

Your Quarterly Newsletter

## BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DIG IN 2010

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# East Kent Access



Fig 5



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 1

## Britain's biggest dig in 2010

by Phil Andrews (Oxford Wessex Archaeology) and Simon Mason (Kent County Council)

**An important new road link, the East Kent Access Phase 2, is being built by Kent County Council to the south of Manston Airport. Construction of the new road is now well underway on what was the site of Britain's biggest archaeological excavation in 2010. For over a year, up to 150 archaeologists from Oxford Wessex Archaeology (OWA) have been investigating one of the richest archaeological landscapes in the country.**

**This article presents some of the highlights of the prehistoric archaeology, with the principal Roman, Saxon and medieval discoveries being the subject of a further article in the next newsletter.**

The road is being built on the southern slopes of Thanet, extending from the Ebbsfleet Peninsula in the mouth of the former Wantsum Channel up the scarp slope to the high ridge at Manston Airport. Readers of this newsletter will be very familiar with the vast wealth of archaeology that the former Isle of Thanet holds. East Kent has long been recognised as a gateway to the country

for new peoples, cultures, ideas and trade. Thanet, sited on the east side of the Wantsum Channel - an important harbour and navigational route - was particularly well located to receive this influx. The landscape in which the road is being built is associated with some of the great events and traditions of British history: Claudius' invasion in AD43 at nearby Richborough, the

tradition of the arrival in AD449 of Hengist and Horsa at Ebbsfleet and in AD597 the arrival of St Augustine and his Christian mission. The building of the road offered an unparalleled opportunity to explore the background to this historically important area, uncovering the lives and customs of the peoples who dwelt there.

At its planning stage, it became clear that the road could not be built without affecting important archaeology and this was likely to occur over much of its route. In total over 6km of the road length was stripped for archaeology, (Section shown in front cover aerial photo) following a preliminary programme of field walking, test pitting, metal detecting and evaluation trenching.

The challenge was considerable; the road builders, VolkerFitzpatrick Hochtief needed to complete their main earthmoving by the end of the summer. This meant that the archaeology had to be promptly dealt with beforehand, often in very poor

weather conditions. To achieve this OWA had to approach the excavation in an innovative manner, ensuring that all the archaeology was rapidly mapped, finds and environmental samples processed, dated and assessed during the fieldwork and the results entered into a computer Geographic Information System. This enabled the archaeologists to understand the results of their work as it progressed and ensured that appropriate sampling decisions were taken.

An important part of the archaeology work was to make sure that the local community had the opportunity to see and learn about, and if they wanted to, participate, in the archaeological works. An extensive outreach programme was put in place which included road shows (Fig 1), school visits, talks, open days, volunteering opportunities on an area set aside for a community excavation and finds processing and a dedicated web site ([eastkent.owarch.co.uk](http://eastkent.owarch.co.uk)). Thousands of people came into contact with the project during the fieldwork.

The discoveries have been every bit as exciting as had been anticipated. The earliest discoveries were a couple of stray Mesolithic transept axes found in later features and the remains of a Mesolithic flint working area, the debris deposited in the hollow left by a fallen tree. Such remains are rare on Thanet. Neolithic and Bronze Age remains on the scheme were plentiful, though the absence of Beaker burials was surprising given the number that have been found on Thanet. Neolithic pits were found on a number of the sites, including a particularly large cluster of over twenty on high ground overlooking Cliffsend. Aerial photography and previous excavations on Thanet have shown that the landscape was once rich in Neolithic and Bronze Age burial mounds and other monuments. Due to millennia of ploughing, none of these now survive

as upstanding earthworks, but the associated, now infilled encircling ditches, are often visible as cropmarks.

Over the length of the road twelve ring ditches were discovered in varying topographic locations. Many were sited on the high ridges or slopes overlooking the Wantsum Channel, others were sited in lower lying locations. They varied greatly in size, from the smallest at around 4m diameter to the largest over 40m across, with ditches up to 2m deep. Some of the ring ditches appeared to be small henge-like monuments in their original form and are likely to be of Neolithic date. These were penannular ditches with external banks which probably acted as enclosures for ritual activity. Some were later transformed into Bronze Age funerary monuments and burials were found in a number of them. One in particular contained a rich assemblage which included an amber object and



a unique triple food vessel (Fig 2).

Later Bronze Age activity was mainly focused on the Ebbsfleet peninsula and on the adjacent slopes of Cottington Hill. The remains of settlement including post-built structures, enclosures and trackways were found during the work. A particularly fine discovery, found on the Ebbsfleet peninsula, was two gold bracelets

dating to around 800 - 700BC (front cover). The bracelets were unfortunately not found in archaeological features as the area in which they were discovered had been landscaped in the early 1990s when a waste water treatment works was constructed. It is very likely, however, that they are related to the several Late Bronze Age metalwork hoards that have been previously discovered on the same site; another of these was found during the current work.

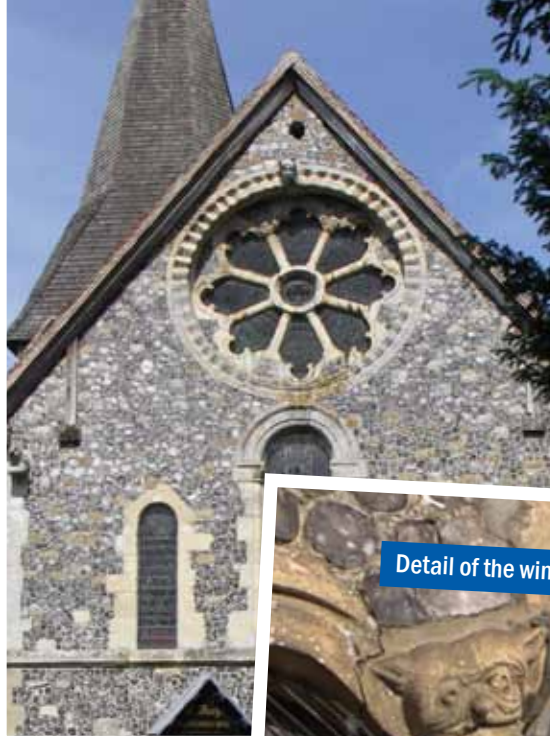
The Iron Age was perhaps the best represented period on the scheme and remains of this date were found across the entire route. The vestiges of settlement, enclosures, field systems, and trackways were widespread throughout the landscape.

One of the most notable and intriguing sites, dating to the earlier centuries of the Iron Age, was found on a high promontory overlooking Pegwell Bay in Cliffsend. Here a large, trapezoidal enclosure, (Front cover inset) with broad, deep ditches (Fig 3) appears to focus on a former henge monument, the ditches of which must still have been clearly visible at the time. Within the enclosed area were the remains of a large sunken featured building (visible in front cover inset), one of the best examples of this date yet found and a type of prehistoric structure that appears unique to Thanet. Other features lay outside the enclosure and included a substantial palisade, post-built structures, rubbish pits, granary pits and complexes of quarry pits. A number of burials were excavated, including one with a shale bracelet (Fig 4) and another of a horse (Fig 5).

