

Your Quarterly Newsletter



KENT GARDENS TRUST

Investigating the gardens of Sevenoaks. Turn to Page 2

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Kent Gardens Trust's volunteers Investigating the gardens of Sevenoaks

By Hugh Vaux

Fig 1

Kent Gardens Trust was established in 1988 and is affiliated to the Association of Garden Trusts. As a registered charitable trust its primary purpose is the protection of parks and gardens in Kent and, among the various ways it seeks to achieve this, is to encourage the study of the history and development of these properties.

In 1992, in conjunction with Kent County Council, the Trust published a comprehensive list of parks and gardens in Kent of historic importance. In 2008 it was decided that a further and more detailed version should be compiled with the addition of properties not previously included. A pilot scheme was set up by Kent Gardens Trust and Tunbridge Wells District Council in conjunction with High Weald Joint Advisory Committee, Kent County Council and English Heritage.

Twenty volunteers were recruited to carry out the work under the guidance of Virginia Hinze and Dr Barbara Simms, who together provided training over a two-year period. A total of 25 gardens were

investigated and we hope the final reports may be viewed on the new Kent Gardens Trust website shortly.

This part of the project was completed by April 2009 and, in 2010, Sevenoaks District Council asked the Trust to undertake a similar project for 22 gardens. This project has now been completed by the volunteers who, with ongoing training, have produced reports modelled on an agreed English Heritage pattern, a proven and robust format, which produces clarity and the ability to stand up to challenge. This would not have been possible without the advice and editing skills of Virginia Hinze.

Just as necessary was the initial invitation from Sevenoaks District Council to carry out the project and the support of the department of Heritage Conservation at Kent County Council who produced the initial information packs and format of the volunteers' material for publication. In addition English Heritage have provided a generous financial grant and Kent Gardens Trust has given an initial sum which enabled us to get started. All these organisations need to be thanked as

do all the owners who have so kindly allow us to visit their gardens.

It is planned to publish these reports on the Kent Gardens Trust website shortly thus making them freely accessible to everyone, but in the meantime some findings might be of interest. At least two gardens have felt the hand of Gertrude Jekyll (Chart Cottage and Stonepitts), Larksfield was the home of Octavia Hill and at Underriver there are remaining 'footings' of Shoads Manor where Samuel Palmer lodged when painting in the area. Tanners was designed by Sir Harold Hillier and Parkgate House was the home of Constance Spry; while at Otford Place are the remains of a rockery built of 'pulmanite'.

2016 is the tricentenary of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's birth and, very conveniently for the volunteers, one of the most important reviews carried out was at Valence. The history of the site near Westerham is well-documented, with records dating back to the thirteenth century. There is strong documentary and physical evidence of a landscaped park existing since the mid-eighteenth century, and



Fig 2

further evidence that Brown was commissioned to make improvements between 1772 and 1775. He almost certainly created a new lake, and this would have been a considerable challenge given the geological structure of the Greensand Ridge, with its susceptibility to land slippages and water leakages.

Remnants of a large pond and ten metre cascade, first recorded in 1754, can still be seen, although now dried up. But perhaps more significantly, there are eighteenth and nineteenth century physical features of ponds, lakes, watercourses, hydraulic rams and a water-wheel still remaining, all of which would benefit from further archaeological exploration. An ice-house, virtually intact and possibly early to mid-nineteenth century, would also be worth investigating.

Another site of interest was at Knockholt. Anyone walking the North Downs Way might be forgiven for thinking that they were walking through simple woodland where the path crosses the grounds of Knockholt House. Fortunately the volunteer who investigated this

