

KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 86 | WINTER 2010

Sheltering from bombs

**Graffiti in
Ramsgate tunnels**

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Main picture: Incised Field Cannon
 Insert Above: Stenography, not yet decoded
 Insert Left: Breach caused by groundworks
 Front cover: Popeye
 Front cover insert: Recording graffiti

MAKING THEIR MARK

The urge to embellish a wall with a name, a comment or a cartoon was as strong 70 years ago as today, although pencils, rather than aerosols, were used on the soft chalk of Ellington School's air raid shelter.

In April 2010 groundworks for a housing development on the site of the former Ellington Girl's School, Ramsgate, breached the roof of an entrance tunnel leading into a set of tunnels beneath the former school. The school buildings were demolished in early 2010. The site had already been the subject of an evaluation carried out by Canterbury Archaeological Trust and a watching brief was being maintained during the groundworks. The Trust was commissioned to carry out a survey of the tunnels, their fittings and of the significant amount of graffiti they contained. They also carried out a brief documentary study to place them in their historic context.

The well-preserved tunnels are thought to belong to an air raid shelter dating to the end of the First World War. It is unlikely, however, that they saw much, if any, use at this time.

Provision of shelters was made towards the end of the war in response to Zeppelin raids and naval bombardments, but many were not completed until late 1918. The graffiti present within the shelter indicates fairly extensive use during the Second World War. Although much of it is indicative of use by the school, there is some indication that the wider community also used the facility.

The shelter was of simple form with two tunnels, lined by benches, linked by cross passages terminating in toilet cubicles, marked girls and boys. Three stairways entered the c.12m-deep tunnels, corresponding to the Boys', Girls' and Infants' departments of the school. Two vertical shafts cut from the surface are thought to represent construction shafts, excavated to the required depth and the tunnels cut from their bases. This method of

construction is apparently typical of First World War chalk-cut tunnels observed elsewhere. The method follows the mining methods employed by colliers and it is suggested that men from the Kent collieries were drafted in to carry out the tunnel construction.

The tunnels are chalk-cut with no lining, shoring or supporting arches, except at the south-west entrance where a concrete lining was present. They average 1.3m wide by 2m high, with local variations, most notably in the height, as the roof appears to have been cut following natural seams within the chalk. The side walls are near vertical or slightly bowed out, to a height of c.1.5m, then slope in to meet a flat or concave roof c.1m wide. Tool marks, from round-bladed shovels, trenching tools and picks, are evident on all the surfaces. Traces of fittings survive, such as stair risers, bench support brackets, toilet cubicles, electrical (light) fittings and candle ledges. These are generally in poor condition.

The tunnels contain many graffiti, dating, for the most part, from between late 1943 and late 1946. Due to the sealing of the tunnels after the war, these are relatively free from later additions, and thus provide an interesting 'snapshot' of the time. Already, however, at least six individuals have contributed new graffiti, since the rediscovery of the shelter in April! The more significant historic examples were recorded, together with a representative sample of the remaining graffiti in order to characterise its nature.

Most of the graffiti were simply incised or in pencil, probably brought into the shelters to continue an interrupted lesson. In contrast to what might be found in today's school spaces, the toilets contained almost none, perhaps due to the confined space!

Pictures and patterns abound; human faces and their variants were common motifs. As one might expect, many of the graffiti comprise the names, or more usually initials, of individuals using the shelter, sometimes accompanied by other details including their age, form, and the year, or even the precise date, of the inscription. Together, these provide some useful clues to the use of the shelter. The great majority were of 1944, with only two for 1945. It would be interesting to compare the graffiti giving a precise date with details of known raids on Ramsgate – 12 dates are given in 1944. Several graffiti commemorated D-Day on 6 June 1944.

One 'Mable Jenner' inscribed her name twice, once aged sixteen and again at seventeen – on both occasions using the same slightly unusual spelling of her first name, and reversing the 'N's in her surname. Assuming she existed, Mable Jenner was above the normal school-leaving age when she carved her name, perhaps reflecting the use of the shelter by members of the public

outside of school hours.

One group of graffiti reveals the antipathy of a faction at Ellington School towards the pupils of St George's School, Ramsgate. An inscription asserts: 'St Georges are stacked painted chads', whilst another provides what was presumably intended as a generalized portrait of a St George's pupil, with crazed expression, curiously formed upper lip, and thin, untidy, hair. St George's School pupils were typically from wealthier families than Ellington's. By 1942 the term 'stacked' was well-established within American slang, meaning 'shapely,' with regard to the female figure. By 1944 it may well have been known in Kent. The term 'painted' often referred to the use of cosmetics, frequently with some disreputable implication.

Perhaps the most striking of the pictorial graffiti are two depictions of the American cartoon character 'Popeye', closely similar except in size and probably copied directly from a comic strip. To the larger depiction, someone has added Popeye's signature tobacco pipe, albeit disproportionately small.

Among the inanimate objects depicted, maritime and military themes seem to have predominated, including an anchor, a small steamship and a field cannon with spoked wheels. This is

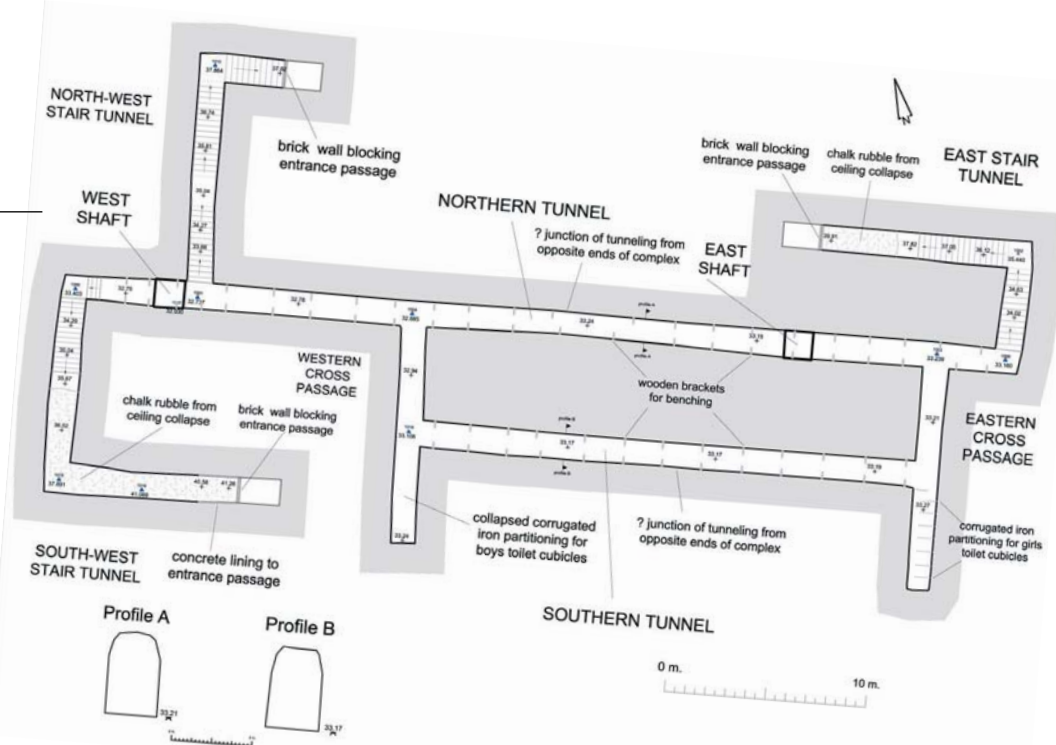
unlike any artillery in use during the Second World War, or probably even during the First. It is most likely, therefore, a historical depiction. Swastikas are present in abundance, together with a number of simplified union jacks.

