



KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Your Quarterly Newsletter

THE MEDWAY GAP AS NEVER SEEN BEFORE

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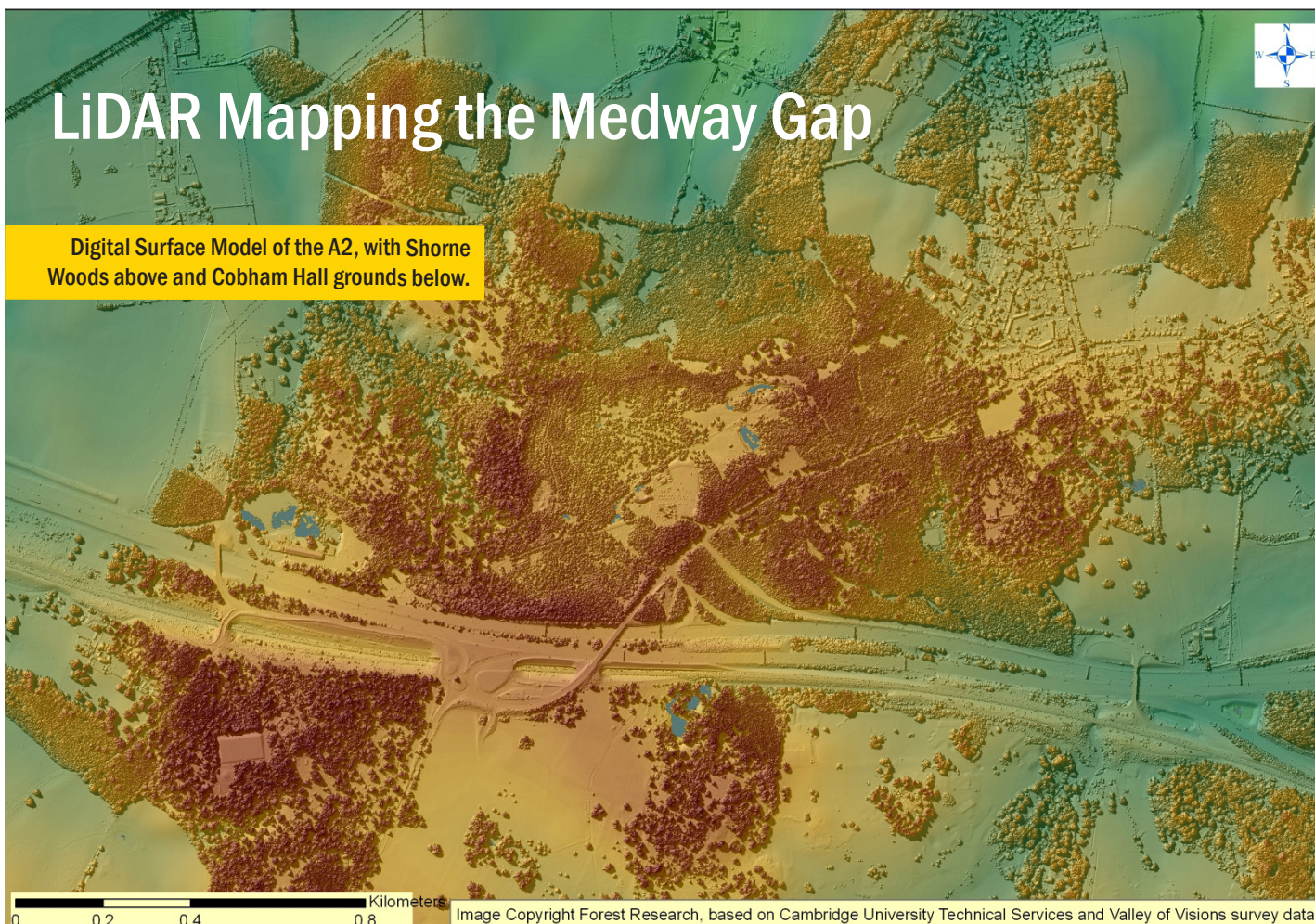
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LiDAR Mapping the Medway Gap

Digital Surface Model of the A2, with Shorne Woods above and Cobham Hall grounds below.



Early in April this year the sky above the Medway gap saw a helicopter weaving its way to and fro, scanning the land below with a laser beam. This was not for some top secret military purpose, but for an archaeological survey. This exciting new technique, now available to archaeologists, is known as LiDAR.

