



FINAL EXCAVATION AT ABBEY FARM

During the last two weeks of August, the eighth and final season of full excavation was carried out at the site of the Roman villa at Abbey Farm, Minster-in-Thamet. Under the direction of Keith Parfitt,

assisted by three other professionals, Emma Boast, Ges Moody and Barry Corke and supported by Mel Woodgate in the finds tent, some 40 volunteers took part. These were mostly KAS members but included students and others from

all over the UK. One participant even picked up the details off the KAS website from her home on the island of Reunion in the middle of the Indian Ocean!

Despite interruptions caused by occasional heavy rain, the excavation exceeded prior expectations with the discovery of unexpected features on three areas of the site.

During the 2003 season some signs were found of a feature, thought to be of 4th century date, in the middle of the villa estate walled enclosure. In the event this appears to be the remains of a large building - post built with thick daub walls - enclosing a double chambered corn drier or, more probably a malting kiln (figs 1 & 2).

Another target this year was the building to the west of the boundary wall. It had been thought that most of this building had been excavated in 2003, but not so. Further excavation this year uncovered the remains

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Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Figs 1 & 2: Excavation in progress of the malt kiln, left to right; Ges Moody, Paul Hart, Maggy Redmond, Andy Woodgate and Steve Clifton.

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Lectures, Conferences, Courses and Events

KAS EVENTS

KAS Christmas Lunch, Saturday 27 November in the Hall of Wye College

Reception with bar open from 11am. Second-hand bookstall and gift stall will be open. Members are invited to bring their own publications. The traditional Christmas lunch will be served at 12.00. An alternative vegetarian menu is available if pre-ordered.

After lunch, Michael Gandy, an eminent researcher and writer, will entertain in lively fashion, telling us what music hall songs can reveal about Victorian and Edwardian life.

We are then invited to a tour of a Grade II* Jacobean house in Wye, the home of our member Ian Coulson (a recommendation in itself!). The afternoon will close with a cup of tea at a local pub.



The Grade II Jacobean house in Wye.*

Price to cover meal and expenses is £20.00. Please return the booking form enclosed with this newsletter to reserve your place.

OTHER EVENTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

CONFERENCES

Council for Kentish Archaeology Celebrating 40 years of Archaeological Discoveries in Kent on Saturday 6 November, 2-5.30pm

Canterbury Christ Church University College
Illustrated talks:

The Discovery of the Roman Religious Town at Springhead Victor Smith
Excavating the Roman Forts at Dover and Reculver Brian Philp

Presentation workshops with finds and plans, led by:
Orpington & District Archaeological Society, Springhead Excavation Group, Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group, Bromley and West Kent Archaeological Group, Upchurch Archaeological Research Group, Dover Archaeological Group.

Tickets £4, available from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP. Cheques payable to CKA. Further information available on www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk or from Conference Organiser, Ruth Plummer, tel: 0208 7777872 email: davru58-cka@yahoo.co.uk.

COURSES

WEA Course - Archaeological Field Techniques

Wednesdays 2-4pm, Camden Centre, Royal Victoria Place, Tunbridge Wells. Fee: £80 standard, £60 reduced, £5 minimum. Contact Valerie Farebrother, Ambleside, Riverhall Hill, Frant, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9EP.

LECTURES

Tonbridge Historical Society . Lecture series, Thursdays, 7.45pm in the Adult Education Centre, Tonbridge.

28 October

Kent Women - Famous, Infamous & Unsung Chris McCooey

Saturday 27 November 2.30pm

2 presentations: *English Timber Framed Buildings & Constructing a Medieval Cathedral* both by David Carder. Tea interval. Booking necessary - details from Sec on 01732 838698

6 January '05

1945. The exile of the East Prussians: Hitler's last sacrifice? Isabel Denny

17 February '05

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

7 April '05 7.30pm

AGM, followed by lecture

Further details from Shiela Broomfield. Tel: 01732 838698.

Bexley Local Studies & Archive Centre Winter Talks

All talks at 7.30pm at Hall Place

All talks cost £3.50 or £4.00. To order tickets and for further information tel: 020 8301 1545.