Collections of strange symbols are evident, perhaps representing some kind of phonographical shorthand. Girls at the school may well have studied stenography in preparation for secretarial careers – especially, perhaps, considering Ramsgate's historical links with that science. The script has not been decoded.

The tunnels are being resealed, leaving them in a stable state with the graffiti preserved.

CAT would like to thank developers ISG Jackson and the sub-contractors, Cliffe, for their assistance during these works. Particular thanks are expressed to ISG Jackson for arranging confined spaces training. Thanks are also extended to Rod LeGear and the Kent Underground Research Group for their assistance and comments.

The photographic survey was undertaken by Andrew Savage, assisted by Adrian Murphy, and the documentary research and graffiti surveys by Peter Searey. Mapping of the tunnel was conducted by Crispin Jarman, assisted by Russel Henshaw



A Lecture on Stained Glass with Lantern Slides

by Pernille Richards

"My Lecture came off last night. We had an excellent attendance and the slides were much enjoyed. A number of the audience told me afterwards how beautiful they were.... I did not use the three from Sens, as Dr. Legge told me that these could not be replaced if any accident happened to them"(Letter to Mrs. Arnold 4/11/1920)

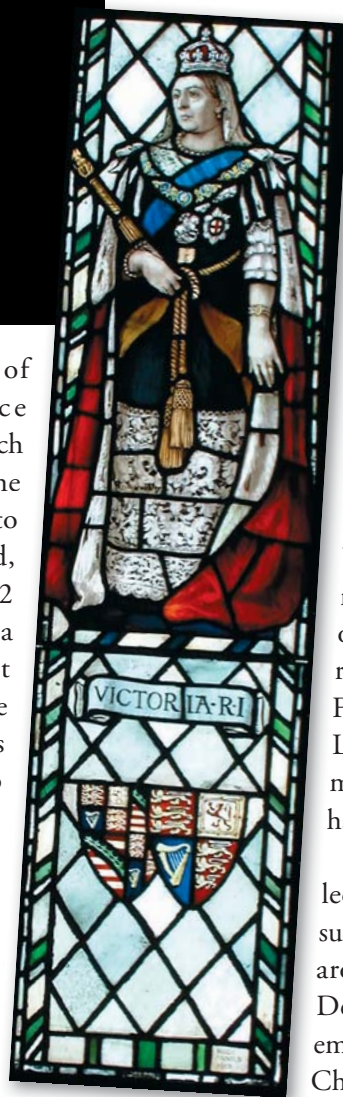
Mr. C. H. Grinling (1861 – 1947) collected information relating to stained glass. Although the topic cries out for illustration there are only a small number of sketches among his papers as well as a few photographs of the windows of the Beauchamp Chapel in Warwick. The need for illustration was obviously keenly felt when lecturing and Grinling's correspondence introduces some interesting slides, eminent people and a poignant personal story of an artist.

On the 3rd of November 1920 Mr. Grinling was due to give a lecture on Stained Glass to Woolwich Antiquarian Society. In the month before this he is engaged in a flurry of correspondence trying to obtain slides to illustrate his talk. He writes to Dr. T. M. Legge, later Sir Legge (1863 -1923), best known as the first medical inspector of factories and a leading expert on occupational diseases. Sir Legge was also enthusiastic about the arts and an authority on stained glass. Dr. Legge undertook a lecture tour of America in 1919 and had borrowed some slides from a Mrs. Hugh Arnold. Dr. Legge suggested that Grinling should ask Mrs. Arnold to borrow some of her slides.

An exchange of correspondence follows from which we learn that the slides belonged to her late husband, Hugh Arnold (1872 -1915). He was a stained glass artist influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement who had his own studio from 1903-1914 working closely with Lowndes & Dury at the Glass House in Fulham. In 1913 he published the influential book:

Stained Glass of the Middle Ages in England and France. Despite his family commitments Hugh Arnold volunteered for active service in 1914. He obtained the rank of Lieutenant and was killed in action at Gallipoli in August 1915. He is among those commemorated on the Helles Memorial.

The correspondence shows Mrs. Arnold being very protective of the slides, partly for copyright reasons, partly because of their fragility, but especially because the collection contained photographs of stained glass destroyed in the War. The majority of these lost windows are French. She agreed to lend Grinling the slides, on the understanding that he does not use

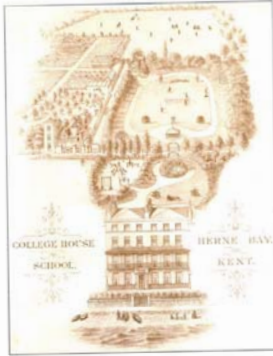


the French slides, which cannot be replaced. She also makes a number of technical specifications for the lantern equipment. Grinling, delighted, agrees only to find that Mrs. Arnold has left for Switzerland with her children, before he has had a chance to make his selection. He is left choosing from the 50 slides still held by Dr. Legge. The selection includes good pictures of Canterbury Cathedral, West Wickham and Dartford, but not nearly enough for a lecture on Kent glass. Grinling is rescued by fellow antiquarians F. C. Eliston Erwood and Lockwood who both lend him more slides, but he still ends up having to rewrite the lecture.

Despite these stresses, the lecture appears to have been a success. The mention of the slides aroused the interest of Percy Dearmer (1867 – 1936), an eminent liturgist and historian of Christian worship, at this point lecturing on ecclesiastical art at

King's College London. Dearmer was also interested in borrowing Mrs. Arnold's slides for his lectures. At this point Mrs. Arnold asks for copies to be made by a company she refers to as "the Lumière people" and then these copies could be studied, but she points out that neither Percy Dearmer nor King's College London are to keep the copies. On the 19th of January 1921 Grinling writes to Dearmer that the slides will be sent by messenger. Then the trail goes cold. We don't know what happened to the slides from then on. Given their fragile nature they may no longer exist, but it is an intriguing puzzle and they would be a valuable historic record, if by some chance they still survive somewhere.

SCHOOLS & COLLEGES IN THE HERNE BAY AREA



Artistic plan view of Herne Bay College & grounds, St George's Terrace

John Fishpool & Pauline Turner

Herne Bay Historical Records Society
Herne Bay Past Series - No. 4

Schools and Colleges in the Herne Bay Area
Herne Bay Historical Records Society, Past Series No.4
John Fishpool & Pauline Turner

ISBN 987-1-904661-14-6

Herne Bay seems to have been a popular location for schools and colleges over the years. The introductory text includes an overview of the education system in Kent, thus setting the scene for a detailed listing of the many educational establishments. Coverage includes the wide variety of schools run by the church, local authorities and privately, that have existed in the town for over 170 years. The book is well illustrated, with images of buildings and classrooms as well as staff and pupils.

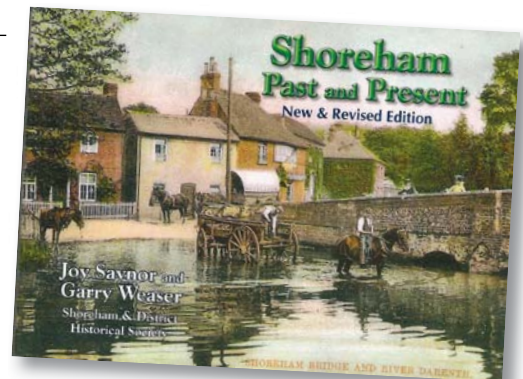
A4, 48 pages, 46 illus. Price £5.95 (+ £1.55 if posted), from Herne Bay Museum, 12 William Street, Herne Bay CT6 5EJ or from Pierhead Publications Ltd, PO Box 145, Herne Bay CT6 8GY, tel: 01227 370971.