Another important site, a Romano-British village with Iron Age origins, lay at the neck of the Ebbsfleet Peninsula, but this will be covered in the next newsletter.

# Patricbourne's Wheel Window

by Mary Berg, Chairman,  
KAS Churches Committee



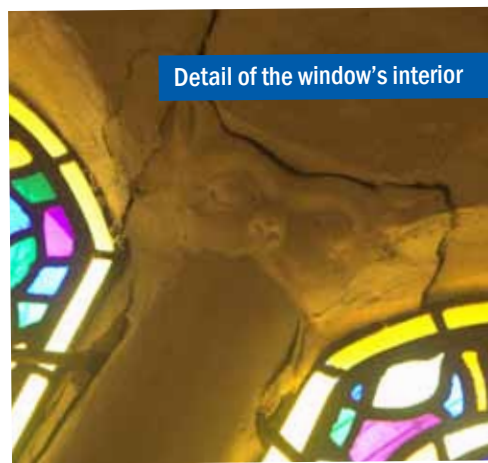
Detail of the window's exterior

Kent has many great treasures and none more precious than its Norman churches. Two of these have 12th century wheel windows set in the chancel gable: Barfrestone and Patricbourne, both near Canterbury. The only other wheel window from this period set in an eastern gable is in Castle Hedingham church in Essex and that was recycled from the castle. The dimensions of the inner part of the windows at Barfrestone and Patricbourne are almost exactly the same and they are strikingly similar in style. This begs the question of whether they were originally intended – or even used – as a pair elsewhere, perhaps in a transept of a much larger local building. However interesting it is to speculate about that, it is beyond the scope of this article.

Patricbourne's name is from the family called Patric(k) who were lords of the manor from soon after 1066 until 1191. They were tenants of the Conqueror's half-brother Odo, Earl of Kent and bishop of Bayeux in the Bessin area between Bayeux and Caen, although their principal manor was at La Lande-Patry in southern Normandy. A church is recorded at Patricbourne in the Domesday Book (1089) and Tim Tatton-Brown and others have discerned some evidence of late Anglo-Saxon work in the present church. What we see today is largely a 12th century church where the roof was raised in the early 15th century to accommodate a large west window and a chapel to the south-eastern end of

the nave. The north aisle was added in the 19th century when other restoration and rebuilding programmes were carried out. Surviving decorative 12th century work includes the splendid south door and the chancel arch as well as the east end. It is well worth visiting.

The wheel window is certainly Norman work but new evidence (see below) indicates that it may not have been part of the original scheme for



Detail of the window's interior

the east end but inserted some time later. That could have been towards the end of the 12th century, perhaps during the work of the 15th century or later still. It underwent considerable restoration in the 19th century, as did that at Barfrestone, making it virtually impossible now to determine when either was inserted. During recent work on the beautiful post-medieval Swiss

glass installed in the lancets below the Patricbourne wheel, cracks were observed in and around the wheel. The churchwardens commissioned reports from the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, a glass restorer, a stone mason and a structural engineer.

Close inspection revealed some instability but not an immediate threat of collapse. Some damage appears to result from the 19th century repairs when some stonework on the exterior of the wheel was replaced by inferior Caen stone and the window was reset and re-glazed. Repair work is necessary but sadly English Heritage is not providing funding. It is hoped that the 2010/11 winter is not as severe as 2009/10 as the effort to raise the necessary funds gets underway.

Friends of St Mary's Patricbourne (FOSM) may be contacted c/o Dr Andrea Nicholson, Riverside Cottage, Patricbourne, Canterbury CT4 5BU who will be delighted to receive contributions!

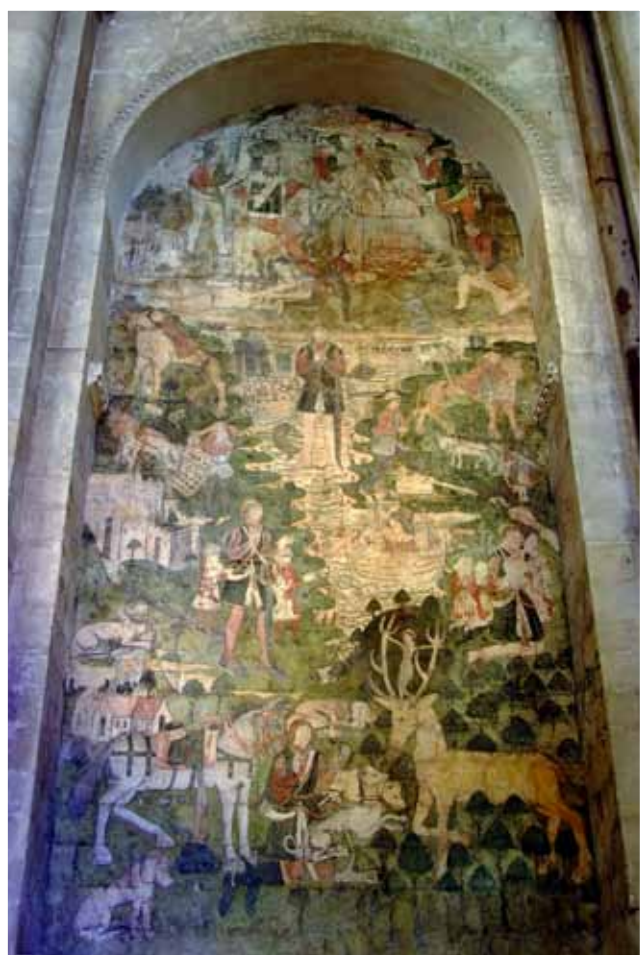
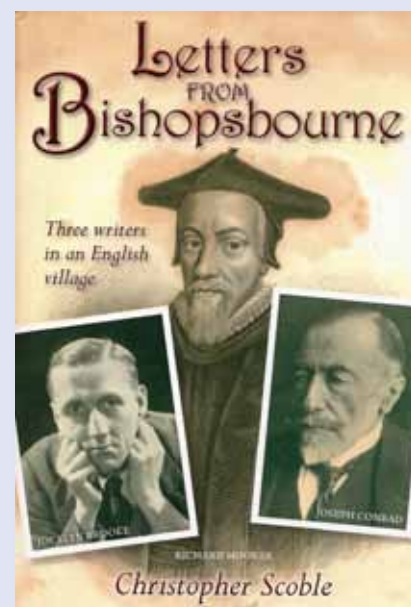
## NEW BOOKS

### Letters from Bishopsbourne Christopher Scoble

£17.99. Published by BMM.  
ISBN 978-0-9541544-1-7

The village of Bishopsbourne was once home to three of the finest stylists in the English language – Richard Hooker, the humble theologian who penned the definitive justification of the Elizabethan church settlement; Joseph Conrad, who wrote his last novels there; and Jocelyn Brooke, whose 'orchid' trilogy shot him to fame in the late 1940s.