Tuesday 16 November

Under Our Feet: Archaeology in Bexley Today Tony Thomas

Tuesday 7 December

Underground Kent Rod Le Gear

Wednesday 19 January '05

Fashion Accessories; Hats, Shoes and Gloves Lee Ault

Wednesday 23 March '05

Rural Survivors Malcolm Barr-Hamilton

Sevenoaks Historical Society Talks

Meetings held on Thursdays at the Undercroft, St Nicholas' Church at 8pm. All Talks £1.50 except for 4 November which is free.

4 November

The Meaning of the First World War Prof. Hew Strachan, All Souls College, Oxford.

18 November

The Campaign and Battle of Trafalgar Colin White, Director, Trafalgar National Maritime Museum and Deputy Director, Royal Naval Museum

27 January '05

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

24 February '05

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

24 March '05

The Life of William Morris Dai Evans, Property Manager, Petworh

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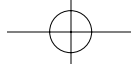
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21 April '05

The Edwardian Eye of Andrew Pitcairn-Knowles (early photo journalist) Richard Pitcairn-Knowles

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. Programme of Meetings:

3 November

Romanesque England and Western France: a traffic in small things John McNeil

1 December

Books, religion and Latin literacy in medieval English nunneries Dr Anne Lawrence

5 January '05

Lord Leicester's remodelling of Kenilworth Castle for Elizabeth I Dr Richard K Morris

2 February '05

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

2 March '05

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

6 April '05

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

4 May '05

Architecture and patronage at Croxden Abbey Dr Jackie Hall

Council for British Archaeology South-East in association with the Centre for Continuing Education, University of Sussex.

The Cinque Ports: Archaeology and Heritage on Saturday 13 November

Speakers include:

Keith Parfitt - Dover, Andrew Butcher - Hythe, Gill Draper & Frank Meddens - New Romney, Peter Marsden - Hastings, David Martin - Winchelsea, Helen Clarke - multi-disciplinary projects at Sandwich & Rye. Gustav Milne will provide an Introduction & Summing Up. Conference chaired by David Rudling.

Event also includes the CBA SE AGM.

For further details or application form please send A5 s.a.e. to David Morriss, CCE, Arts E201, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, E.Sussex BN1 9QQ.

Ouse Valley Project Symposium on Saturday 20 November 10am-5pm

Centre for Continuing Education, University of Sussex.

The launch of a major new interdisciplinary landscape research project studying the Sussex Ouse from sources to sea.

An outline of the Sussex Ouse Research Project Prof. Peter Drewett
Changes in rural land management & farming practices in and around the Ouse Valley and their impact on the downland landscape Dr Sue Berry

Industrial archaeology of the Ouse Valley John Blackwell & Ron Martin

Iron Making in the Ouse basin Jeremy Hodgkinson

Sticky Challenge: cohesive sediment movement & accumulation in the Ouse estuary Richard Charman

Sussex wetland-rich woodlands - rebuilding a lost habitat type Dr Tony Whitbread

From bank to bank: crossing the River Ouse in (pre)history John Bleach

Making the most of memory: the Ouse Valley Oral History Project Dr Alistair Thomson

Fee (includes tea/coffee) £30, student rate £10, concession £5. Optional pre-booked lunch £7.50. To book tel: 01273 877888 or email: cce@sussex.ac.uk or download an enrolment form from www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/news/ouse.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
AUTUMN 2004

Dear Editor

An internet search for any mention of Richard Culmer, who allegedly built the pier at Broadstairs and built boats there in the 15th century, led me to your Newsletter article last year on Archbishop Laud and the complaint of Richard (Blue Dick) Culmer.

I am one of several descendants of Blue Dick's cousin George (not yet 100% proven) spread around the world, who are researching the origins of the Culmer family of Thanet and I wondered whether any of your members could suggest sources

for research pre-1700. We know that several Culmers were ship owners and mariners and held lands in several areas of Kent. In our research we have of course examined parish records, wills, hearth taxes etc, and several forays have been made to the CCA and CKS.