Shoreham Past and Present, New & Revised Edition
Joy Saynor and Garry Weaser, Shoreham District Historical Society

ISBN 978-0-9539543-3-9

This booklet is a revised version of the original which appeared in 2000. It aims to contrast varying scenes of the village at a time when maps, watercolours, drawings and photographs were becoming widely available, with the same views of the present day. A concise and thoughtful introduction to the history and changes in the village precedes the illustrated 'comparative' pages.

Price £5.00. Cheques should be made out to Shoreham and District Historical Society and copies can be obtained from Jill Webster, Rising Sun Cottage, Church Street, Shoreham, Sevenoaks, TN14.



Iron Age and Roman Discoveries at Crayford
Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit

This little known site, at Perry Street, Crayford, was discovered accidentally about 20 years ago. Members of the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit inspected the workings when gravel extraction started on a small site north of St Paulinus Church. They found slight traces of Iron Age settlement; further visits revealed many features including pits, ditches and post-holes.

Nearly 200 features were eventually found, partially excavated and recorded. Some contained important groups of pottery, mostly of Iron Age and Roman date. Of special interest was a large Iron Age pit, found to contain more than 25 loomweights, several of which were complete.

A nearby Roman ditch contained a small domestic altar. An extra bonus was the discovery of a nearly complete Early Bronze Age beaker, almost certainly representing a much earlier burial on the site.

The site has now been published, with 33 pages and many illustrations. Copies are £4 + 80p P&P, and can be bought from the KARU, Roman House, New Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9AJ.

WHAT'S ON

KAS EVENTS

KAS PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

Saturday 6 November 10.30am – 4.30pm

Rochester Visitor Centre, 95 High Street, Rochester

Three speakers from the Institute for Name-Studies, University of Nottingham

Programme:

- » Coffee
- » Place-names in the Rochester area *Dr Paul Cullen*
- » Coining names: legends and language in Anglo-Saxon England *Dr Jayne Carroll*
- » Lunch (there are many eating places nearby)
- » The place-names of Anglo-Saxon governance *Dr John Baker*
- » Kentish surnames in the Middle Ages *Dr Paul Cullen*

We are grateful to the three speakers from the Institute for Name-Studies for their time and expertise - this should be a very good day.

Tickets £7.50 each. Cheques in advance please, payable to KAS, to be sent to Anita Thompson (KAS), Brattle Farm, Five Oak Lane, Staplehurst. Kent. TN12 0HE. Phone 01580 891222. Email anita@anitathompson9.wanadoo.co.uk.

EVENTS AROUND KENT

BEXLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP One Day Workshop: make a Neolithic arrow, with Will Lord

Saturday 23 October 10am - 4.30pm

Make a flint arrowhead (leaf-shaped or barbed & tanged), make a shaft from ash, fix the arrowhead on with lime bast and pine resin and then fletch the arrow.

Cost: £45. To be held at Bexley-Sidcup Conservative Club, 19 Station Road, Sidcup, Kent

For further information or to book a place contact Pip Pulfer at: pipspad@hotmail.co.uk or 07961 963 893, or go to www.bag.org.uk.

CONFERENCES

Council for Kentish Archaeology & Surrey Archaeological Society Joint Conference - Roman Villas in Kent and Surrey

Saturday 23 October 2 – 5.30pm
Old Sessions Lecture Theatre, Canterbury Christ Church University

- » Introduction to the Surrey Villas *Dr David Bird*
- » Abinger Roman Villa *Nikki Cowlard & Emma Corke*
- » Ashted Roman Villa *Dr David Bird*
- » Rescuing Roman Villas in Kent *Brian Philp*

Tickets £5.00 available from CKA, Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, TN15 8HP. Please include SAE. Further details from Ruth Plummer, email: davru58-arch@yahoo.co.uk or 0208 7777872, or from Richard Ansell on 01732 884059, or at www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk

Council for Kentish Archaeology & Kent Local History Federation, joint Conference

Saturday 7 May 2011 at Crofton Halls, Orpington

Details to follow in the January Newsletter

TALKS

Crayford Manor House Historical & Archaeological Society

PROGRAMME OF TALKS 2010/2011

- » Saturday 13 November
A Country Christmas *Pat Mortlock*
- » Saturday 11 December
Kipling - his life and work (in costume), *Geoff Hutchinson*
- » Saturday 8 January 2011
A Brief Education Crayford Town Archive
- » Saturday 12 February 2011
Gad's Hill Place - Dickens' Little Kentish Freehold *Anne Carter*
- » Saturday 12 March 2011
How Charing got its Cross *John Halligan*
- » Saturday 16 April 2011
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 (except for December when there is an additional charge).

Enquiries to Mrs J. Hearn-Gillham, phone: 01322 551279, email: janet.hearn-gillham@ntlworld.com

Details of the Society's summer excursions from Mr L.Davies on 01322 525335.

Canterbury Archaeological Society Winter Programme

Ramsey Lecture Theatre, Canterbury Christ Church University
All talks start at 6pm

- » Saturday 20 November 2010
Recent Discoveries at St Alban's Court, Nonington *Peter Hobbs*
- » Saturday 4 December
St Mildred's Tannery Site, Canterbury – archaeological discoveries *Simon Pratt*
- » Saturday 15 January 2011
The Game of Kings – a history of chess *Richard Eales*
- » Saturday 29 January (lecture theatre may differ)
The Frank Jenkins Memorial Lecture: annual review of the work of Canterbury Archaeological Trust *Paul Bennett*
- » Saturday 12 February
Liturgy and Archaeology in Medieval Canterbury *Dr Helen Glass*
- » Saturday 5 March
Investigations at Bekesbourne – the history of a Kentish village *David Gilmour*

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

COURSES

LOCAL HISTORY - SOURCES

St Leonard's Social Centre, Deal
Mondays 2 - 4pm from 7th March 2011
Tutor: Maureen Criddle

An introduction to the wide range of sources available to enable you to discover the fascinating story of your area's past and the people who lived there. Topics covered include: the

house, parish, military, the poor, taxes, the census etc. The knowledge gained will allow you to access archives with confidence to begin local history research. The tutor is a historian with many years experience in local and family history research.

Course fee £75.00

RESEARCHING LOCAL HISTORY

20 sessions

Thursdays 2 - 4pm, 23rd Sept 2010 to 4th June 2011

Tutor: Maureen Criddle

The Landmark Centre, Deal

129 High Street, Deal CT14 6BB

Fortnightly tutor-guided practical course researching topics of interest in Upper Deal's history. The period to be investigated is c.1750 -1830. We shall discover material from the original sources to create a picture and present it in an exhibition. This is the third year the course has been offered, the previous two have uncovered a wealth of detail about Upper Deal.

Course fee £150.00, payable in two instalments.

For further details about these and any other WEA courses in the Dover/ Deal area contact Alan Buckman on 01304 367711

EGYPTOLOGY with FRANCES WILLIAMS

Based in Canterbury or Tonbridge

Courses planned for after Christmas include 'Old Kingdom Egypt', and 'The Art of Amenhotep III and Akhenaten', as well as ongoing hieroglyph groups. A trip to the Louvre is being considered, with perhaps a short course or single preparatory class session beforehand – please contact me if this might be of interest to you.

All courses £57. To reserve a place on a course or if you have any queries, please contact 07789 661616 (if leaving voicemail please give telephone number within your message) or fwipetiset@hotmail.com.