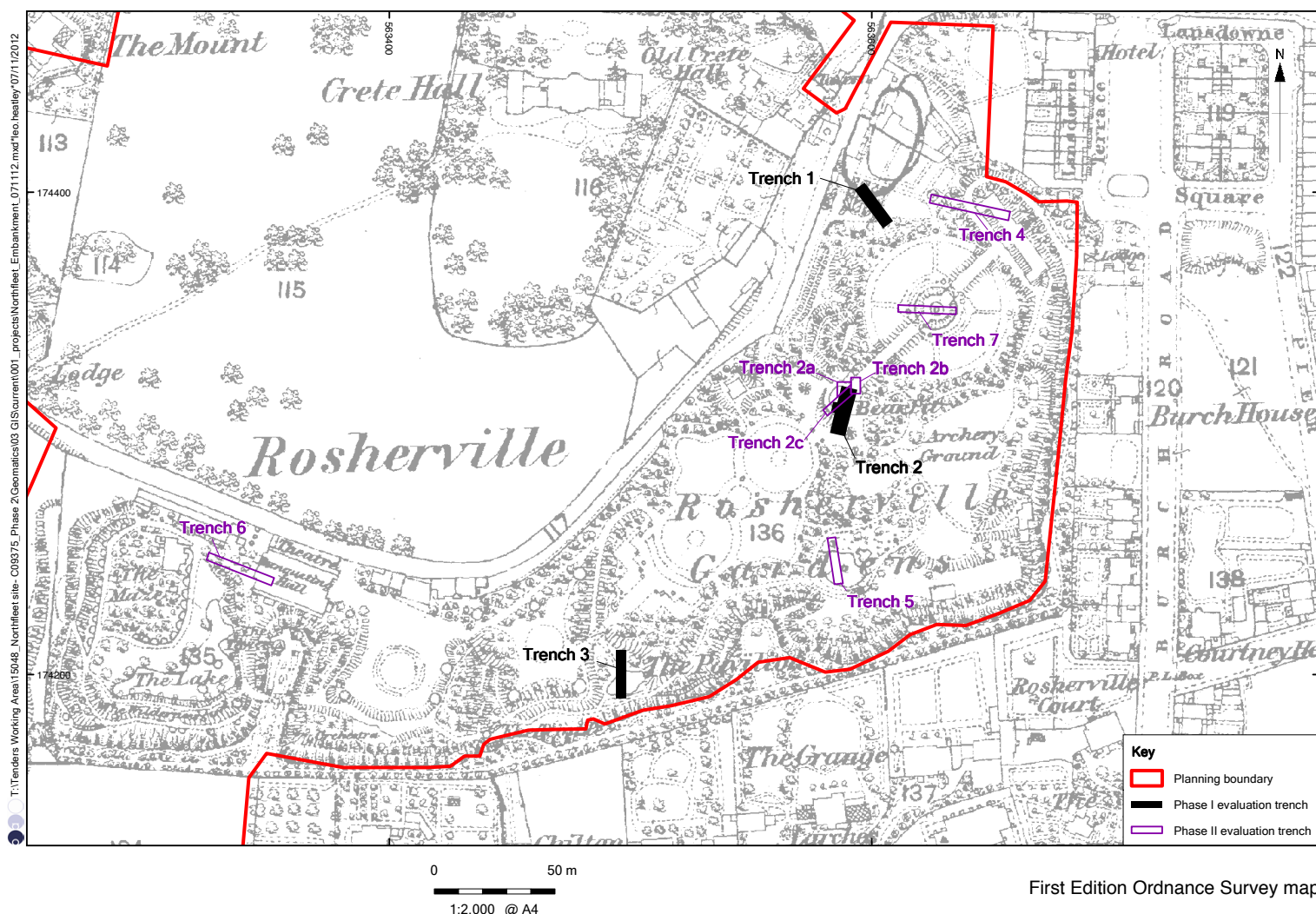
property was an archaeologist and realised the significance of the remaining humps and bumps, all that was left of an extraordinary house and gardens built in the late nineteenth century (on the site of an earlier house) by a London silk merchant who was obsessed by water. Not only did the owner have extensive reservoirs in the garden where the remains of a swimming pool and changing rooms are still visible, but the house had an extraordinary tower in which the owner was reputed to keep a boat against the time when the great floods would come and he could row to safety.

At Bradbourne Lakes Park in Sevenoaks, six interconnected lakes and water courses were created by Henry Boswell in the eighteenth century, by damming a branch of the River Darent. All that remains now are 3.5 hectares of park, the lakes and by the entrance to the park, a large monolith. Francis Crawshaw, an eccentric, who lived there at the end of the nineteenth century, imported several stones from the West Country to display in the grounds; hardly best

archaeological practice.