After a testing life of action, all three arrived in the village in search of peace and the space to write. They all loved the place in different ways, but died relatively young, frustrated by life and literature. This book recalls the lives, both in and out of the village, of three very different writers, but with one thing at least in common – a lasting love for the countryside of Kent.



described in the article by Fiona Allardyce in Arch. Cant. CI, 122 (1984) relating to the Painting of St. Eustace in Canterbury Cathedral. The basic error in Tristram's method was the application of a wax coating. This sealed the surface, leading to moisture being trapped, producing Calcium sulphate from limestone and building up osmotic pressure and hence spalling off of the surface.

In a recent issue of Chemistry World (V 7, no. 10,9, (2010)) (Roy. Soc.

Chemistry) is an article outlining current practice and developments. These were presented at the recent EuCheMS Conference in Nuremberg. (R Giorgi et al. Chem. Eur J., 16, 9374 (2010)). Presently an acrylic polymer coating is applied but these yellow in light and lead to the same loss of surface as the wax. At the University of Florence, a solution of Calcium hydroxide nano-particles has been developed. These do not make the surface impervious to water and react with oxygen to replace lost Calcium carbonate. The technique has also been successfully applied to paper etc. The alcoholic solution is simply brushed onto a thin layer of porous paper which is then removed when dry.

## Wall Paintings

by Peter Draper

How often in visiting a church, are sad fragments of ancient, vivid depictions of often Biblical scenes displayed. The originals would have transformed the interior as well as serving as the equivalent of modern strip cartoons for the largely illiterate congregation. The lime washings over of the Reformation, the Commonwealth and the well meant restorative operations of Professor E W Tristram in the inter war years all caused irreparable damage.

Tristram (1882 – 1952) became Professor of Design at the Royal College of Art in 1925 and took a great interest in these depictions. He published several works on the subject, notably 'English Medieval Wall Painting' in 1944 -50 and posthumously in 1955. A Kentish example and its rectification is

# WHAT'S ON

## KAS EVENTS

### **KAS SPRING EXCURSION Visit to Chevening House Tuesday 5 April, 10am - 12.30**

A two hour visit to every part of the house, conducted by Col. R.P.D. Brooks, Sec. to the Board of Trustees.

Cost £15.00 each. Refreshments included.

Numbers are very limited and a second visit this year is not possible.

To reserve a place please contact Joy Saynor by February 1st on 01959 522713 or [saynor@shorehamkent.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:saynor@shorehamkent.wanadoo.co.uk)

### **KAS CHURCHES COMMITTEE STUDY DAY Living through the Reformation at St Dunstan's, Canterbury Saturday 9 April 10am - 4.30pm**

**St Dunstan's Church Hall,  
London Road, Canterbury**

Two morning lectures including:  
'Religious changes and impact on the parish' Professor Ken Fincham

Four afternoon workshops looking at the church before and after the changes – studying the building and church documents.

Cost £12.00 each including lunch, tea and coffee.

Booking form – see enclosed flyer in newsletter or go to [www.kentarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk) or by post from (include SAE):

Mrs J. Davidson, 7 Chatsworth Rd, Gillingham ME7 1DS, 01634 324004 or [jacalyn.davidson@canterbury-cathedral.org](mailto:jacalyn.davidson@canterbury-cathedral.org).

### **KAS CHURCHES COMMITTEE VISITS Saturday 30 April St Botolph's, Lullingstone & St Martin of Tours, Eynsford**

Please meet at 1.45 for 2pm starting at St Botolph's (postcode DA4 0JA; grid ref TQ528644).

Parking is available outside the castle wall.

We will then move on to St Martin of Tours (postcode DA4 0EH; grid ref TQ540654).

Cost £5 each, to include tea and biscuits at Eynsford.

Please register by contacting the Church Visits Secretary, Jackie Davidson, [jacalyn.davidson@btinternet.com](mailto:jacalyn.davidson@btinternet.com) or 01634 324004.

Dates of all Churches Committee visits this year can be found in the diary at [www.kentarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk).

### **KAS LECTURES IN THE LIBRARY Lectures by Dr Jackie Bower in Maidstone Museum, Faith Street, Maidstone.**

#### VICTORIAN PEOPLE

Mondays 10.15am – 12.15pm from 9 May for six weeks (excluding Bank Holidays)

The class will look at the lives and careers of men and women of Victorian Britain who made a contribution to national life or are remembered for significant personal achievements. Cost £30.

#### GEORGIAN AND VICTORIAN LONDON

Mondays 2 – 4pm from 9 May for 6 weeks (excluding Bank Holidays)

The class will study London in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when it was the world's greatest city, at the centre of the British Empire. Topics may include the growth of the metropolis, transport, public health and housing, and the Port of London. Cost £30.

For further information contact Joy Sage at the museum or 01622 762924.

## EVENTS AROUND KENT

### **Trust for Thanet Archaeology Dr David Perkins Memorial Conference 26 March from 2 - 4:30 pm**

**Broadstairs Campus of Canterbury  
Christchurch University**

An afternoon of lectures and discussions led by friends and colleagues to celebrate the life and work of the first Director of the Trust for Thanet Archaeology who died in August 2010.

Tickets £5.00 (£3:00 students).

Further details of speakers and ticket reservation will be available from the Trust's website, [www.thanetarch.co.uk](http://www.thanetarch.co.uk), in January 2011.

Proceeds and donations from the memorial conference will go toward a fund to prepare Dr Perkins' unpublished excavation reports for publication.

### **Council for Kentish Archaeology Joint Conference with the Kent Local History Federation & Bromley Local History Society Saturday 7 May from 9.15am**

#### **Aspects of the Archaeology and History of Bromley Borough**

Illustrated talks on archaeological discoveries by Brian Philp, and Bromley's historic past by local historians, followed by site tours (in the afternoon) of archaeological sites and historic buildings

Held at Crofton Halls, York Rise, off Crofton Road, Orpington BR6 8PR.

Morning free for Friends of the CKA; there may be a charge in the afternoon

### **Maidstone Area Archaeological Group Indoor Meetings on Fridays from 7.30 - 9.30pm, 21 January**

Archaeological Excavations at Margetts Pitt, Kent by Mark Williams, Wessex Archaeology

- » 18 February: Domesday Kent by David Carder
- » 18 March: Recent Archaeological Work in East Kent by Keith Parfitt, Canterbury Archaeological Trust
- » 15 April: Annual General Meeting
- » 20 May: Ordnance Survey Maps - Ancient and Modern by Colin Brown
- » 17 June: LiDAR & the Archaeology of Ashdown Forest by Lyn Palmer

Venue - Kent Police College, off Sutton Road (A274), Maidstone.