EVENTS ELSEWHERE

CONFERENCE

The Archaeology of Wooded Landscapes

Saturday 12th February

Field trips, morning of Sunday 13th February

Meridian Hall, East Grinstead

A joint Conference between the Historic Environment Awareness Project (East Sussex County Council Archaeology Team) and the Sussex Archaeological Society

Programme:

- » Woodland Usage in Anglo-Saxon England as illustrated in contemporary documents and place names *Dr Della Hooke (University of Birmingham)*
- » Hunting, Farming and fuel: the transitory character of English woodlands *Dr Mark Gardiner (Queens University, Belfast)*
- » You can't see the wood for the trees – locating and recording modern military features in woodlands *Roger JC Thomas (Military Support Officer, English Heritage)*
- » The flora and fauna of archaeological sites in woodlands *Dr Patrick Roper, (Ecologist)*
- » New technology, new sites, new insights: Discoveries across the Weald Forest Ridge through LiDAR *Vivienne Blandford (Landscape Archaeologist)*
- » Wyre Forest – on transcription and validation of LiDAR using volunteers *Adam Mindykowski (Worcs County Council)*
- » Our woodland – divided, but still united! A case study of multiple ownership and archaeological investigation *Owners of Waste Wood, Buxted*
- » Understanding the history of wooded landscapes: Are we asking the right questions? Towards a new research agenda *Dr Nicola Bannister (Landscape Archaeologist)*

Sunday field trips 10.20-12.30am (free) to:

- » Gravetye Manor, West Hoathly (designed landscape incorporating iron working remains) led by Nicola Bannister

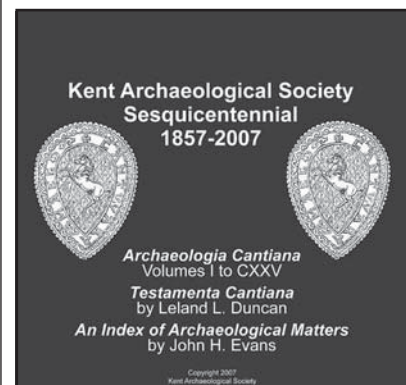
» Brede High Woods, Cripps Corner (woodland landscape with woodland management, iron working and routeways) led by David Brown, South East Woodland Archaeology Forum

» Broadwater Warren, Tunbridge Wells (military use in the Napoleonic period and both World Wars) led by Vivienne Blandford

Conference tickets £30 (students £20). Optional hot buffet lunch £5. Book online at www.sussexpastshop.co.uk or tel: 01273 405737 or email members@sussexpast.co.uk for booking form.

HAVE YOU JUST JOINED THE SOCIETY?

Do you wish you could collect all the back issues of *Archaeologia Cantiana*?



Now you can have 125 volumes of *Archaeologia Cantiana* at the amazingly low cost of £31 for individual members and £76 for institutional members on the KAS Sesquicentennial DVD.

To order your copy, send a cheque payable to Kent Archaeological Society to Peter Tann, Town Place, Belmont, Nr Faversham ME13 0HE.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

This year seems to have gone by so quickly and it is nearly time for me to think about sending out the renewal letters or invoices for those of you who pay by cheque. Please bear in mind that cheques are scheduled to disappear in a couple of years time so if you wish to 'convert' to paying by standing order maybe now is the time to do so. Please get in touch so that I can send a form for you to complete; I can then send this to your bank in plenty of time for the due date of 2nd January.

This reminds me to ask all of you who already pay using the banker's order method to check that you are paying the correct amount and only once a year! It is surprising the number of queries I have each year and the number of letters I have to write, so anything that can be sorted out before January 2011 would be of great help to me.

I am also somewhat baffled by the number of Newsletters and Archaeologia Cantiana that are returned marked 'gone away', or even stranger, 'not known at this address'. If you move, or know of any other member who has, please let me know. A few of these returns are from Life Members and in many cases I am not aware if these members are still alive, which could explain a lot.

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

We are pleased to welcome the following new Members:

Institutional Membership

Highworth Grammar School, Ashford

Life Member

Mr Paul Ledger, Maidstone

Student Members

Miss J H Farrell, Lynsted, Sittingbourne

Joint Members

Mr E & Mrs L Cavalli, Gillingham

Mr & Mrs P Donoghue, Northfleet, Gravesend

Mr & Mrs A Harding, Faversham

Ordinary Members

Miss D E Boyland, Southfleet, Gravesend

Mr D Bright, Boughton under Blean, Faversham

Mr H R Clayton, Fordwich, Canterbury

Mrs A Musk, Chestfield, Whitstable

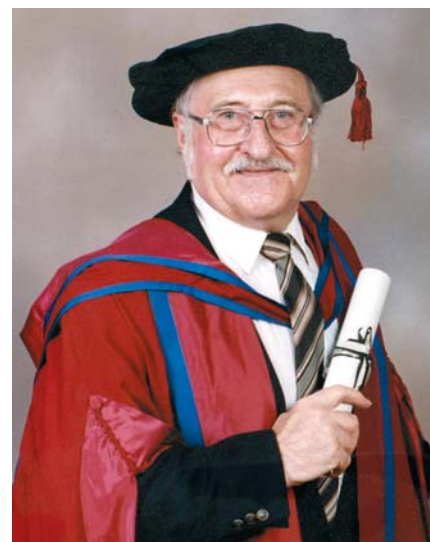
Mr C K Robbins, Stelling Minnis, Canterbury

Mrs R Smalley, Gravesend

Ms B Ward, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire

Mr V Parker, Chestfield, Whitstable

Many local people heard David speak about his discoveries or took part in digs with him. An acknowledged authority on the archaeology of Thanet by this time, David was awarded a Doctorate by the University of London in 2001 for his thesis on the prehistory of the Isle of Thanet – The Gateway



Isle. Battling against the poor health that had affected him since childhood, David remained an enthusiast for Thanet's archaeology after his retirement. His last publication on the Bronze Age round barrows of Thanet appeared in Archaeologia Cantiana this year.

Despite his growing reputation and long list of published work, David Perkins remained an ordinary man, pleased to share his knowledge and encourage others to take part in his work. Concerned to keep up the link between amateur and professional archaeology, David remained the president of the Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society until his death. David leaves behind many friends and students and an unrivalled body of research on his beloved Isle of Thanet. His work is continued by the Trust for Thanet Archaeology which he worked so hard to establish as a centre for archaeological research and education.

Dr David Perkins 1938 - 2010

Dr David Perkins, Thanet's first full time professional archaeologist, died at Margate on Tuesday 10th of August aged 72. A local man brought up in Ramsgate, David had a passion for the history of his area, inspired by his family. After training as an artist at Margate Art School, David encountered his first archaeological dig at Lord of the Manor, Ramsgate in 1976 and volunteered to help on the same day. Progressing quickly from volunteer to full time supervisor, his career in archaeology began with the excavation

of the Ozengell Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Formal qualifications through part-time study were added to his growing professional reputation. A BSc in archaeological science was followed by an MSc gained through studying Roman and Anglo-Saxon glass. David gained the respect of archaeologists around the country through excavations he directed.

The Trust for Thanet Archaeology was formed in 1988 with David serving as the first professional Director until his retirement in 2003. Notable amongst his achievements were the excavation of Iron Age sites at Dumpton and North Foreland as well as directing seasons of training excavations on the Roman Villa at Abbey Farm, Minster.