Lastly, Henden Manor, a moated sixteenth century manor house, nestling in a valley below Ide Hill. Once the home of Sir Thomas Bulleyn, the landscape and historic farmland boundaries have hardly changed over the years. But perhaps more importantly for garden historians, documentary evidence shows the existence of ten gardens of Tudor origin which continued to exist 200 years later. With such tantalising evidence, the Kent Gardens Trust would welcome, subject to the owner's permission, an archaeologist's expertise to trace this important site's footprint.

A postscript can now be added to this article as it goes to press. The volunteers have been asked to research 29 gardens in the Medway Towns and the initial meeting to inaugurate this project took place on 13th August. A very different group of sites.



An evaluation at the site of Rosherville Gardens, Northfleet

In late 2012 a team from Oxford Archaeology carried out an evaluation on the site of the former Henley Cable Works in Northfleet on behalf of the Homes and Communities Agency. The cable works were constructed over the remains of Rosherville Gardens, a popular mid-19th century Victorian pleasure garden. The Gardens closed in the 1920s and were levelled during the 1930s. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine whether features associated with Rosherville Gardens survived. Six trenches were targeted upon garden features recorded on the 1865 First Edition Ordnance Survey ([Fig 1](#)).

The evaluation demonstrated that despite extensive clearance of the site both in the 1930s and more recently, remains associated with Rosherville Gardens still survived. Truncated

garden soils and landscaping deposits were observed in Trenches 1, 4 and 5, and Trench 6 revealed ephemeral remains of possible foundations for the Banqueting Hall. However, the most exciting discoveries were of remains associated with two landmark features of the gardens: the fountain (Trench 7) and the Bear Pit (Trench 2). Both features were located along the raised Broad Walk that formed a prominent feature within the garden.

In Trench 7, truncated remains of the base of a decorative feature were uncovered. The remains consisted of fragments of terracotta tile and moulded concrete that formed a roughly circular shape. The truncated nature of the remains made it difficult to determine whether they were part of the fountain or associated with the Flaming Urn, a gas-fired feature that

replaced the fountain during the later years of the garden. Small lead pipes were uncovered in a test pit excavated through the centre of the tiled area and these are likely to be part of the water system for the fountain.

In addition to the remains of the decorative feature, Trench 7 also confirmed that the fountain and urn had once sat in the centre of a landscaped mound with a small flint retaining wall. The original topsoil of the mound was also preserved along with fragments of the Broad Walk's crushed shell path. The feature appears to have survived because rather than demolishing the Broad Walk in the 1930s, the lower ground level of the Italian Gardens had been raised with a series of dumped deposits until it reached the level of the Broad Walk during the 1930s demolition.



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4

Trench 2 revealed substantial well preserved remains of the Bear Pit (Fig 2) constructed within a circular extension to the Broad Walk. The western half of the 6m diameter circular brick constructed pit was virtually intact with only the capping bricks and iron railings along the top missing. The wall survived to height of approximately 3m. The eastern side had been subject to truncation, presumably during the 1930s clearance of the site, with the walls surviving to a height of 1.95m. A test pit through the centre of the pit confirmed that the pit's slate floor was still intact. A square metal plinth, measuring just under half a metre squared, was positioned in the centre of the pit. The plinth has a central hole and contemporary photographs suggest that this plinth had once contained a wooden 'climbing' post.

The excavation also revealed a surviving arched doorway which connected the pit to at least two cages and a network of access corridors to the north and east of the pit (Fig 3). Access between the pit and cages appeared to be restricted by a metal gate that may have been operated by a pulley system.

The subterranean corridors provided access to the cages and pit for the keepers via the lower level Italian Garden beneath the Broad Walk. The cages and corridors were constructed from stock brick with the exception of the outer corridor wall that curved around the pit, which was fashioned from roughly hewn chalk blocks. Slit windows were placed within the corridor walls allowing the keepers to be able to safely look into the pit and the cages (Fig 4).