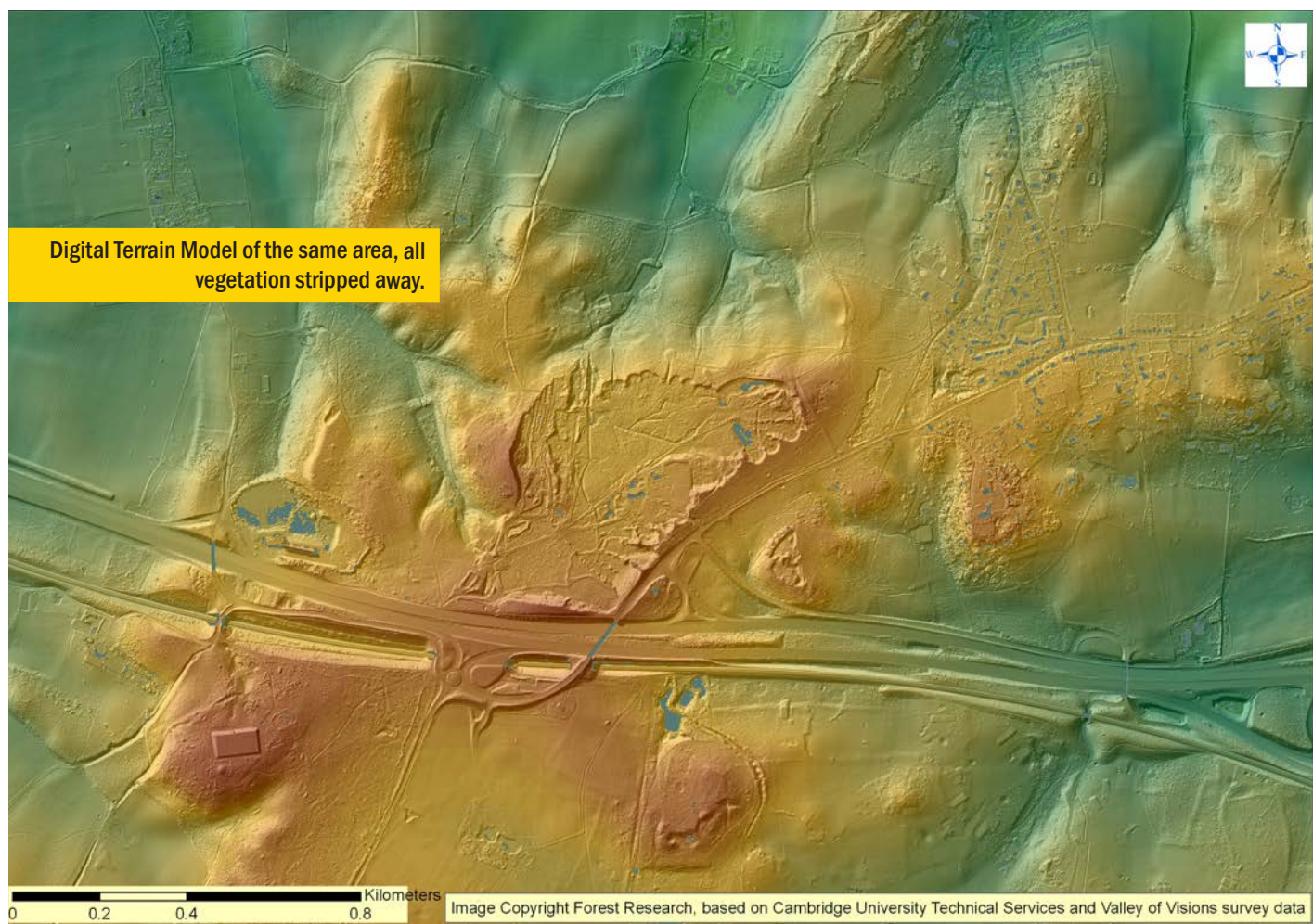
The lasers reflect back from the ground surface below and by using extremely accurate GPS and measuring equipment the distance is measured. Millions of laser beams are projected and read giving a highly detailed map of the ground topography. LiDAR can even map the ground in woodland, stripping back the vegetation to reveal hidden earthworks that would just not be appreciated from the ground. A more detailed explanation of the technology and its applications can be found at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/light-fantastic/light-fantastic.pdf>.

The Medway survey was commissioned and funded mainly by the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Valley of Visions Landscape Partnership Scheme and the Shorne Woods Heritage Project. Additional funds were also provided by Kent County Council and the Forestry Commission. The area surveyed extended from Shorne Woods in the north to the M20 in the south and from Meopham in the west to Bluebell Hill in the east. That adds up to over 100 square kilometres, which was surveyed in a couple of days!

The results have now come in and they are as exciting as we had hoped. LiDAR data comes back in several forms. A 'surface model' shows the surface as it would on an aerial photograph, with trees still visible. A 'terrain model' strips away the vegetation and shows the ground surface with earthworks, trackways, and in the case of Shorne Woods, the outline of the former quarry and

the working strips within it, the former route of Watling Street and the traces of medieval fields and enclosures around Randall Manor.

Overall the LiDAR has provided a stunning new tool to help us to investigate the historic landscape of this archaeologically rich area. Over the coming winter Valley of Visions volunteers and the Shorne Woods Archaeology Group will be taking the survey and going out into the area to examine the features it shows. If you would like to get involved then please contact either Valley of Visions at mail@vov.kentdowns.org.uk or Andrew Mayfield at Shorne Woods - andrew.mayfield@kent.gov.uk. The results of our work will also be posted on the facebook pages www.facebook.com/archaeologyinkent and www.facebook.com/VOVLPS and the Valley of Visions website www.valleyofvisions.org.uk.



Roman Thanet Revealed

by Lauren Figg, for the Trust for Thanet Archaeology

‘Roman Thanet Revealed’ is a new exhibition at the Powell-Cotton Museum at Quex Park, Birchington. The exhibition was officially opened on September 1st and was entirely produced by volunteers. The Powell-Cotton Museum, supported by Friends of Quex, has provided a base for community curators, mainly from the Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society (IOTAS), to unleash their creativity through research and design.

The ribbon was cut by Roger Gale, MP for North Thanet, officially opening the exhibition. Among the guests were the Mayors of Broadstairs and Ramsgate, the head of Birchington Parish Council, and Ian Coulson, President of the KAS, along with many members of the local archaeological community,

both professional and amateur. The Trust for Thanet Archaeology has been supporting IOTAS since the start of their work at the museum, with the help of a grant from the KAS Education Committee.

Deputy Director Ges Moody provided an interesting introduction, explaining the background to the exhibition.

Prominent in the gallery is a map of Thanet in the Roman period, cut off from the mainland by the Wantsum Channel, setting the scene for stories of Thanet in Roman times. Items on display include finds from the KAS-sponsored training dig at the Abbey Farm



Villa, Minster in Thanet, as well as Roman finds from all over the Isle. Walking around the exhibition, it's clear that a lot of thought and research has gone into each display, enough to inspire anyone of any age. The enthusiasm of the volunteers is contagious, as was obvious from its spread amongst the guests during the evening.

See <http://www.quexmuseum.org/> for more information.