Admission free (non-members £1).

## Bexley Archaeological Group

- » Saturday 26 February  
'Dendrochronology' with Dr Martin Bridges (Oxford Dendrochronology Lab and UCL)
- » Saturday 12 March  
'Place Names and Local Archaeology' with Sue Harrington (UCL)
- » Saturday 14 May  
Dayschool/workshop on 'The Archaeology of Human Evolution' led by Dr Tim Reynolds, Birkbeck

All events from 10am - 4.30pm  
Cost: £20 (£15 if member of BAG)

Venue - Bexley-Sidcup Conservative Club, 19 Station Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA17 5EB

To book a place contact: Pip Pulfer, Principal Field Officer, 07961 893693 or [pipspad@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pipspad@hotmail.co.uk), [www.bag.org.uk](http://www.bag.org.uk)

Annual training excavation takes place 1-5 August. For further information, contact Pip Pulfer.

## Loose Area History Society

- » Monday 14 March  
'The Heartbeat Years', an illustrated talk by Roy Ingleton
- » Monday 11 April  
'Old Maidstone Firms Sharp's Toffee, breweries and Clarkes the Furnishers', a talk by Andrew Clarke
- » Monday 9 May  
'The History of Loose Allotments', a talk by Molly Procter
- » Monday 13 June at 7.30pm  
Guided tour of St Lawrence Church, Mereworth, by Andrew Wells, churchwarden and author of a history of the church
- » Monday 11 July 11 at 7pm  
Visit to Lashenden Air Warfare Museum, Headcorn Aerodrome
- » Monday 10 October  
'Hazards of the Journey Pilgrimage and Travel', a talk by Imogen Corrigan

- » Monday 14 November  
'Despatches from the Home Front', a talk by Chris McCooey
- » Monday 12 December  
'A Shopping trip in Downe in a bygone era,' an illustrated talk by Barbara Stevens

Unless otherwise indicated all meetings are held at Loose Infant School Hall, Loose Road, Loose, Maidstone, Kent, starting at 7.30pm.

Non-members welcome Admission £2.50  
Pay at the door Free parking in school grounds.

Enquiries, 01622 741198 or [www.looseareahistorysociety.webeden.co.uk](http://www.looseareahistorysociety.webeden.co.uk)

To reserve a place on the visits to St Lawrence Church and Lashenden Air Warfare Museum contact Jenny Harrison, [jenny@jennyh.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:jenny@jennyh.wanadoo.co.uk) or 01622 745067.

## Crayford Manor House Historical & Archaeological Society

- » Saturday 12 March  
How Charing got its Cross by John Halligan
- » Saturday 16 April  
AGM and President's Lecture

All meetings held at The Baker Trust Hall, Maxim Road, Crayford at 7pm for 7.30pm. Non-members welcome to attend at a fee of £3.00 per lecture.

Enquiries to Mrs J. Hearn-Gillham, 01322.551279, or [janet.hearn-gillham@ntlworld.com](mailto:janet.hearn-gillham@ntlworld.com)

## Canterbury Archaeological Society Ramsey Lecture Theatre, Canterbury Christ Church University

- » Saturday 5 March at 6pm  
Investigations at Bekesbourne - the history of a Kentish village by David Gilmour

Friends of CAT and other visitors most welcome. £2 per lecture.



## TEBUTT RESEARCH FUND

Grants are available towards research into any aspect of the

## WEALDEN IRON INDUSTRY

or subjects pertaining to it



*Wealden fireback from 1662*

Applicants may be individuals or groups and the application can include any associated expenses, such as travelling and photocopying.

It is anticipated that some £500 plus will be available from the fund. The applicant should write a letter giving details of themselves together with relevant information concerning the research envisaged.

to  
David Brown, Hon Sec,  
Wealden Iron Research Group,  
2 West Street Farm Cottages,  
Maynards Green, Heathfield,  
Sussex TN21 0DG  
Registered Charity No. 281485

# YOU & YOUR SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

By the time that you read this, those of you who pay by cheque should have received your renewal letter. Thank you very much for the prompt replies – if you have not yet renewed please do so as soon as possible – saving money for the Society by me not having to send out too many reminder letters!

In view of the current economic climate we have decided that subscriptions should stay at the present level until at least 2012 so your loyalty is even more important.

Please check your bank statements for January to make sure that your subscription had been paid correctly at the beginning of the year.

If you have any questions about any aspect of membership or would like to have some membership application forms to distribute please get in touch with me.

Shiela Broomfield, 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD  
telephone: 01732 838698 email:  
[s.broomfield@clementi.demon.co.uk](mailto:s.broomfield@clementi.demon.co.uk)

I am very pleased to welcome the following new members:

### Student Members

Miss R McVeagh, Westerham  
Mr T Mitchell, Dunks Green, Tonbridge

### Joint Members

Mr D Jackson & Ms S Mounce, Eccles

### Ordinary Members

Mr T Croucher, Rainham  
Mr R Golds, Chiddingstone Hoath  
Mrs A M Hornigold, St Albans, Herts  
Mrs J E Richardson, Tunbridge Wells  
Mr G Stark, Harrietsham  
Mrs S Taft, Hayling Island, Hants

## New Industrial Archaeology Committee

At a recent meeting of Council it was decided to form a new committee of the Society to represent people who are interested in Industrial Archaeology in the Historic County of Kent.

### At this meeting the following points were raised:-

Industrial Archaeology covers a wide range of activities, not all of which involve the built environment. In fact many groups exist whose sole interests are in machinery both mobile and stationary. Current government policy intends to make greater use of brown field areas for development and this in turn may lead to a greater threat of destruction of industrial sites. This is very much the case as many such sites have never been listed and assumptions are made by developers that if it's not on the HER then there is nothing there. It is of course much easier to look at the record than to investigate. Our new committee would not be involved in legal or planning matters. It was also felt that it would be valuable to set up a regional framework with members covering different geographical areas and being in contact with local groups.

If you are interested in joining this group please contact Mike Clinch (details to the right)

The terms of reference for the new committee were decided upon as:-  
*“To promote the study of Industrial Archaeology within the Historic County of Kent. To liaise with other groups to record and publish details of sites.”*

In order to get the new group up and

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

There are a number of opportunities for members to join a KAS Committee and get involved and interested in the many archaeological and historical things happening. Details of the Committees – what they do and who to contact – can be found by going to [www.kentarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk) and following the links; or, email [secretary@kentarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:secretary@kentarchaeology.org.uk).