The roofs over the cages and corridors had been removed during the 1930s demolition phase, presumably to ensure that the cable works were constructed on a solid surface free from voids. Recesses for ceiling beam slots were observed within the main access corridor wall and along the outer wall of the Bear Pit. A test pit excavated between the corridor wall and outer pit wall uncovered fragmented flat stone slabs probably part of the roof. The roofs of the cages appeared to be vaulted and were overlain by a series of tip deposits. An area of preserved topsoil and shell path around the pit was also observed.

The trenching exercise indicated that remains associated with Rosherville Gardens survived in varying levels of preservation across the area despite the 1930s clearance, subsequent building programme and more recent demolition and remediation. The significance of the surviving features generally ranged from low to moderate. The Bear Pit, however, is of considerable significance primarily due to its rarity – there are very few surviving examples of Victorian bear pits throughout the country. Given its significance, the Bear Pit has been carefully reburied, along with the remains of the fountain, while the Homes and Communities Agency discuss the best way to ensure future preservation with Kent County Council Historic Environment Group and English Heritage.

For further information on the evaluation, please visit: <http://library.thehumanjourney.net/1184>

WHAT'S ON

KAS EVENTS

CHAUCEER AND PILGRIMAGE IN MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

A talk by Diana Webb

23 November 2013 at 10.30am

KAS Library, Maidstone Museum

Everyone has heard of The Canterbury Tales, even if they have only read bits of it at school, and many people know that it consists of character-sketches of a party of pilgrims to Canterbury in the late fourteenth century, followed by the stories they are imagined as telling one another on the road. Chaucer wrote for an audience that already knew all about pilgrimage – it was a part of contemporary life – but for us this is no longer true. So what does he tell us about pilgrimage, and does what he tells agree with what we learn from other sources? For example, all his pilgrims are on horseback – shouldn't they have been on foot? And among them is a little group of nuns, headed by their Prioress – but should nuns have been out on pilgrimage? Indeed, should the Wife of Bath have been there either? And was it really dangerous to travel through Blean Forest on the approach to Canterbury? This talk will try to shed light on questions like these, drawing where possible on evidence from medieval Kent.

Diana Webb's background is described below *

There is no fee for this meeting, but a £5 donation per person is requested to cover costs and help the Society further its work (all cheques payable to Kent Archaeological Society).

Please book by sending your name, address and telephone number by email to: librarian@kentarchaeology.org.uk or write to Joy Sage/ Pernille Richards, KAS Library, Maidstone Museum, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone ME14 1LH.

NEW! HISTORICAL RESEARCH DROP IN SESSIONS with Diana Webb in the KAS Library

Stuck on a Latin phrase?
Puzzled by palaeography?
Just starting out and feeling in need of a bit of friendly advice?

Help is at hand! We have persuaded experienced academic Diana Webb to hold some drop in sessions in the Kent Archaeological Society Library.

Saturday 15 February 2014
10.30am - 12.00 noon

Saturday 31 May 2014
10.30am - 12.00 noon

Saturday 27 September 2014
10.30am - 12.00 noon

* Diana Webb has lived in Maidstone since 1971. Until her retirement in 2006, she was senior lecturer in history at Kings College London, specialising in the later middle ages and especially in religious and Italian history. She is the author of six books, including three on pilgrimage, and contributed the article on Pilgrimage to the Historical Atlas of Kent. She has recently been collaborating with her husband on a study of British residents in Tuscany in the mid-nineteenth century; there are numerous Kentish connections among them. She has been actively researching the history of her own family and her husband's, discovering ancestors in the Isle of Thanet between the seventeenth and nineteenth century (as well as in Suffolk, North-East Scotland and Wales!). Diana admits to being a beginner where Kentish history and its sources are concerned, but the basic principles of historical research are the same whether you're working on Sienna or Sittingbourne, Faversham or Florence...

There is no fee for attending a session, but a small donation per person is requested to cover costs and help the Society further its work (cheques payable to The Kent Archaeological Society).

IMPORTANT: Please book in advance supplying your name, phone number and email address and brief details of what you would like to discuss by emailing librarian@kentarchaeology.org.uk

KENT: IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION One Day Conference 7 December, 9.30am – 4pm Grimond Building, University of Kent, Canterbury

The Kent Archaeological Society, with the support of the School of History, University of Kent.

