards.

These 3 sites appear within a selection of the 50 majpr sites described in Brian's new commemorative book 'Archaeology in the Front Line – 50 years of Kent Rescue', the first copy of which was presented to the H.M. the Queen on her golden jubilee. These 50 years have given Brian a wealth of memories and tales but also a certain cynicism about various practices within the archaeological world. He describes Time Team as a 'clever product', but stresses that during his involvement with the programme at Smallhythe in 1998, 90% of the work was done by KARU – described as 'volunteers' by the programme! He also has a deep-seated mistrust of metal detectorists, fuelled by the recent desecration of Roman Noviomagus where countless holes have been dug through the stratigraphy, showing me also a recent internet auction of the robbed contents of a Saxon warriors grave near Dover.

As a keen all-round sportsman throughout his life (from captaining the local under-18's against Crystal Palace F.C. equivalent to playing his last football match only 5 years ago) he has retained the vigour of a younger man. Long years on sites in freezing rain or under hot sun obviously agree with him. Aside from the satisfaction of rescuing many of these often complex sites ("If you can deal with 70,000 layers on a Romano-British urban site – Dover, the deepest at 26ft, you can deal with anything") a comprehensive and prompt publication record is also gratifying. Brian intends remaining a practising rescue archaeologist "for at least the next ten years". We may yet see a diamond jubilee book!

The Editor

Copy deadlines for the next two issues are: October issue – Monday September 2nd, January issue – December 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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