Boxley Warren, looking north from Penenden Heath

Celebrating Boxley Warren

by Mike Phillips

Boxley Warren stands proudly on the scarp slope of the Kent Downs, overlooking both Maidstone and The Weald. The site saw some of the first human settlement in the area, the introduction of farming and changes wrought by the Industrial Revolution, but despite being highly visible from the county town and the M20, most people know very little about it, or its diverse history. 'Celebrating Boxley Warren' is a project that is attempting to address this.

Boxley Warren is an 83-hectare Local Nature Reserve just to the east of Bluebell Hill and to the north of Boxley village. It is an internationally significant place, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of the chalk grassland species and also a European designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) because of the lowland beech and yew woodland. It is also home to the White Horse Stone, one of the Medway Megaliths and a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Boxley Parish Council and the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership have successfully applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund to run a project over the

next three years, to celebrate the present Boxley Warren and explore its history.

The project aims to:

- » **Commission an enhanced heritage survey of Boxley Warren**
- » **Create a 'Friends of' group to help steer the future of the site**
- » **Get people involved in investigating the history of Boxley Warren**
- » **Improve the biodiversity of the site by creating new habitats and managing the existing wildlife areas more appropriately**
- » **Run practical tasks so people can get involved in habitat management**
- » **Run a series of walks highlighting the plants and animals of Boxley Warren as well as the heritage of the site**

'Celebrating Boxley Warren' has joined forces with Kent County Council's Heritage Team to create some exciting opportunities to get involved and find out

more about the rich history of the area. The heritage survey, which is close to completion, will reveal more about the plethora of hollow ways and ancient routes that criss-cross the Downs, as well as the relic settlements and evidence of chalk pits and dene holes. There will, however, be much more to find out about, including crop marks and lynchets that may indicate evidence of early farming, as well as the role that the military have played in shaping this remarkable landscape.

Anyone who is interested in the heritage of Boxley will be asked to take



White Horse Stone, one of the Medway megaliths



Holloway running N-S from the Pilgrims' Way to the North Downs Way, through yew woodland

part in both practical work on site and research work using historical records. Activities with the North Downs Young Archaeologists Club will see them choosing their area of work and deciding themselves the best way to

undertake their research.

Events and opportunities to take part in research projects will be taking place over the next couple of years, all free of charge. If you'd like to find out more about 'Celebrating Boxley Warren',

contact Mike Phillips on 01303 815170 or mike.phillips@kentdowns.org.uk. You can also find us on Facebook - search for 'Friends of Boxley Warren'.

FOUR HUNDRED ATTEND EAST FARLEIGH OPEN DAY by Albert Daniels

Four hundred people attended the Roman Buildings Open Day held by the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group (MAAG) on the 31st July. They were treated to guided tours of the site and displays of artefacts found during excavation.

Members of MAAG were on hand to explain the various finds and answer any questions from members of the public. Poster board displays of previous work carried out by the Group were shown to illustrate different aspects of their archaeological work carried out during the last twenty years.

The buildings displayed this year

were the kitchen range, displayed last year, together with a section of the Iron Age ditch which passed under its north wall, and the central section of the two buildings located to the east. These two buildings are now known to be barns, with 3.6m and 3.3m-wide doors located mid-way along the south wall.

The buildings will be backfilled later this year in order to prevent deterioration of the walls and floors.



East Farleigh open day

WHAT'S ON

KAS EVENTS

One-Day Conference held jointly by KAS and the Friends of the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, University of Kent

LATER MEDIEVAL KENT

Saturday 10 December

9.55am (register from 9.30) to 5pm

Grimond Lecture Theatre 1, University of Kent, Canterbury campus

Programme (2 lectures per session):

- » The Aristocracy: Dr David Grummitt & Richard Eales
- » The Economy: Professor Mavis Mate & Dr Gillian Draper
- » The Church: Dr Elizabeth Edwards & Dr Robert Lutton
- » The Town: Sarah Pearson & Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh
- » Tickets £12 (lunch NOT provided – see campus outlets).

Further details and to book (by 2 December):
Claire Taylor, Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Rutherford College,
University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NX;
c.l.taylor@kent.ac.uk or 01227 823140.
Cheques should be made payable to 'UNIKENT'.

EVENTS AROUND KENT

Joint conference by Council for Kentish Archaeology and Association for Roman Archaeology

NEW IDEAS ON SOME MAJOR ROMAN VILLAS.

**Saturday 22 October 2011
2.00 - 5.30pm**

The Old Sessions Lecture Theatre, Canterbury Christchurch University, Canterbury, North Holmes Campus

Chedworth, Lullingstone and Great Witcombe will be included

Speakers include

- » Dr Martin Henig
- » Bryn Walters
- » Graham Soffe

Tickets £5.00 available from C.K.A. 7, Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN1 8HP (S.A.E please)

Web site www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk

WATERINGBURY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

19 October
Darwin Family of Downe - Barbara Stevens

16 November
A History of Early Flight on Sheppey - Air Commodore Bill Croydon

18 January 2012
The History of Rochester Bridge - James M Gibson

15 February 2012
Queen Victoria's Dreadful Uncles - Sheila Boyd

21 March 2012
Some Historic Kentish Towns - David Carder

18 April 2012
The Great Flood of 1953 - Bronwen M Sadler

20 June 2012
AGM followed by The Queen's Jubilee - Peter Hartley

We also organise a coach trip to a venue of interest, next year it will be held in May.

The Society meets in the Village Hall at 7.40pm. Visitors are welcome at £2.50.

CRAYFORD MANOR HOUSE HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Saturday 12 November
Pepys Hereabouts - John Swindell and Lesley Veach

Saturday 10 December
An Audience with Queen Victoria - Anne Carter

Saturday 14 January 2012
Migration Triangle - Calico Printing on the Cray, the Lea and the Wandle -David Cufley

Saturday 11 February 2012
The Suburban Home Front in the Second World War - Mike Brown. Rationing, clothes, Dig for Victory, gas masks, the blackout and more. Illustrated with artefacts.