The conference will focus on the role of population movements, immigrants and emigrants to and from Kent from the settlement of very early migrants crossing the Channel to Kent to the modern movements since the 16th century.

The prehistoric origins, recently highlighted by the Dover Bronze Age boat exhibitions, will provide an excellent starting point, and specialist papers have been promised for later periods by, *inter alia*: Dr Andrew Richardson on the various arguments on the 'myths' of Anglo-Saxon invasions/migrations; Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh on later medieval migrants in Canterbury; Jane Andrewes, on immigrants to Sandwich in the early modern period, and also by one of the organisers, Professor David Killingray, on the presence of black people (of African origin and descent) in the County since the age of reconnaissance.

Conference fee £10.00, including tea and coffee. Lunch not provided, but may be bought

at various outlets on campus.

Further details from: Dr Elizabeth Edwards, University of Kent, e.c.edwards@kent.ac.uk, and Professor David Killingray, University of London, dmkillingray@hotmail.com

CHURCH LIFE IN THE MIDDLE AGES, ST LEONARD'S, HYTHE Study Day presented by KAS Churches Committee Saturday 5 April 2014, 10.00 - 16.00 St Leonard's Church, Hythe

Provisional Programme

9.30 – 10.00 Registration & Welcome

10.00 – 11.00 Lecture: Medieval Hythe & civic uses of sacred space [Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh]

11.00 – 11.20 Coffee

11.20 – 11.55 Lecture: Church spaces & uses – the upper room [Dr Toby Huitson]

11.55 – 12.30 Lecture: Church decoration – Hythe's carved stones [Heather Newton]

12.30 – 13.40 Lunch

13.40 – 14.40 Workshop 1 [church documents & church building – see ticket]

14.40 – 15.00 Tea

15.00 – 16.00 Workshop 1 [church building & church documents – see ticket]

£15.00 including lunch, tea and coffee. For booking form go to www.kentarchaeology.org.uk or by post from (include SAE) Mrs J. Davidson, 7 Chatsworth Rd, Gillingham ME7 1DS, 01634 324004 (home) jackie.davidson@canterbury-cathedral.org

EVENTS AROUND KENT

LANDSCAPES OF SOUTH-EAST BRITAIN DURING THE ROMAN PERIOD Conference & AGM - Council for British Archaeology: South East with the Kent Archaeological Field School Saturday 16 November

Assembly Rooms, Preston Street, Faversham, Kent. 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Jeremy Hodgkinson 'The Landscape of Iron Production in the Roman Weald'

Lacey Wallace 'A newly discovered Roman villa in Bourne Park, Canterbury'

David Staveley 'The Sussex Roman road network'

Simon Elliot 'The Upper Medway during the Roman Occupation: Industry, agriculture and elites'

WHAT'S ON

David Rudling 'Roman period Settlement and Land-use in the Sussex Ouse Valley'

David Bird 'Landscapes of Roman Surrey'

Paul Wilkinson 'Villa landscapes in Roman Kent'

Andrew Richardson 'Emporium to villa: 500 years at East Wear Bay, Folkestone'

Tickets available in advance from www.kafs.co.uk/news.aspx or 01795 532548 for booking form. Cost £8 for members of CBA SE and KAFS or £10 for non-members and on the day.

SECRETS OF THE FIELDS

Exhibition of Archaeology from South Ashford - recent discoveries made by archaeological units, from Iron Age sanctuary, Roman town and fortlet to WWII sites.

Saturday 16 November 2013
10am – 4pm

Singleton Environment Centre, Singleton,
Ashford TN23 5LW.

Further information: Wendy Rogers 01622
221540 or wendy.rogers@kent.gov.uk

TUITION IN PALAEOGRAPHY AND LATIN

English and Latin palaeography and Latin language (mediaeval or classical) classes.

Six sessions at Canterbury Cathedral Archives in November and December 2013.

Tutor - Dr David Wright, London-trained classicist and palaeographer.

Classes will comprise friendly workshops with much practical experience, using material from about 1500 to 1700. There will also be a one-day introduction to palaeography at the Medway Archives on Wednesday 30 October. Please contact Dr David Wright for more information: davideastkent@gmail.com. More details about the classes at www.drdavidwright.co.uk

EXPLORING KENT TOWNS AND CITIES

Five-week course starting on 28 January 2014
Canterbury Christ Church University
Tutor - Dr Gill Draper.