Churches Committee Visit by Mary Berg

The evening visits this year were to St Mary, Lower Higham and St Peter & St Paul, Shorne. Not only was the weather perfect but the churches were delightful and the speakers informative. We were met at St Mary's by John Vigar of the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) who own and care for the church. First, John told us about the Trust and how they work. The Trust was created in 1969 and until 1994 was known as the Redundant Churches Fund. It became clear that the buildings in the Fund's care were often far from redundant but had changed their emphasis. In many churches, including St Mary's, services are held a number of times a year but, sadly, they are no longer licensed for weddings. The 16 CCF churches in Kent are all open every day and are still consecrated.

The church of St Mary is Norman with a nunnery nearby and there is Norman work in the north wall of the nave. The church was rebuilt and enlarged in the centuries that followed until, in the 19th century, the railway triggered a growth in population to the south and a new church was constructed

nearer the railway station. St Mary served as the nuns church as well as a parish church and that is why there are two naves and two chancels side by side. Its outer appearance is of ragstone and knapped flint in a pattern typical of this part of north Kent. The late 14th or early 15th century work of the north chancel screen, the pulpit and the south door alone merit a visit. The area, including St Mary's, has close Dickens connections – it is not far from Dickens home at Gad's Hill.

At St Peter & St Paul we were met by the familiar figure of Andrew Moffat, until recently KAS Hon. Sec. and a churchwarden at Shorne. Andrew gave an interesting and informative introduction to this charming parish church. It is possible to see vestiges of its Saxon origins but nothing is to be seen of any Norman rebuilding. However, there is documentary evidence that the church was given to Bermondsey Abbey in 1133 and the Textus Roffensis mentioned a church at Shorne in the 11th century. The north aisle is dated at around the last part of the 12th century but it was rebuilt in the 15th century. The church

seems to have been about the length it is today since the late 12th century but the Randall chapel was added at the east end of the south aisle in the late 13th or early 14th century, when the central chancel was remodelled. John de Cobham, whose estate was Randall, was the patron of the chapel and it was used as the schoolroom in the 18th century. There is a fine 15th century screen between the south aisle and the chapel. The splendid tower has a fireplace at first floor level, implying that it was used as a tower chamber. There is a lot to see in this fine church, too much for one short visit. We were served with tea and biscuits before we set out for home after a very satisfactory evening.

Erratum Kent and Cluney, Summer Newsletter

It was, of course, not King Stephen's son Eustace but Prince William the son of King Henry I, (Stephen's uncle & predecessor), who drowned in the white ship.

Many apologies,

Mary Berg

PIONEERS, POWER BROKERS and SAINTS

The Churches Committee is always keen to emphasise that its remit encompasses beliefs and people as well as ecclesiastical buildings and artefacts. Accordingly this series (the first two articles appeared in Issue 80 and Issue 82) focuses on people in our own county whose impact has been noteworthy. The contributors will be those knowledgeable in their areas of interest. The series will run to about ten articles.

Thomas Becket

by Liz Nussbaum

The story of Thomas Becket is one of the best-known chapters in English history. Church and state had clashed before and would continue to throughout the Middle Ages, but no confrontation ever came near the drama of that December day in 1170.

Becket had been born in Cheapside where his father was a successful trader. After school in London and Paris and later study of civil and canon law at Bologna and Auxerre, Thomas had acquired a cosmopolitan education that served him well in his first major appointment, in the household of Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury. By the time he was 36 he had been promoted to the position of archdeacon. The year was 1154.

In that same year Henry II came to the throne, heir to a vast Anglo-French empire and an English kingdom that had been in a state of virtual civil war for nearly 20 years ('never did a country endure greater misery,' recorded the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle [1]). The king's task was clear - to shore up his empire and above all strengthen its centre by reviving the royal rights and customs that had been eroded during Stephen's anarchic reign. For this he needed an efficient chancellor, a kindred spirit of like energy who could share his vision.

Within a year, on Theobald's

recommendation, Becket had been appointed to the chancellorship. Now, free of the archbishop's tutelage, he carried out the king's will with a zeal that led him at one point to join the king's war with his own company of knights, and in a dispute over royal privileges to support the king against his old employer. ('He won his way by being all things to all men,' is Knowles' wry comment.[2]).

Was there a competitive element in his relationship with the king? William fitzStephen's contemporary account describes Thomas and Henry meeting a ragged beggar on a ride through London, prompting the following exchange. Henry: 'Would it not be an act of charity to give him a thick warm coat?' Thomas: 'It would indeed, and you, O king, ought to have a mind and an eye to it' [3]. Henry then proceeded to try to pull off the chancellor's cape. In the ensuing tug of war they both nearly fell off their horses. Henry won; the beggar got Thomas' cape, in a literal investiture contest aptly symbolising their relative power. Thomas, 15 years Henry's senior, might have been his equal in intelligence and force of character, but Henry was feudal monarch by divine right.

In 1161 Archbishop Theobald died. While the see was still vacant a local family, the de Brocs, used this interval

to tighten their grip on the former cathedral demesne of Saltwood: a small detail in this complex tapestry but an important one.

When Henry told Thomas he wanted to make him archbishop the latter answered, with a gesture at his own rich attire: 'How religious, how saintly is the man you would appoint to that holy see and over so renowned and pious a body of monks!' [4] – a virtual rejection, cloaked in irony. But the king was not to be deflected. He needed a pliant archbishop, and that was what he thought he would have.

Henry chose to drive his programme through at the famous councils – Westminster, Clarendon and Northampton – where in full feudal assembly he set out his claims. The details were minute, the overarching design hugely ambitious: to secure barons' and bishops' obedience to the 'ancient customs' that would be codified into written constitutions. But statecraft soon turned to vendetta as Becket blocked him. The latter's failure to attend the first day at Northampton gave Henry the excuse he needed to distrain his goods; at which point Becket fled to France.

During the next six years of his exile the drama took on the form of a lethal chess game involving not just the English church and its divided



episcopacy but leading European players too. When diplomacy failed, the weapons on the church side were interdict and excommunication; on the king's side more brutal ones - arrest, mutilation and execution. What actually happened at the end had been, if not foreseen, certainly feared by onlookers at Northampton.

The knights who happened to be at the king's court in Argentan in December 1170 when Henry raged against his followers for allowing him to be mocked by a low-born clerk, nursed their own grudges. After crossing the Channel the murderous gang joined Robert de Broc at Saltwood. It was the de Broc axe that shattered the party wall, enabling the marauders to get into the archbishop's hall [5]. When Thomas entered the cathedral after his earlier confrontation with them, he knew exactly what would happen.

Through his murder Becket had won

the battle. Henry did penance; the 'evil' clauses in the constitutions of Clarendon were annulled.

And the war? Canterbury's primacy, challenged by bishop Roger of York when he crowned Henry's son heir to the throne, was never questioned again. Thanks to the miracles, the pilgrim trade and the attraction of the cathedral as final resting place for those seeking the saint's protection, untold wealth flowed in. Pilgrim inns, lodging houses and monastic guesthouses sprung up inside the city and along the roads leading to it, while the tourist trade in relics and souvenirs boomed.

In the early 1500s Erasmus and Dean Colet, visiting the shrine, saw it 'crusted and buried in gold and jewels,' evoking the following comment from Colet: 'To what end are these fonts and candles and golden images...while our brethren, who are living temples of Christ, are perishing of hunger?' [6].

Times – and perceptions – were

changing. Other eyes than theirs had the cathedral treasures in their sights. Within 3 decades the monarchy would claim the final victory and Canterbury's fortunes would plummet. From being a treasure-store of three and a half centuries' accumulated wealth, plunder and the ban on pilgrimages would reduce the city to 'poverty, nakedness and decay.' [7].