### 2011 A.G.M. Saturday 14th May, Guildhall Museum at Rochester.

As well as joining a Committee, as a KAS member you can nominate the members of the Council and the Society's officers for election at the Annual General Meeting. Any five members can propose a candidate for election as a member of Council or as an officer. Nominations have to be received in writing by the Hon. General Secretary by the 1st March 2011 at the latest and must be accompanied by the

written consent of the candidate. If there are more candidates than vacancies there will be a postal ballot.

Our President, Chris Pout, will not be seeking re-election. The Council will nominate a candidate for election as President. However, members may put forward their own nominations, as mentioned above. The new President will have the challenge of leading the Society in an era of great change.

Further information can be obtained from the Hon. General Secretary, Peter Stutchbury, Lympne Hall, Lympne, Kent, CT21 4LQ ; email [secretary@kentarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:secretary@kentarchaeology.org.uk). Although an application form does not have to be used, he can supply a suitable form. The results of the elections will be announced at the A.G.M. More details of the A.G.M. will be in the April Newsletter.



running there will be an afternoon conference at the Harrietsham Village Hall at 2pm on Saturday February 19th.

If you would like to come along to listen or contribute please contact Mike Clinch  
T: 01322 526425,  
[mike@mikeclinch.co.uk](mailto:mike@mikeclinch.co.uk).

## KAS Churches Committee Visit to Brabourne and Aldington

by Paul Lee

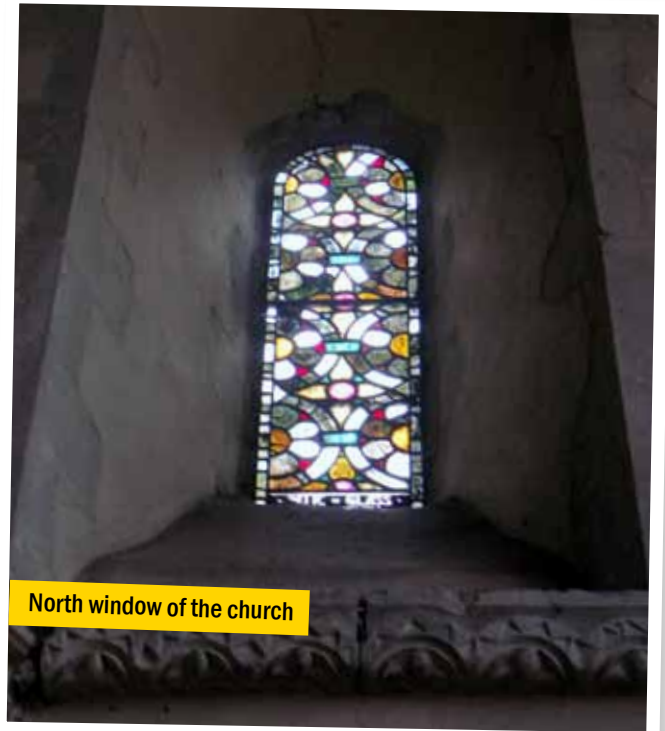
The committee's last organized visit of 2010, on Saturday 25th September, focused on two fine medieval churches in the area of Kent between Ashford and Folkestone. The visitors were welcomed by the Revd Richard Le Rossignol at Brabourne and the Revd Martin Jones at Aldington, and the committee chair, Mary Berg, gave brief talks on the architectural history of each building. In addition, Mrs Jean Bowden from Court Lodge Farm, adjacent to Aldington Parish Church, spoke about the surviving medieval features in her farmhouse which originated as an archiepiscopal manor house.

St Mary the Virgin's Brabourne has a beautiful setting in a small village at the foot of the North Downs. It is an impressive and lofty building with many features surviving from its late 12th century construction. In

particular, the chancel has richly carved decoration, a fine priest's door and an extremely rare contemporary stained glass window. Imogen Corrigan spoke about the foliate head on the chancel arch's north capital, and Mary Berg identified possible Cluniac influence in the shape of the arch itself. This reflected the sympathies of the lord of the manor Robert de Vere, who gave the church to the nearby Cluniac Horton Priory in 1142.

The church was subsequently enlarged in the late 13th/early 14th centuries by the local Scott family. Interesting survivals from that period, and up to the Reformation, include the (empty) Bethersden marble heart shrine, the log ladder in the tower and a fine set of Scott brasses.

St Martin's Aldington owes its impressive scale to the fact that the manor belonged to the archbishops of Canterbury from the Norman conquest up to the Reformation. The visitor's first sight of the church is of the impressively tall tower, which was started by Archbishop Warham in 1507. On the day of the KAS visit, Aldington's bell tower captain accompanied visitors to the top to enjoy the magnificent views. The base of the former 11th century tower survives as the vestry on the south side of the nave. Other Saxon and Norman work can be seen in the nave and chancel, but the church was much extended in



North window of the church



Chancel from the NW

the 13th century. Notable contents include a complete set of 15th century stalls with poppy heads and misericords in the chancel.

The church was restored in 1876 by Blomfield, who was the brother of the then incumbent, and it also contains some good 19th century stained glass by Heaton, Butler and Bayne. Wall displays and audiovisual equipment testify to the activities of the 21st century congregation, members of whom kindly provided refreshments to the KAS visitors.

## KAS Historic Buildings Conference

by Angela Davies

An audience of around 60 attended the annual Historic Buildings Conference held on Saturday, 9 October in Harrietsham Village Hall. The day's programme

# COMMITTEE ROUND UP

covered a wide range of topics, with presentations on domestic, agricultural, and industrial buildings, from possible Iron Age roundhouses to 20th century lime kilns.

The first speaker welcomed by Christopher Proudfoot, Chair of the Conference and of the Historic Buildings Committee, was David Martin of Archaeology South-East. In his presentation, 'Historic Buildings – Linking Documentary and Physical Evidence', David provided illustrations of some houses in the High Weald, and invited the audience to consider what sort of people might have lived in them. Based on documentary research, he went on to describe who had actually lived in them - in some instances quite a surprise. David demonstrated how significant the work of the documentary historian was in establishing the evolution of buildings and stressed how much could be gained by documentary and physical research being carried out together.

David Carder, member of the KAS Historic Buildings Committee, then spoke on 'Kent's Agricultural Building Heritage'. David pointed out that not only did Kent have some outstanding old agricultural buildings but also access for examination was usually much easier than for dwellings. He focussed on two types of agricultural building in which Kent was particularly rich: barns and oasthouses.

He explained how they functioned, and gave advice on how to date them by examining various features and styles of the buildings.

After lunch came presentations on the activities of two local archaeological groups. First, Albert Daniels of the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group, who spoke on 'The Limekilns of Charing'. Albert gave a fascinating description of work done to clear and record a set of limekilns, which had

been built as recently as the 1920s and closed down in 1959. As well as explaining how the kilns and associated buildings on the site were used in the process of making lime and quicklime, he gave an insight on the working life of the men who were employed there.