Saturday 10 March 2012
Traditional Kentish Building Materials - Richard Filmer

All meetings are held at The Baker Trust Hall, Maxim Road, Crayford at 7pm for 7.30pm. Non-members welcome to attend - £3.00 per lecture (except December when there will be an additional charge). Enquiries to Mrs. J. Hearn-Gillham - 01322 551279 or email janet.hearn-gillham@ntlworld.com

LOOSE AREA HISTORY SOCIETY

Monday 14 November
'Despatches from the Home Front', by Chris McCooley.

Monday 12 December
'A Shopping trip in Downe in a bygone era,' 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

St MARGARET'S HISTORY SOCIETY

Tuesday 18 October, 7.30pm
Ramsgate in World War II - 1938 up to and including Dunkirk

Tuesday 15 November, 7.00pm (AGM)
A Little Bit of Chanting - the story of educating the masses; Denise Baldwin & Katherine Harding

All talks held in St Margaret's Main Hall, Reach Road. Visitors welcome, entry £3.00.

EVENTS ELSEWHERE

**CBA South East Conference
'POLICING THE PAST'
Saturday 12 November**

Fulton Building Lecture Theatre, University of Sussex

The Conference brings together speakers who have been at the forefront of recent initiatives around heritage-related crime and wider issues of heritage protection, both on land and at sea. Speakers include:

- » Mark Harrison (Heritage Crime Initiative & ARCH)
- » Andy Brockman (Conflict archaeology, community archaeology)
- » Mark Dunkley (English Heritage: maritime archaeology)
- » Pete Wilson (English Heritage)
- » Andrew Richardson (Cant.Arch.Trust) Case Study of Illicit Excavations
- » Paul Bennett - Heritage Protection in Libya

Tickets £15.00 for CBA SE members, £20.00 for non-members. Available from Joe Francis, Centre for Community Engagement, Mantell Building, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RF. Tel: 01273 678300, email: cce@sussex.ac.uk.



New Kent History and Library Centre

The new Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone, due to open in Spring next year, is progressing well. The external structure is almost complete and work is now focussing on the internal works.

The archive storage areas have been watertight for some time to enable them to dry out and shelving to house the 14km of archive material is currently being installed. New facilities will include a community history room, a library, a digital studio and a conservation suite.

Collections will be moved into the new centre between December this year and next February. Work to prepare the collections for the move is also progressing, with the main collections at the Centre for Kentish Studies (CKS) now repackaged and barcoded. The focus will now be on the smaller collections and also on those at East Kent Archive Centre and the out-store at Kings Hill.

When the moving project started there was a large backlog of uncatalogued material. This has gradually been listed and catalogued by staff to make it easier to move and to make it more accessible in the new building. Although this backlog won't be entirely cleared, thousands of records have been added to the catalogues (there are now almost 600,000 records on the online catalogue). The collections are now better documented than they've ever been. A significant amount of images have also been added, around 6,000, covering the whole county.

The CKS and East Kent Archive Centre are expected to close in mid-November, just before the new building is handed back to KCC. There is currently a microfilm-only service at CKS which will operate through until the centre closes. This will enable more staff to work on preparation of the collections for the move. Almost all of the most

popular material has been microfilmed, but CKS apologise for any inconvenience caused by the lack of access to original records.

Whilst closed, the updated online catalogue will continue to be available via the web pages, with additional information and images. Canterbury Cathedral Archives will also be open (until the end of January when it closes for essential repairs). Ancestry.com will be available free at all Kent libraries and the twelve local history collections in the main district libraries will continue to provide information on local and family history.

Keep an eye on www.kent.gov.uk/archives for updates relating to the new building.

YOU & YOUR SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

As the time for renewals for 2012 is fast approaching, please check your standing orders to make sure that you are paying the correct subscription rates – due in January. Also, please ensure that your name is included as I have several payments with no other details, which does make my life a little difficult! If you do not pay by standing orders perhaps you could consider changing to this method instead of using a cheque. If you send me a stamped addressed envelope (address below) I can then send you a form to complete so that payment can be set up in January 2012.

I shall be sending out the cheque renewal letters and invoices in December as usual. I do not pay the cheques into the bank until the New Year, but it is very helpful to have these ready to process.

Please remember to send any changes of addresses etc. to me either by post or email: membership@kentarchaeology.org.uk

I look forward to your continued support of our splendid Society.

I am very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mrs V Barrand Davies, Rainham
Mr P Begg, Maidstone
Ms L Gray, Faversham
Mrs M J Kirkby, Beddington, Surrey
Mrs P Leith, Maidstone
Miss C Lindridge, Dudley, West Midlands
Mrs S M Malloch, Newington
Mr D F Williford, Reedsville, West Virginia USA

The majority of new members have joined by downloading the application form from the website but it is equally important that blue application forms are available in other locations and taken to conferences etc. Please contact me if you would like a bundle.

Shiela Broomfield, 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD telephone: 01732 838698 email membership@kentarchaeology.org.uk

CHURCHES COMMITTEE Visit to High Halden and Bethersden

by Paul Lee

Approximately 35 participants enjoyed the KAS Churches Committee's visit to High Halden and Bethersden in July. These villages are located between Ashford and Tenterden towards the eastern end of the Weald and each is possessed of a fine medieval church rich in interesting features.