[1] Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Everyman edition, Dent 1953 p.254

[2] M.D.Knowles: Archbishop Thomas Becket, a character study. The Raleigh Lecture, British Academy 1949 p.14

[3] Life and Death of Thomas Becket based on an account of William fitzStephen, his clerk. Edited by George Greenaway. Folio Society 1961 p.44

[4] Ibid. p.51

[5] Ibid. p.153

[6] A.L.Smith: Erasmus, Lothian Essay, Clarendon Press 1864 p.45

[7] William Lambarde: A Perambulation of Kent 1570



East Farleigh Roman Buildings

August 2010 Update

Image: Open Day in August

The Maidstone Area Archaeological Group has been investigating a number of Roman buildings overlooking the River Medway at Lower Gallants Farm, Lower Road, East Farleigh since 2005. This was initially reported in Newsletter no.76, with subsequent updates in no.79, no.82 and no.84.

The foundations of Building 1 were located by resistivity survey and excavation in 2005/6 uncovered a domestic building similar in plan to that reported in Smith's Topography of Maidstone and its Environs, 1839, p57. During 2007 a further four contemporaneous non-domestic buildings (Buildings 2, 3, 4 and 5) were found

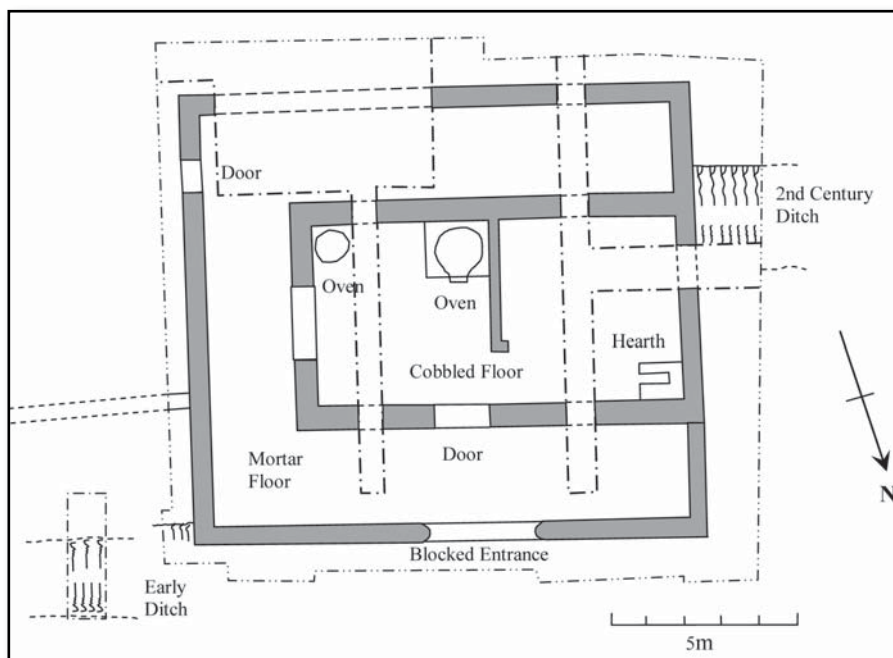
about 40m to the southeast, where they were preserved behind a lynchet with some walls remaining to a height of over a metre. All the buildings appear to have been constructed in the early to mid-third century, and demolished at the end of the fourth century.

Excavations this year have concentrated on Building 5,

which ended its life as a kitchen. Construction appears to be early third century and its original use is still open to speculation.

The building consists of two rooms lying east/west, each 4.5 metres square. These are surrounded on the north, east

and south sides by a 2.3 metre wide corridor. Just inside the entrance between the two rooms is a mortar scar on the floor, indicating the position of a quern. A large greensand quern top stone broken into five pieces, and half of a second one, were scattered on the floor of



this room (see Newsletter no.84, page 5). Also found was part of a millstone grit lower stone. The quern was adjacent to where two pots were found built into the floor last year.

The northwest corner of the room contained a stokehole-like hearth consisting of a fire channel between two rows of stone. This may have heated a cauldron placed over it. The

walls of the room contained evidence of burning where small fires had been lit. Stake holes and daub indicated the position of a small 350mm-diameter oven. Against the south wall a patched area of floor produced a possible hoard of 130 mid-fourth century copper alloy coins, ranging in size from 3mm to 15mm diameter. Fifty coins were 4mm in diameter, and these are believed to date from 350-365 AD. These coins are being studied by staff at the British Museum.

The east room produced a second oven, 700mm in diameter, located in the southeast corner opposite the 1.2 metre bread oven located last year. A common stokehole for these ovens is under investigation. This stokehole built into the floor has left the decayed mortared floor of the room covered in a sooty/ash deposit.

The corridor has a mortar floor on the north and east sides. The walls at the west end of the north corridor were plastered with a layer of *op-sig* on a base coat of yellow mortar. This had at some time been painted white. Nearby a small D-shaped alcove 600mm wide was located at floor level on the inner wall.

The external painted and decorated render previously located was proved to cover the whole of the outside of the west wall.

An Open Day held on the 1st August as part of the Festival of British Archaeology attracted over 300 people to the site.

Excavations will continue until the beginning of October, when the site will be backfilled.

Berengrave Local Nature Reserve

Dear Editor

I am a member of The Friends of Berengrave, whose function is to try and keep the Berengrave Local Nature Reserve open to the public and investigate its history. The site is owned and managed by Medway Council as part of Riverside Country Park but due to cut backs has suffered some neglect, hence the forming of our group.

We found a map dated 1934 of the chalk pit which showed the layout of the wash ponds, light railway track and a building. The site was started in 1911 and sold in 1927 to another cement company, which went bankrupt in 1931 with the site being asset stripped around 1934. We asked Medway Council for permission to try and locate the building and other features as the only visible items were eight concrete blocks and two wash ponds.

The building proved to have been a timber framed shed clad in cement asbestos sheeting which had a concrete floor laid after its construction and clearly shows the layout of the walls. A 5ft-deep cement lined sump had also been excavated which seems to have housed the boiler and steam engine. We have recovered some of the smaller cast-iron artefacts (listed on www.friendsofberengrave.btck.co.uk) but none of these carries any makers name or patent numbers. The largest piece is a single cylinder water pump which had been repaired during service and was not sold during the stripping of the site, this also has no I.D. The pump is in the compound at Riverside Country Park.

We had a visit from Jim Preston in July 2009 who gave us some ideas as to how these plants worked. It might help our investigations if any KAS members have done similar work on the local cement industry, common in the Medway area. Do any pictures exist

of the site from the early 1900s?

I can be contacted on fraseen.miller@hotmail.co.uk.

Fraser Miller

Vice-chairman Friends of Berengrave

Sevington Court

Dear Editor

My mother is the direct descendent of Robert Goulding of Sevington Court, granted a coat of arms in 1617. The coat of arms was 'Argent a cross voided between four lions passant gules'. The family appears to have moved to Letcombe Regis in Berkshire, where Robert's only son, Henry, married in 1630.

We are trying to find out why they were awarded the coat of arms (my mother is possibly the heiress to the coat of arms) and why they moved. Did they have a disagreement with the king? Sevington Court was purchased by Sir Radcliff, physician to James I from the Goulding's.

Robert Goulding senior lived at Sevington Court. Robert Goulding junior (Henry's father) was Mayor of Maidstone in about 1620 and was one of the Maidstone jurats from 1617-1621. He died in 1623, owning the lease of Allington Castle and Longsole Park. He left a widow, his fourth wife Mary, and Henry, not quite 21. Henry was therefore cared for by his uncle Henry Goulding, (Robert Goulding junior's brother) who lived in Dover.