Paula Jardine-Rose talked about the activities of the Wychling, Doddington & Newnham Historical Research Group in her presentation: 'An Archaeological Investigation on the North Downs'. The recently formed group had been looking for the location of the medieval village of Wychling, with unexpected results. Initial discoveries included possible Iron Age roundhouses and a dew pond, although so far little evidence of the site of a medieval settlement could be found.

Roger Cockett, newly appointed coordinator of the Peopling Past Landscapes Project, summarised the history of the project since its launch. Then, looking to the future, he described the shift in focus to study the people in the PPL transect from 1066 to the 1860s: what they did, where they lived, and how the different landscapes affected people's lives.

The findings of the research would be recorded on a KAS database and on the KCC Historic Environment Record.

Finally, after a lively discussion session, the day was rounded off with a visit to St. Margaret's Church. The majority of the audience made the journey to Wychling, where the group was welcomed to by the Rev. Richard Frost. After a tour, Peter Draper shared the results of his research on the history, architectural features, and contents of this remote little church.

His animated presentation also offered a glimpse into the social history of the parish, and even put forward a theory on the missing settlement of Wychling.

## KAS Place-names Day at Rochester

by Anita Thompson

Three distinguished place-name experts from Nottingham University talked to an enthralled audience at this sold-out event in November 2010. Dr Paul Cullen started with surnames from the 1377 Rochester list, separating them into relationship, nickname, occupational and locative names. He emphasised the south-eastern flavour of names with -atte- such as Simon atte hale and -ere used as a locative (Bridger, a man living near a bridge). He said how useful the British 19th century surname atlas had been to him when mapping names. It is on sale from [www.archersoftware.co.uk](http://www.archersoftware.co.uk) at £12.99.

Dr Jayne Carroll spoke about mint names on Anglo-Saxon coins, and how in the small compass of the silver penny lie 87 early forms of place-name, 11 of which are unrecorded elsewhere. They were made by artisans using spoken forms, less archaic than contemporary manuscript spelling. She gave us an interpretation of 'Rochester', derived not from the spurious warleader Hrof but from the Roman name 'Durobri-vum', with the accent on the second syllable not the first. An unsuspected 'Ro-' appeared.

Dr John Baker tackled Anglo-Saxon warfare and governance, studying the map for strongholds, meeting places and beacons by using geography together with place-names. Beacons by definition lie in high places, the same places in Anglo-Saxon times as in 1588. Pepinbury (now Pembury) is named for a watchman. I had to look at the high places round the hospital to be convinced.

Dr Paul Cullen's final talk was about the Rochester area. He touched on

Celtic roots (very few) and Roman, and ended the day by emphasising the narrowness of Anglo-Saxon definitions. A holt, for instance, is a managed single-species wood. A cliff must slope 45 degrees or above. A hythe is a river landing, while a ford is never tidal. Any place named –church was visible from a long way away. This was an excellent day.

## The KAS Library and its coverage

Article by Frank Panton,  
Hon Librarian, assisted  
by Pernille Richards  
and John Walters.

In my work as Hon Librarian, I am constantly impressed by the uniquely wide coverage of subjects and activities relevant to the Society's aims and objectives which have been built up over the 150 years of the Society's existence. In this short article I hope similarly to impress the readers, and to encourage them to take advantage of the facilities offered by the Library's Collections.

Basically, the Library's collection of books and pamphlets may be considered in the following main streams. First, there is an extensive number of books and pamphlets on the history and archaeology of Kentish towns, villages, hamlets and places, shelved alphabetically by location; second, books and pamphlets on Kentish history and archaeology more generally, shelved by subject; third, volumes on the study and practice of history and archaeology; and fourth, a collection of runs of journals of UK national and other UK county and local historical and archaeological Societies, together with runs of publications of

some Continental history and archaeological associations.

Runs of journals in this fourth stream constitute a major part of the stock of the society's library, and come from county Societies with a wide range of topics with similar aims to that of the KAS, such as Sussex, and Surrey, and from national bodies, such as the British Archaeological Association, with a broader national view. Other more specialist titles such as the Numismatic Chronicle and the Brass Rubbing Society are also available. Many of these journal runs extend back to the mid 19th century.

The bulk of these runs have been received under reciprocal agreements, in exchange for copies of KAS publications, as have a selection of journal runs from Europe - German, Dutch, Swedish and Flemish societies. The volumes from the Continent are usually profusely illustrated with high quality plates, maps and diagrams, and often have summaries in English. These volumes provide a good opportunity for keeping in touch with recent research on the Continent, which often includes English or even Kentish material, and demonstrates an increasing development of a trans-continental (trans-manche) approach to historical and archaeological studies. As an example of this, Dr Ronald Bockius, in *Des Romisch-Germanisch Zentral Museums Mainz*, has explored the idea of a potential Mediterranean influence on the European Shipbuilding Tradition over the centuries. Several British finds are included in his distribution analysis illustration, including the Dover Boat. Another item, which could potentially inspire studies of Kentish localities, is in Monograph 6 of *Archaeologia in Vlaanderen*, which contains a

collection of papers from a Colloquium at Ostende-Rafersijde in Vlaanderen in November 2003 dealing with 'Fishery, Trade and Piracy, Fishermen's Settlements in and around the North Sea Area in the Middle Ages and Later', and many aspects of these settlements are studied in the Colloquium.

I remind you that the KAS Library is in Maidstone Museum on St Faiths Street, Maidstone. Access to the Library may be gained by KAS Members at any time the Museum is open, by presentation of a KAS membership card and signing at the Museum front desk. A catalogue and a written guide are available in the Library to help you to locate items on the shelves. The book catalogue is also online. Should you find that the item you want to consult is not in the Library Room in the Museum but is lodged in one of the Library's stores, please contact the Hon Librarian to arrange access. Similarly, non-KAS members requiring access to the Library should also contact me.

I do hope I have encouraged you to visit the Library when you are next in Maidstone, to sample its riches.

### A small selection of journal titles from the Library :-

- » *Archaeologia*
- » *Archaeological Journal by the Royal Institute of Archaeology*
- » *Bonner Jahrbücher*
- » *Britannia*
- » *Essex Archaeology and History*
- » *Journal of Roman Studies*
- » *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*
- » *L'Institut Archaeologique Liegeois*
- » *Revue Historique de Dunkerque*
- » *Surrey Archaeological Collections*
- » *Sussex Archaeological Collections*

# NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVE by Pernille Richards



A section of the Early Iron Age ditch on the NW side looking SW, below the waterworks site, June 1934

## EXCAVATIONS AT MILL HILL, DEAL by W.P.D. Stebbing

*“ This ridge at the cross roads with its Bronze-early Iron Age-trenches, Belgic occupation sites and cemetery with pedestal vases, its evidence of Roman occupation, and its Jutish burials should have been reserved as an archaeological park but the area, long only occupied by a mill and the miller’s house, now sees scores of houses in permanent possession” (W.P.D. Stebbing, Arch. Cant. LX, 1947)*

W.P. D. Stebbing (1873 – 1961) wrote about the estate built in the 1930s on the eastern slope of Mill Hill, Deal, where he undertook a series of excavations. He published his findings in Arch. Cant. between 1929 and 1947, but these were short notices and not illustrated. A number of photographs and negatives from the 1934 excavation have been found among his papers in PMP Box 13. Many of these photographs were taken by John Archibald and some by Mr. Pearce. Despite some technical shortcomings these photos add an extra dimension to the already published account and

give a valuable visual impression of the site and the excavation methods employed.