Committee chairman Mary Berg welcomed everyone at High Halden and invited local historian Mary Adams to speak about St Mary's Parish Church. There has probably been a church in this Wealden clearing village since the 12th or 13th century, but the present structure largely dates from the 14th and 15th centuries. The most remarkable feature is the 14th century timber west tower whose massive structure supports the weight of six bells. Visitors were allowed to ascend the tower's ancient ladders and examine its fascinating construction. The church is also blessed with a beautiful 14th century south porch, which is understandably popular for wedding photographs, and the survival of some 15th century stained glass in the side chapels and chancel. The Victorian restoration, carried out by George Street, involved the raising of the chancel floor level and this has ironically led to subsidence in recent years. The church is well cared for, however, and the children's corner in the south aisle demonstrates

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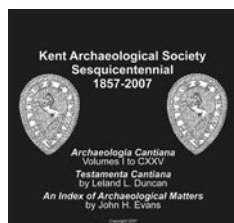
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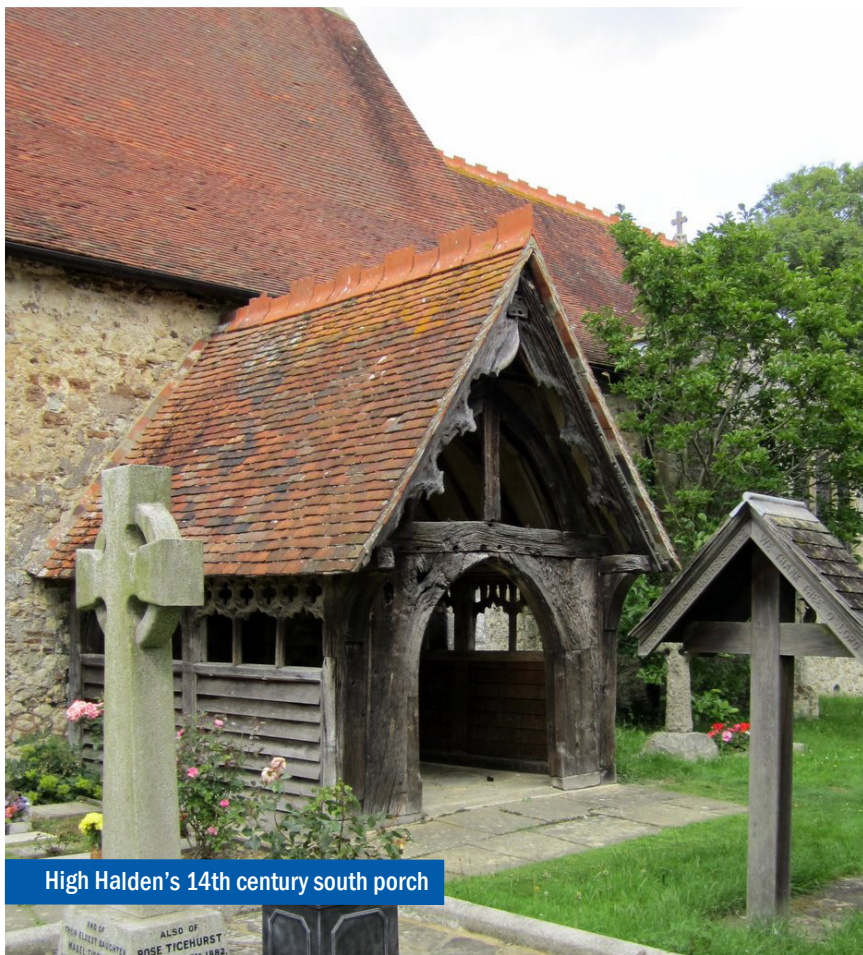
COMMITTEE ROUND UP

that it is still the home of a living, worshipping community.

St Margaret's Bethersden is a large and lofty church, prominently sited in the main street, and consists of a fine tower, nave with side aisles and a spacious chancel with side chapels. The speaker here was Brian Robinson, chairman of the Bethersden Parish Records Society. A pre-Norman church existed, but the present building in the Perpendicular style mostly dates from the 14th and 15th centuries. Mr Robinson explained that this is one of the few churches in Kent allowed to keep its historic records. Some members of the Records Society attended and kindly set out a sample of the documents of which they act as custodians. Since 1989 they have raised £26,000 for their



Bethersden



High Halden's 14th century south porch

care and conservation. The parish chest in which these documents were formerly kept can still be seen at the back of the nave. The church has many other interesting features and associations, such as with the famous Lovelace family who occupied a large house (since disappeared) near the church between the 15th and 17th centuries. Bethersden parish is, of course, also the source of the well-known Bethersden 'marble' and examples of it are to be found in the Lovelace chapel as well as elsewhere in the church. Visitors were once again allowed to ascend the tower from which a fine view could be enjoyed. A fascinating afternoon concluded with tea and biscuits kindly provided by the hosts at Bethersden.



Discovering Cliffe's Defences

by Victor Smith

Local historian Bill Simmons is a man with a mission. He wants to discover how the Cliffe area near Rochester was to be defended against a feared German invasion during the Second World War.

Over the years he has become familiar with the numerous pillboxes to be seen in his area. Documentary research has shown these to have been part of the national and strategic GHQ defence line. This epic undertaking crossed the country from the Bristol Channel to the River Medway, then turned to join the south bank of the Thames near Higham Creek, resuming on the Essex shore north to shield the industrial Midlands. Yet these defences were much more than the pillboxes which remain today as the visible and iconic symbols of the preparations to defeat invasion. They included rifle pits and more extensive entrenched positions, mines and barbed wire entanglements, anti-tank ditches - such as the one that etched itself across the Hoo Peninsula against a possible landing on its shore - concrete obstacles and flame defences, with more besides.

Traces may remain as buried archaeology or as hidden structures in hedgerows and undergrowth. Bill Simmons is determined to find them all.

There are many clues to locations to be found in documents in the National Archives, from a study of aerial photographs, field survey and not least from the recollections of local people. From all this it should be possible to synthesise and better understand the anatomy, organisation and manning of the anti-invasion defences in the Cliffe area and beyond and to place them in their wider context.

Living in Cliffe, Bill Simmons has built up many contacts in the local community over the years, including landowners with defences on their property and he tells me that they are enthused about this impending project.