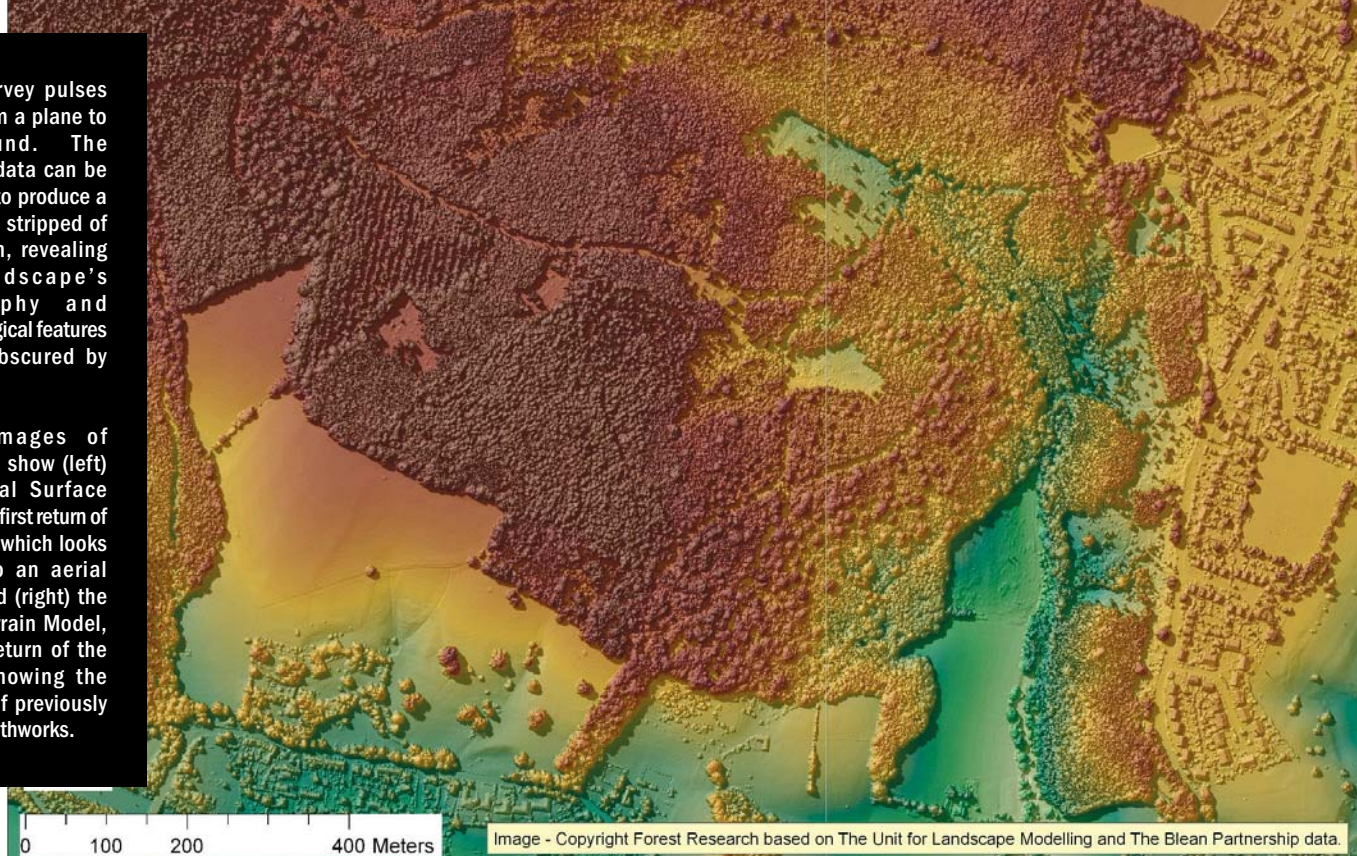
I think the whole family had connection with the Virginia Company and America's first settlements. There is a reference to a Robert Goulding being the Treasurer of the Inner Temple in London in 1598. This certainly fits with the family history.

If you are able to provide any information, please email samantha@samanthalee.co.uk

On behalf of Mrs Lee (formerly Golding)

LiDAR survey pulses lasers from a plane to the ground. The resulting data can be modelled to produce a landscape stripped of vegetation, revealing the landscape's topography and archaeological features usually obscured by woodland.

These images of Homestall show (left) the Digital Surface Model, the first return of the lasers which looks similar to an aerial photo, and (right) the Digital Terrain Model, the last return of the lasers, showing the complex of previously hidden earthworks.



Homestall Wood Earthworks, Harbledown,

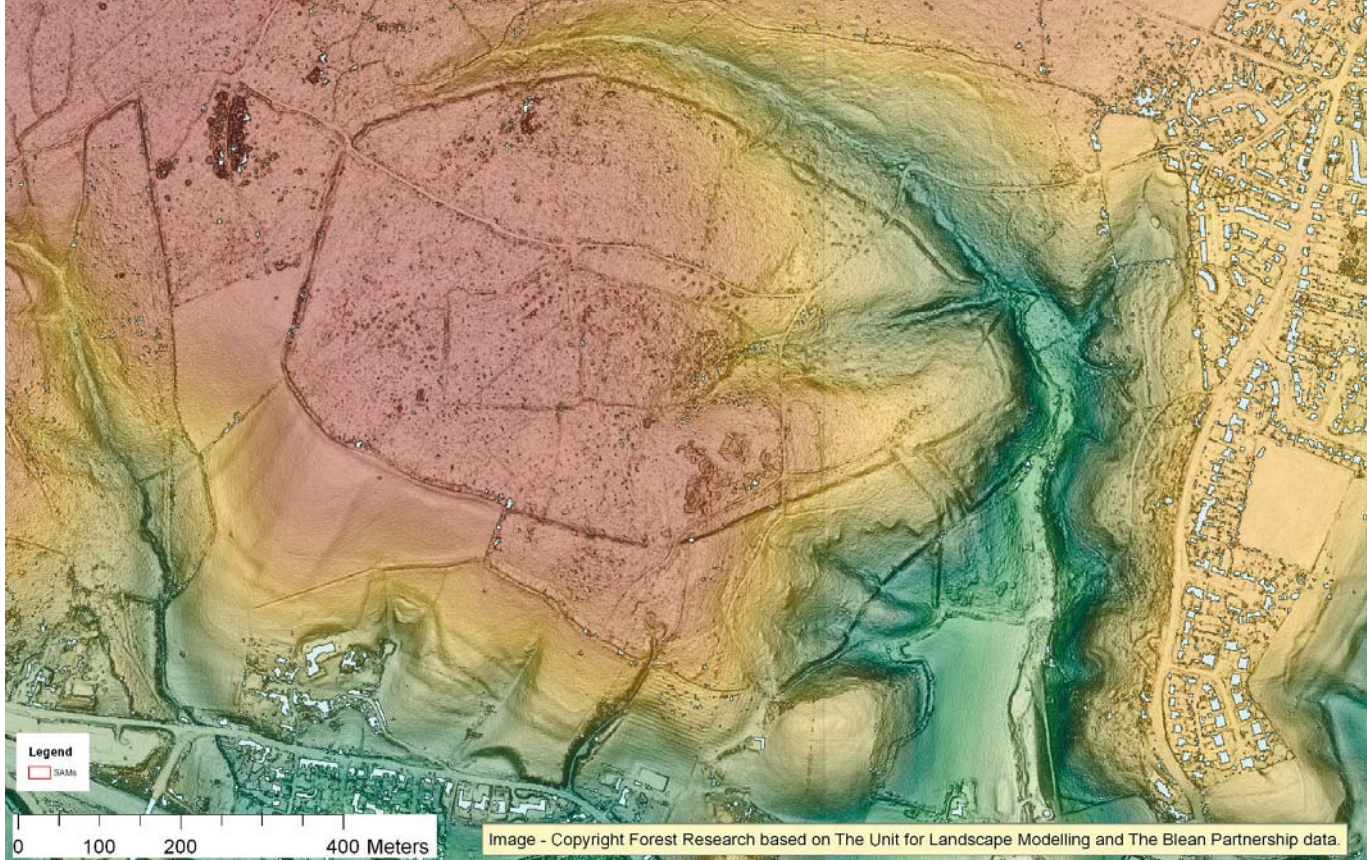
A recent comprehensive LiDAR survey of The Blean, to the north and west of Canterbury, carried out for The Blean Initiative, has revealed previously unknown earthworks both west and north of Bigbury Camp. Kent Wildlife Trust now own and manage several woodlands in the area and, supported by a Heritage Lottery Grant, were the key funders of the project. Additional contributions from Kent County Council, Canterbury City Council, the Woodland Trust and the Forestry Commission enabled the survey to be extended across The Blean. This note concerns particularly an extensive enclosure first noted by Neill Morris, a one-time warden for KWT, in Homestall Wood, immediately north of the presumed line of Roman Watling Street at Upper Harbledown and 1.5km north of Bigbury Camp.