The story starts in the dry summer of 1928 when crop marks were noticeable in the oats on the slope between Deal Waterworks and Deal Cemetery. Mr. Cecil Knox, later Vice Chairman of Deal and District Local History and Research Society, investigated the site and found a section of a circular V-shaped ditch in a small excavation. The ditch was found to be 6-7 feet deep and estimated to be 16 feet wide with a diameter of 83 feet. Small finds consisting of animal bones, including skulls of large dogs, and fragments of pottery were found. Stebbing initially dated the material to the early Iron Age, but years later revised this to Late Bronze Age-early Iron Age. The star find was fragments of a large storage jar with a finger-imprinted rim. Cecil Knox built a restoration of this jar and a photo of this is among the papers. Correspondence with Christopher Hawkes of the British Museum

regarding an analysis of the finds from the site is also among the papers. Christopher Hawkes was of the opinion that the finds were predominantly Late Bronze Age.

Aerial photographs of the area were taken with the assistance of Mr. O.G. S. Crawford, F.S.A. and the images revealed two further circular ditches of roughly the same size close by. Stebbing and Knox had hoped to continue excavating the following year, but it was not until the spring of 1934 that work resumed on the site. Stebbing learnt that The First National Housing Trust were to build on the site as part of a housing scheme for miners. They gave permission to excavate the parts of the site not immediately affected by construction work. Excavation work commenced on the 10th of March 1934 and continued until July 13th where more of the ditch, first opened by Cecil Knox, was exposed. Stebbing employed an un-named local man, who had previously done excavation work at Richborough Castle, and it may be this man who appears in many of the

# EXCAVATIONS AT MILL HILL, DEAL

1934 photos. In an article in *The Times*, August 7th 1934, Stebbing says that there was insufficient time and money to expose the entire ditch or much of the interior of the feature. The photographs show the excavation work taking place while the houses are, quite literally, being built around the excavators.

Stebbing does not appear to have excavated the two circular features found by aerial photography in 1928, although it is difficult to be certain of this as he does not give exact map references in his papers and refers to the site simply as "*The Trench at the top of Mill Hill.*" He did apparently excavate sections, which he believed to be part of the original ditch, over the years, for instance in 1938 during the construction of an air raid precaution trench in St. Richard's Road.

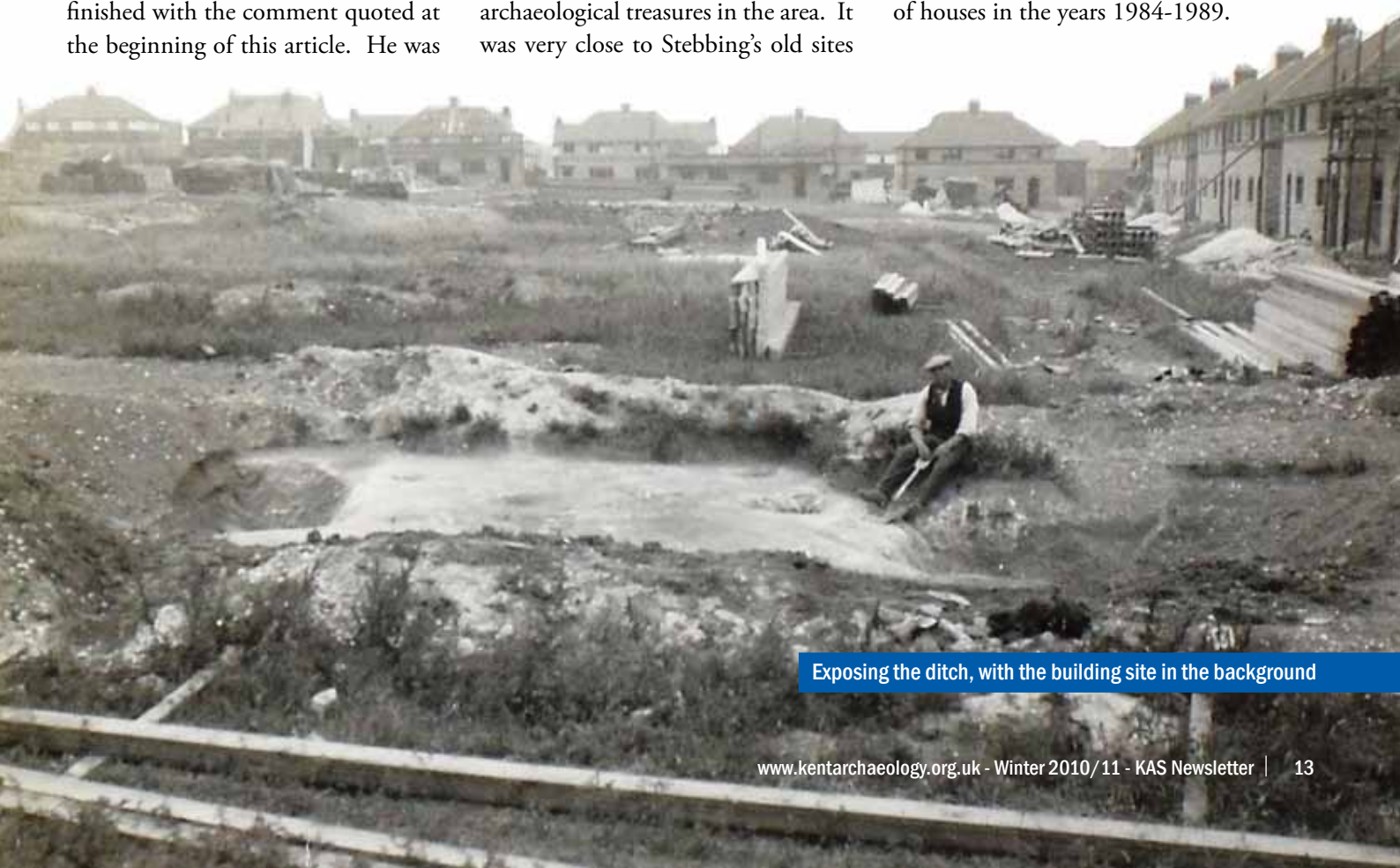
In April 1947 a 'Belgic' rubbish pit was discovered on the northern side of Mill Hill, by the junction with St. Richard's Road during construction work. Stebbing wrote this up and finished with the comment quoted at the beginning of this article. He was



Mrs Archibald in the ditch

proved right in his assessment of the richness of the archaeology in the area. However, the housing needs of the living have helped uncover other archaeological treasures in the area. It was very close to Stebbing's old sites

that Keith Parfitt and the Dover Archaeological Group discovered a fascinating site, including many Iron Age burials, prior to the development of houses in the years 1984-1989.