Bill Simmons does not want the results of his survey just to reside in an archive for other specialist researchers. He will seek ways to share them with everyone, through a website, an historical booklet, a military heritage trail and through engagement with schools. He is also working towards

the selection of a 'show pillbox' that can be used during occasional open days as a backdrop to present and interpret the local anti-invasion defences, possibly including some uniformed enactment.

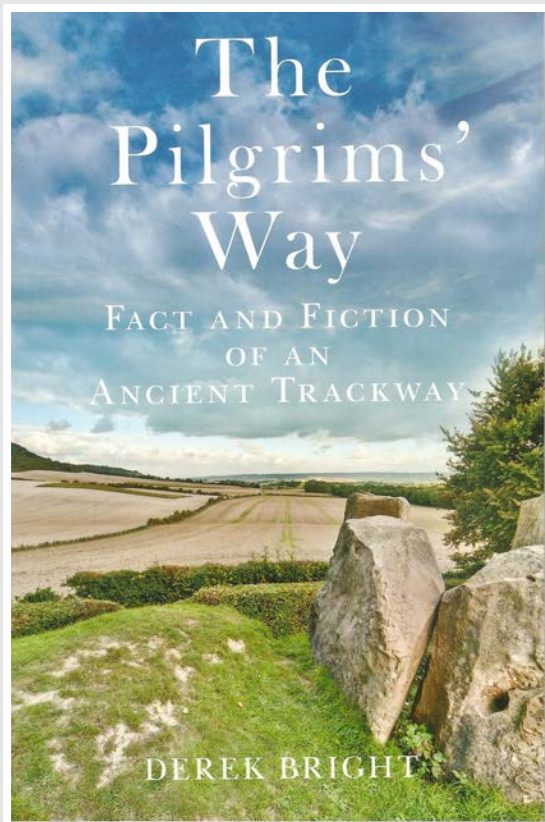
This project is most welcome for its potential to discover and add important knowledge. It is also timely given the recent publication of the Medway overview of Kent County Council's Defence of Kent Project (Archaeologia Cantiana, Vol . CXXXI (2011)) and with English Heritage's Hoo Peninsula project in progress.

I am sure that we shall learn more of the progress of this worthwhile project in the years ahead, probably in the pages of this newsletter. So watch this space!

Editor's note

Bill Simmons would welcome contacts from those with information of potential value to the project and from those who wish to become part of the research team he is assembling. Replies in the first instance to newsletter@kentarchaeology.org.uk.

NEW BOOKS



The Pilgrims' Way – Fact and Fiction of an Ancient Trackway

by Derek Bright

ISBN 978 0 7524 6085 7

Winding its way from Winchester to Canterbury, through Hampshire, Surrey and Kent, the Pilgrims' Way is one of England's most ancient trackways. It is beloved of walkers throughout southern England, yet remains an enigma to many who regularly follow its tracks.

From the Neolithic through to Victorian pilgrimists, the book re-evaluates how we should perceive this ancient trackway. Using evidence of roadside crime, prohibitive legislation, and the everyday hazards facing travellers, the book assesses how the road has served travellers over time.

£14.99, available from www.thehistorypress.co.uk or direct sales from 01235 465577.

Ditton - The Story of a Kentish Village

by Alan Dodge

Published by the Ditton Heritage Centre, this book traces the story of Ditton from prehistory to the present day. It tells of a small farming community of four farms, two mills and a church, which by 1801 had a population of only 98. An introductory chapter describes the different parts of the village with the origin of names of places and fields. There is a brief account of local geology. Subsequent chapters are entitled; Prehistoric and Roman History; A Saxon and Norman Community; Medieval Times; The Reformation to the Restoration; A Georgian Village; A Victorian Village; War and peace; The Modern World. Includes many illustrations of demolished buildings, old street scenes, and maps dating back to the 1680s, references to historical sources, suggestions for further reading, and a detailed index.

The Trustees of the Allen Grove Fund contributed £150 towards the book.

Paperback, 176 pages, 130 illustrations. Price £10. Available from

Liz Day

Ditton Heritage Centre Ltd

26 St Peter's Close

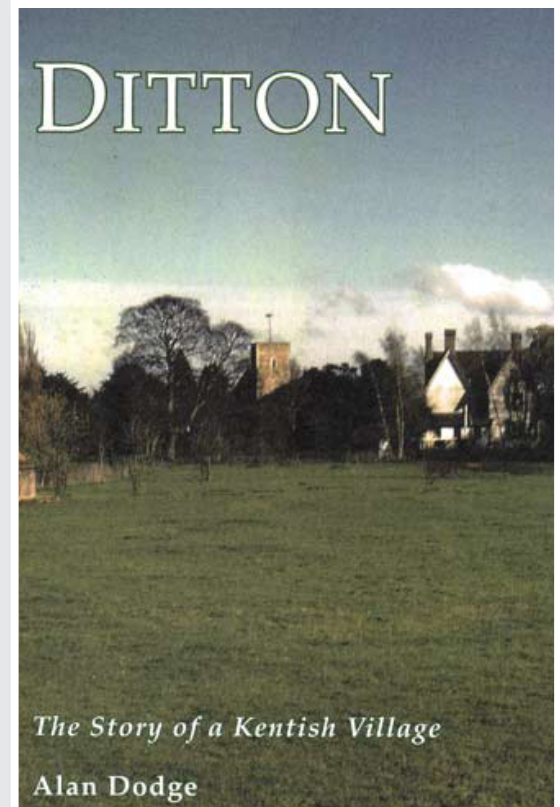
Ditton

Aylesford

ME20 6PG

Tel: 01732 840937

Email: day.liz@btinternet.com



NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVE

by Pernille Richards

The West Farleigh & District Sparrow and Rat Club

From the Papers of the Hon. Henry A. Hannen d. 1933

In Presenting my Annual Report, I am pleased to state that the members have again done good work by destroying 1192 Sparrows, 657 Rats, 33 Bullfinches, 134 Moles, 879 Blackbirds, 1301 Queen Wasps, 1854 Butterflies, 13 Stoats and 9 Jays.