It is salutary to remember that as late as the mid-nineteenth century the earthworks of the now-famous Bigbury Camp had not been recognised, the first recorded finds here being the iron agricultural tools, iron tire and horse bit recovered by John Brent in 1861.

Brent had also reported a find of iron fire-dogs and had assumed that all the finds from gravel-digging had derived from Roman graves since he was unaware of any earthworks on what he termed Bigberry Hill. It was R. C. Hussey who, thirteen years later, recognised the defences and published an excellent plan of the 'British Settlement in Bigbury Wood', marking the findspot of the ironwork within the southern defence line (Hussey 1874). Hussey also expressed surprise that the significance of the site had not been recognised since it lay in 'a district referred to by several writers as the supposed scene of some of Caesar's most vigorous military operations'. As he commented 'readiness in the use of the pen is not always accompanied by a taste for topographical explorations in woods and byeways'.

It seems that since then there still has not been sufficient exploration in the extensive woodlands surrounding Bigbury to exhaust its potential for hidden surprises and that other earthworks remain undiscovered. The Homestall Wood site is particularly

remarkable since the banks and ditches here appear to surround a prominent hill, overlooking Bigbury to the south and Harbledown to the south-east, with the Stour valley and the Tonford manor crossing beyond. At its foot to the south is the line of the Roman road into Canterbury. Springs feed streams around the base of the hill to the north and east and one stream rises within the area. The apparent earthworks enclose an area of approximately 800m east-west by 550m north-south, approximately 35 Ha, the circuit perhaps 2.2km in length. Other works extend over an additional 40 Ha to the south and west into Willows Wood, these features slighter than the Homestall Wood enclosure. In plan the main earthwork is approximately an oval, following the contour of the hill, with the more rounded end to the west. Where most prominent on the west and north-west, the main earthwork consists of a bank 9m wide and an external ditch 6m wide, measuring approximately 2-3m from the peak of the bank to the base of the ditch. The general impression is of a



Kent

by Christopher Sparey-Green, Canterbury Archaeological Trust

once substantial earthwork, the bank heavily eroded and the ditch heavily silted.

The eastern side of the enclosure, towards the valley that separates the site from Stock Wood and Rough Common, appears to be breached in two places, one coinciding with the course of a stream, the other with more substantial earthworks flanking a causeway leading into the enclosure. The outer extensions of the flanking banks were especially prominent as if defensive features in the outer part of an entrance.

Within the enclosure, near the summit of the hill towards the western end of the interior, is a more clearly defined rectangular enclosure, its bank and ditch slighter than the main earthworks. Much of the circuit lies within woodland and appears unrelated to the present layout of the parcels of tree cover. Only on the south-west does the earthwork coincide with the present woodland limits; here at least it serves as a wood bank. The slighter outer works on the hillside above Harbledown village are more sharply defined in cross

section and may have served as boundaries to the woodland on that side.

The only finds from the area are some sherds of Late Iron Age pottery recorded by Frank Jenkins as found close to the line of the Roman road to the south.

While some of these earthworks may relate to medieval and later woodland management, the scale of the main enclosure suggests a major boundary of earlier date, defining the hilltop with a bank and ditch, once of substantial proportions but now heavily eroded and silted. At present these earthworks are undated but they seem out of scale with normal woodland enclosures or deer park boundaries. They are more comparable to prehistoric earthworks, in the form of the boundary and the hilltop location. In scale this enclosure has a circuit considerably greater than Bigbury Camp, its location suggesting it served as a pair to that earthwork, but set back further from the river. Bigbury appears, then, as only an element within a previously un-recognised defensive complex,

almost an outpost, overlooking the river crossing and linking with the earthworks extending west into the south Blean.

The Homestall Wood site deserves further study which would allow a proper comparison with the rest of the extensive earthworks in the South Blean and at Bigbury Camp. If this is part of a single prehistoric earthwork complex then it would be analogous to the largest Iron Age oppida in Britain. The historical context of such a site must also be considered, since, as Hussey first suggested, the Bigbury complex should be considered as the woodland stronghold described in Julius Caesar's commentaries as the object of an assault early in the campaign of 54BC. The identifying of archaeological sites with events recorded by historical sources is notoriously difficult, in view of the different forms of evidence and the numerous possibilities for mis-interpretation, but the scale of these earthworks reinforces the case for Bigbury, Homestall Wood and the other earthworks as being the object of this campaign.

Heritage Asset Information Management in Kent - A new project

In March 2010 the government introduced a new planning policy statement called PPS5. This new policy replaced the older policies, PPG15 and PPG16, which had underpinned how historic buildings and archaeological sites had been managed in the planning system. One consequence of the new policy affects databases of information about historic sites, called Historic Environment Records (HERs, formerly known as Sites and Monuments Records). The Kent HER, maintained by Kent County Council and available online at www.kent.gov.uk/HER, has to become more comprehensive, storing information on a wider range of



heritage sites, and more accessible. It needs to become the 'one stop shop' for people looking for information about the heritage of Kent, whether they want information on archaeological sites, artefacts, historic buildings (whether listed or not) or historic landscape information.

To help the HER develop in this way, Kent County Council has won a small grant from English Heritage to develop a set of guidelines for the management of heritage information in Kent. We are working with Maidstone and Gravesham Borough Councils and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (Kent Historic Buildings Committee) to try to understand better what heritage information is being collected and what it is used for. This will help us to expand the HER and keep it up to date, produce new ways to

support information-gathering projects and help ensure that people or organisations using this information can have the widest access possible. The project is due to finish in March 2011.

In the last few weeks, most local history and archaeology groups in Kent should have been sent a small questionnaire in which we asked them to tell us about their information-gathering projects. Responses have included information on a range of projects including carrying out surveys of historic gravestones, producing lists of buildings of local character and researching information on historic buildings in conservation areas.

If any group has not been contacted in this way Kent County Council would be very grateful to hear from them so that we can get a fuller picture of what kind of information people are gathering.

For more information please contact Paul Cuming at paul.cuming@kent.gov.uk or call 01622 696918.



Images: Volunteers recording heritage information

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Copy deadline for the next issue is 1st December 2010

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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