Exposing the ditch, with the building site in the background

# FOLKESTONE ROMAN VILLA

Report on excavations 2010 by Keith Parfitt

The Scheduled Roman villa site above East Wear Bay at Folkestone overlooks the English Channel, with clear views across to the French coast, some 36km distant. The villa here was first discovered and excavated by Samuel Winbolt in 1923–4 (Winbolt 1925; Fig 1) and remained open until 1957, when it was backfilled due to its poor state and declining visitor numbers.

The complex comprised a large winged-corridor house (Block A) with an adjacent corridor house (Block B) set at a right angle to it. A bath-suite (Block C) lay immediately beyond Block B. Traces of Iron Age activity were located below the villa remains. The only excavations undertaken since Winbolt's time were those conducted by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit in 1989, when the remains of Block C on the cliff-edge, together with the south-eastern end of Block B, were re-examined, with some useful results (Philp 1990).

In 1924 about 30 metres of land lay

between the north-east wing of Block A and the cliff edge. By 2010 coastal erosion had reduced this figure to 2.25m (Fig 2). Work in 1989 established that part of Block C was already destroyed. The entire villa complex is thus at risk of loss in the short to medium term. Finds previously made on the foreshore below the site have included quantities of Iron Age and Roman coins and pottery (Holman 2005; Weston 2005), together with numerous examples of quernstones, many unfinished (Keller 1988, 59–68; Keller 1989, 193–200). Taken together, the evidence demonstrates the existence of a highly significant archaeological site on the adjacent cliff-top, which is being steadily eroded by the sea. The Roman villa forms just one element of this site, which clearly has pre-Conquest origins.

In December 2009 the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded grant funding of £298,000 to conduct a three year community archaeological and

historical project entitled 'A Town Unearthed: Folkestone Before 1500' (ATU). Investigation of the East Wear Bay site was planned as a major component of this project during 2010 and 2011, led by Canterbury Archaeological Trust, working in association with Canterbury Christ Church University and the Folkestone People's History Centre. Additional funding for the project has come from the KAS and the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust.

Fieldwork for 2010 began with a geophysical survey, undertaken in June. Excavations started in August and lasted until the end of October. More than 200 volunteers participated and over two thousand members of the public visited the site, together with around 400 school children. Work focussed on the north-east wing of Block A, nearest the cliff, together with a previously undug area immediately to the north-east. Five test-trenches were

General view of the 1924 excavations, looking north - Fig 1





Excavation of the North-East Wing of the villa in 2010 - Fig 2



High-level view of the 2010 excavations - Fig 3

also cut to the north of the villa. These revealed significant stratified deposits and features, mostly dating to the late Iron Age and Roman periods.

The re-exposed villa foundations were found to be reasonably well preserved. They were confirmed as relating to two successive buildings (Villa I and Villa II; Fig 3) occupying the same site, as previously reported by Winbolt. Below these remains were found important pre-Roman deposits and structures, mostly dating to the late Iron Age and largely untouched by the earlier digging. The primary clays over the natural produced quantities of early prehistoric pottery and flintwork. A late Iron Age curving gully dug into these clays seemingly represented the drainage ditch enclosing a timber roundhouse. It was overlain by a rough chalk floor, probably relating to a subsequent building, cut through by the earliest villa foundations.

Substantial quantities of finds were recovered, including some important pottery and flint assemblages. A total of 23 coins was discovered, of which thirteen are Iron Age. Many fragments of quernstone were also collected, all but one made from the local greensand.

Previous research (Keller 1988; 1989) has established that such querns were being manufactured at the site and this was fully borne out in 2010, when two working floors were located in one of the outlying trenches.

The archaeological deposits present on the site are considerably more extensive and complex than previously realised. The finds suggest that habitation in the area occurred at various times throughout prehistory, beginning in the Mesolithic. The main period of occupation, however, was during the late Iron Age, perhaps c.150BC–AD50. The first of the two Roman villa buildings was probably erected sometime before the end of the first century AD. Whether there was a gap between the final occupation of the Iron Age site and the construction of this villa presently remains unclear.

The pre-Roman settlement clearly covered an area considerably larger than the villa complex; an unknown amount must already have been lost to the sea. The quantity of Iron Age coins and imported pottery now known, most notably imported Italian wine amphorae of Dressel 1 type, implies that this site was of rather higher status

than a simple farmstead. Located virtually at the shortest sea crossing to the Continent, it seems highly likely that this site on the south-east Kent coast was acting as a port of trade with the Roman world during the first century BC. The next season of excavation is being awaited with great anticipation. KAS members will be most welcome to join in.

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Fig 1



Fig 2

## KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESCUE UNIT 40 years in Dover

In July last year the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit celebrated its 40th year of rescue archaeology in Dover. Way back in July 1970, the Unit responded to the threat of development and undertook an eight week operation on the York Street bypass cutting through the west side of the ancient town, locating the Roman shore-fort of Dubris. Beneath this they found the Classis Britannica fort with some walls still standing 3m high, resulting in the lifting of the proposed road (A20) by nearly 2m so that the remains were preserved.

The site of the Roman Painted House, destined to be a multi-storey car park, was another site saved from an ignominious fate. This is now a well-known tourist attraction. Over the next three decades, the Unit produced three volumes on the Dover

excavations – on the Classis Britannica, the Painted House (Fig 1) and the Saxon town.

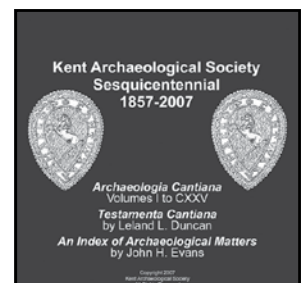
Brian Philp, founder and director of the Unit, who lives 75 miles away from Dover, commented “Had I known that the project would over-run by 39 years and 44 weeks, I might have bought a house in Dover to save over 300,000 miles in weekly travel! But it has been a great pleasure to lead the team in this long voyage of discovery”.

The Unit held an open weekend to celebrate their 40 years of work. Many of their original team members came along and over 200 people enjoyed the guided tours.

The Mayor of Dover presented Brian Philp and George Ruck, both Trustees of the Roman Painted House, with the town badge (Fig 2).

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Copy deadline for the next issue is 1st March 2011

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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