So wrote Mr. L. J. Costen, Hon. Secretary, and later Chairman, for the West Farleigh and District Sparrow and Rat Club in March, 1917. Sparrow and Rat clubs were a common feature of rural life from the 18th Century until after the First World War, when they declined in most places. The aim of the clubs was district-wide pest control and they offered the incentive of prizes per catch.

As pests, rats need no introduction, but the hostility towards the Sparrow may be surprising. House Sparrows were then more numerous than they are today and their liking for grain and young blossoms and the damage they caused to ricks and thatch caused them to be viewed as pests alongside rats. In order to protect crops from their ravages boys were often employed as bird-scares. During the Victorian era some farmers embraced modernity by starting to use grain poisoned with arsenic or strychnine as a deliberate measure to reduce the bird population. However, this soon caused controversy.

Concerns were raised over the way poison caused indiscriminate killing of birds and unfortunate side-effects were also being noticed, such as plagues of caterpillars and other insects when birds were less numerous. In addition there were accidental deaths of domestic animals.

The Sparrow Clubs were a more respectable face of pest control and their activities were endorsed by a Leaflet published by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, Leaflet No. 84, published in 1903, and revised January 1916. A 1916 leaflet is found in the papers of Henry A. Hannen. The leaflet puts the case very plainly: *"While no one wishes to exterminate the sparrow, it is generally agreed that any good it may do in destroying harmful insects is so greatly outweighed by the damage done to crops, that a reduction in its numbers is as necessary as in the case of rats, or of any other destructive pest."* The leaflets emphasised that small birds were not to be persecuted indiscriminately. It proceeds to give instructions on how to reduce the sparrow population by destroying eggs and nests, netting or shooting sparrows. The formation of a Sparrow (and rat) club is recommended in order to involve a whole district in the task and a proposed set of rules is set out.

The rules for The West Farleigh and District Sparrow and Rat Club, which was founded in 1903, follow those of leaflet No. 84 closely, although they widened the scope beyond sparrows and rats. The club had its headquarters at the White House in West Farleigh, where the heads of the catch were to be brought on the first Wednesday in each month between 7 and 8pm for the tally to be made. In 1917 the club had eight honorary members, Mr. R. Munn, B. Small, C. Hickmott, G. Poile, G.C. Froud, L. Costen, A. Fuller and E. Munn, who were exempt from bringing heads, and 22 working members. A pub seems to have been the usual meeting place for such groups.

The Sparrow Clubs made announcements in the local papers, and most information on them seems to derive from these. An undated example announcing the catches of the West Farleigh group is among the papers using the more colloquial title of 'The Loyal Tickle Back, Jack Sparrow and Mole Club'. The clubs appear little studied, perhaps because their activities are not congenial to modern sensibilities. Concerns for feeding the nation during the First World War may have added extra impetus to the Sparrow Clubs, but there are signs of changing perspectives. In his notes

Hannen expressed unease at the killing of Bullfinches, Blackbirds and Butterflies, and an R.S.P.B. leaflet from March 1917 found among Hannen's papers sought to highlight the benefits of birds to the farmer as a natural form of insect pest control.

The White House, headquarters of the Club



The West Farleigh & District **SPARROW AND RAT CLUB.**



RULES.

1. The Name of the Club shall be "The West Farleigh & District Sparrow and Rat Club," and includes the parishes of West & East Farleigh, Hunton, Teston and Barming.
2. Headquarters the White House, West Farleigh.
3. Members to be elected by Committee. Committee to meet not less than once a month.
4. Committee to consist of 10, including Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, 3 to form a quorum.
5. Each Member to pay following annual Subscription—Holders of over 100 acres, not less than 5/-; less than 100 acres, not less than 2/6. Working Members 6d. Honorary Members shall be exempt from bringing heads.
6. Heads to count—Bullfinch 4 points, Sparrow 1, Rat 2, Green Linnet 1, Stoates 3, Jays 4, Moles 2.
7. Fines to be 1/4d. per point for all short, allotted by Committee.
8. No birds or rats shall count unless they are taken in the Parishes mentioned in Rule 1. Any Member infringing this Rule shall be fined 5/-
9. Members found smoking in Stackyards or on any premises whilst catching sparrows or rats, or loading shot guns with ordinary paper instead of stout wads shall be disqualified from all prizes.
10. The balance at the end of the season shall be divided amongst the working Members, according to the number of points obtained during the season.
11. Heads to be brought to headquarters, strung and labelled, on first Wednesday in each month, between the hours of 7 and 8 p.m.
12. An Annual Meeting shall be held at the White House, West Farleigh, on the first Wednesday in April, at which the Accounts shall be audited, the funds divided in accordance with Rule 10, officers appointed for succeeding season and any other business connected with the Club transacted.
13. Season to commence the beginning of October, ending last day of March. Subscriptions to be paid to the Hon. Secretary.

L. J. COSTEN, *Chairman.*

A. WRIGHT, *Treasurer.*

R. MUNN, *Hon. Secretary,*
Barn Hill, Hunton.

THE WOLVERTON ANGLO-SAXON BURIAL DISPLAY CASE

by Vince Burrows

The 'Wolverton Warrior' in the upper burial case

Over two years, the Alkham Valley Historical Research Group raised £14,000 for the display of finds recovered from the newly discovered Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Wolverton, in the Alkham Valley near Dover. The funding also provided finance for conservation of the finds and further analytical tests.