An undated newspaper article in my possession records a lecture at Broadstairs quite some time ago by a Dr Hugh Raven, in which he proposed that among the lands held by the Culmer family in Thanet there was a wooded hill above the sea (long since totally logged for their boat building) and that this 'Collis Maris' was the

origin of the name Culmar and hence Culmer.

Would there, for instance, have been any archaeology of the late medieval pier and Culmer boat building yards on what is now the beach at Broadstairs?

We would be grateful for any advice and guidance that KAS members may be able to give us in our research.

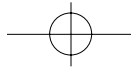
Alan Johnson
Essex

Responses to Mr Johnson's enquiry can be mailed to Aajohnsonx@aol.com or posted to the Newsletter editor at the usual address.

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NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAYS AROUND KENT

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National Archaeology Days take place in July, and are increasingly popular with each passing year. The event, coordinated by the Council for British Archaeology and its Young Archaeologist Clubs, and supported by English Heritage, aims to inform and enthuse the public about their local heritage and to give them access to information which can be used to further their interest. Sites, museums, archaeology units and amateur groups take part, with a wide variation in the type of events. This year saw over 250 venues taking part around Britain, with 8 in Kent. We hear from just some of those in our county...

Director of Dartford District Archaeological Group, Chris Baker, said "It's been very helpful that for the last few years the Dartford Festival dates have coincided with National Archaeology Days. This has allowed us to set up a small excavation, 'Digging up the Park', within Central Park in Dartford, as part of the Festival. And we've had some great finds - so much so that the public have accused us of planting them the night before! The



Part of the Dartford exhibition.

medieval and Roman pottery that's come out of the ground has been recognised by some visitors as similar to that dug up in their gardens; we talk to them about the archaeology and they have the opportunity to find out more by getting involved in the Dartford District Archaeological Group."

North Downs Young Archaeologists' (YAC) event 'Life and Death in Saxon Kent' was held in the Museum of Kent Life at Sandling. TV archaeologist Julian Richards appeared and proved a great draw, despite a wet morning and the Kent County Show only a couple of miles up the road. Julian brought bones and a reconstructed face made for 'Meet the Ancestors', and spent the day giving talks on these and on the role of archaeology in the media. Re-enact-



Julian Richards examining young visitors' finds at the Museum of Kent Life.

ment group Regia Anglorum arrived en masse and set up a living history encampment, whilst YAC supplied entertainment too; Saxon charms from the leechcraft stall, Saxon food and many creative children's activities. An exhibition of 12 local history and archaeology groups, as well as county services such as the Centre for Kentish Studies, provided visitors with information about ways they

could participate in exploring the past. In Bromley, Poverest Road Roman Bath House was open for a 'hands-on' family fun day. Adrian Green, Curator of Bromley Museum, sees National Archaeology Days as "a very useful opportunity to open the Bath House, which takes booked tours but is not generally open to the public. This is a fantastic chance to show local residents, and those from further afield, the archaeology of the area."



Enjoying digging at the Poverest Road Roman Bath House.

Orpington and District Archaeological Society's displays attracted much interest from older visitors, whilst children enjoyed a mock excavation set up for the day.

Extra activities were laid on at Crofton Roman Villa, Orpington, as children entered a competition to draw and label artefacts, each receiving a certificate. Visitors were fascinated by a display of finds and archival material from 3 local Roman sites, previously unseen. Director Brian Philp enthused "This was another brilliant event and very well supported - children and adults alike enjoyed themselves."

National Archaeology Days are an excellent way of promoting local archaeology to local people. If you would like to hold an event in 2005 get in touch with Jan Cox at the CBA, St Mary's House, 66 Bootham, York YO30 7BZ, 01904 671417 or JanCox@britarch.ac.uk

Copy deadline for the next issue in January is Wednesday December 1st.

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

EDITOR : LYN PALMER

55 Stone Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2QU
Telephone: 01892 533661 Mobile: 07810 340831
Email evelyn.palmer@virgin.net
or newsletter@kentarchaeology.org.uk



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www.kentarchaeology.org.uk