The Wolverton site lies at the north-eastern end of the 7km-long Alkham valley, running through the North Downs between Folkestone and Dover, and is situated on a steeply sloping ridge at the confluence of two valleys. Bisecting the Alkham Valley, the river Nailbourne runs past the ridge cemetery on its northern side. In Anglo-Saxon times the river may have provided important navigable access from the sea at Dover to the interior of Alkham as far inland as the hamlet of Drellingore.

Two interim reports covering the sites background and general discoveries were published in KAS Newsletters, Spring issue No 76, 2008 and the

Summer issue No 81, 2009. These can be viewed on the KAS website, www.kentarchaeology.org.uk.

The Deputy Mayor of Dover recently unveiled the newly-finished Wolverton Case at the Astor College for the Arts, Dover. This unique Anglo-Saxon display case will serve as an educational tool in the community for schools in the Dover District. Two flanking 2-metre high storyboards accompany the case. The first is an overview of the archaeological site and excavations, the other information on the burial practices and rites of pagan Anglo-Saxons, who they were, why they came to our shores and how they settled and lived. Through inventive design, the case enables creative use of archaeological material, often assigned to dusty storerooms, allowing the observer to peer underground back in time 1300 years.

The case, designed by the author, is the first of its kind in the UK. It was commissioned to exhibit a double-tiered 6th – 7th century Anglo-Saxon

burial in cross-section, as it was excavated at Wolverton. The pagan burials are of two important males, one buried with weapons. The 'Wolverton Warrior' burial, as it is known, also revealed curious burial practice that, to date, has no known comparison recorded in Kent. Four rough-cut chalk pedestals were used to carry two human femurs (leg bones), removed from another grave. The femurs, supported by the pedestals, were clearly used to carry the grave's sealing material, probably small planks to cover the body. A skull and lower mandible (jaw bone), also removed from another burial, were placed above the warrior's body, presumably after sealing of the grave but before the burial was completely backfilled. Three artefacts recovered from the burials have yet to be identified. The display carries the actual human remains on two levels just as found and are surrounded by their replicated artefacts. The conserved artefacts will go on display in a separate case at Dover Museum next year.

Many inter-school workshops have been arranged for this year and initial website comments, which have been posted by the Astor College for the Arts, are extremely positive.

"Astor College was able to extend the 'museum type' experience of the Wolverton Warrior, and other artefacts generously loaned to us by Vince Burrows from Alkham Archaeology, to its federation primary schools this week. Year 5 students from White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts and Year 4 students from Barton Primary School participated in combined History and English workshops revolving around the Anglo-Saxon remains. Year 7 and 8 Astor students assisted in the sessions and it proved to be a highly interesting and beneficial experience for all concerned".

The case also demonstrates how local archaeological projects can stimulate and engage the community in partnerships with locally-run research projects. Most of the case funding was raised locally in the Alkham Valley, however, the Kent Archaeological Society (Fieldwork Committee), the Kent Community Foundation and Mark Loveday (Alkham resident), also contributed substantial grants to the project.

The case fabrication was undertaken by Mark Hargreaves (Kingsmead Associates Canterbury). The replicated artefacts contained within the case were made by William Laing (Lyminge resident). The intact Frankish wine bottle replica was made by Clive Soord (Ceramics Dept, University of Kent & Canterbury) and the information boards were written by Vince Burrows and edited by Kim Norton (Education Officer Dover Museum).

The Alkham Valley project is set to continue for around five years, with most of our research being geophysical lead surveys. This will provide excellent



Children from the Astor College of Arts find out about the Anglo-Saxons

opportunities for local residents, students and other organisations for participation. Around eighteen locations have already been selected, inclusive of possible further cemetery sites, together with a search for ancient occupation along the banks of the Nailbourne river. Later in the project we propose cutting two trenches across the Nailbourne to ascertain its ancient depth, width and possible navigable use. Investigation and excavations in tracing a wood boundary system thought to date to the Anglo-Saxon period and possible Iron Age terracing is planned for mid 2012. Our project work is open to volunteers and University students. Please contact us via the project details below.

Please see links for further information on the display case:

Astor College homepage: Wolverton Warrior & the Primary School Workshop reports.

Website: www.astorcollege.org

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The unveiling of the Wolverton display
L to R: Vince Burrows, David Hannent (Deputy Mayor of Dover), William Laing (maker of replica artefacts) and Jon Iveson (Senior Curator, Dover Museum)



Mystery Photo - can you help?

The attached photograph was discovered in Dartford Library's Local Studies Collection. It was found while searching for suitable photos of outdoor events for Dartford Borough Museum's current exhibition 'Hang out the Bunting!'. However, the photograph was not taken in the Borough of Dartford and the location is a mystery.

The number plate of the car begins with a 'D' showing that it was registered in Kent and the number itself tells us that it was registered between February 1906 and April 1910. The visiting dignitary appears to be the lady, holding up a parasol, in the open back of the

car. She may be a royal visitor and the car may belong to a local dignitary, possibly the man wearing a top hat in the passenger seat next to the driver. There is a military guard of honour, including some 'off camera' at the bottom left of the photo, their presence revealed only by their fixed bayonets. The curved corner of this street is quite distinctive, with shops forming a right angle with a gap in between. There is a double-stepped kerb with a baulk of timber forming a temporary third step under the presumably red carpet. This carpet leads through the gap between the shops and disappears towards an unknown location, possibly a church

or town hall. One strange feature of the photograph is that careful inspection reveals lots of faces above the bunting, meaning that there must be a steeply sloping road leading away from the camera between the shops.

Staff at Dartford Borough Museum and at Dartford Library would be grateful if anyone can tell us where this photograph was taken and, if possible, the nature of the occasion. Please contact Dr Mike Still at Dartford Borough Museum, Market Street, Dartford, Kent DA1 1EU or e-mail us at museum@dartford.gov.uk.

If undelivered, please return to
S. Broomfield, 8 Woodview Crescent,
Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD

Copy deadline for the next issue is 1st Dec 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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