Details on <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/community-arts-education/short-courses/spring-2014.asp> or from April Doyle, Canterbury Christ Church University, North Holmes Road, Canterbury, CT1 1QU; telephone 01227 863451 (9.30-2.30).

Kent Archaeological Society's Allen Grove Local History Fund

Grants of up to £500 (or more for 'exceptional projects') will be awarded next year (2014) by the Kent Archaeological Society's Allen Grove Local History Fund to individuals and groups who are working on important aspects of Kent's history. The latest date by which applications must be submitted is March 31, 2014.

More than £30,000 has been distributed since the fund was established in 1994, mainly to help cover the cost of publishing books and booklets; setting up exhibitions and displays in heritage centres; completing oral history projects, and establishing archives and research centres.

This year (2013) £2,720 was shared by nine applicants.

The Chislehurst Society. £400 for 'The Chislehurst Chillers,' a voluntary group that tells ghost and ghoulish stories to 10-year-old children and inspires their interest in local history by engaging them in drawing and writing activities.

Dr Deborah Cole of Tonbridge. £295 towards the publication of 'The Tonbridge Circular Walk - In the Footsteps of Medieval Knights,' a book describing a 33-mile country walk in the footsteps of 24 lords and knights who one day in 1279 set off on a perambulation to establish the boundary of Tonbridge's 'lowy' (castle lands).

Folkestone and District Family History Society. £175 to buy 50 photos of war graves in Turkey, Crimea, Israel, Egypt and India of local people who died in the First World War.

Goudhurst and Kilndown Local History Society. £250 towards publishing a book on the men and women commemorated on local war memorials.

Harrietsham History Society. £250 towards producing a book of photographs depicting changes which have occurred in the village over a period of more than 100 years.

The Ightham History Project. £500 towards establishing a local history

archive following the completion of a book on the history of Ightham.

Margate Civic Society. £300 to help fund an exhibition on the Margate Time Ball and Clock Tower, which were officially opened on Queen Victoria's 70th birthday in 1889.

Oaten Hill and District Society (Canterbury) Local History Group. £50 to buy a voice recorder with which to preserve local residents' memories of the district for publication in a series of booklets.

Plaxtol Local History Group. £500 towards an exhibition 'Plaxtol at War' and the publication of a booklet on the impact on the village of the two world wars.

The Allen Grove Local History Fund is the legacy of one of Kent's most eminent historians. Mr Grove was Curator of Maidstone Museum from 1948 to 1975, Hon. Curator of the KAS for 26 years (and its President in 1987/88) and Chairman of the Kent History Federation for eight years.

When he died in 1990 he left £26,000 from the proceeds of the sale of his house to the KAS, with instructions that the society should invest the legacy and distribute the interest in ways that would promote the enjoyment of Kent's local history.

For an application form visit www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/grants or apply to KAS General Secretary, Peter Stutchbury: email secretary@kentarchaeology.org.uk, tel 01303 266966.

CORRECTION

In the Summer 2013 Newsletter article 'The Palaeolithic of the Upper Ravensbourne Valley', the last sentence of the penultimate paragraph should have read 'Consequently the Upper Ravensbourne material is also being assessed on typological grounds for evidence of similar MIS 3 material' – not MIS 13 material. Apologies to author Frank Beresford for the added '1' and confusion caused.

YOU & YOUR SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

I am very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Joint Members

Ms SPR Hoyle & Mr J E Knight, Lyminge
Mr & Mrs Jon Lord, Wrotham

Student

Mr O Burr, Bridge, Canterbury
Miss S Hedges, St Michaels, Tenterden

Ordinary

Miss M Armstrong, Chatham
Miss E Dixon, Canterbury
Miss S J Gearey, Deal
Mr P McDonnell, Dagenham
Ms S Vicary, London
Malcolm Davies, London
Ms R M Williams, Blean

As usual I make a plea for any changes and comments about membership etc to be sent to me.

The renewal notices for those who pay by cheque will be sent out in December for renewal in January 2014.

Please note that the voluntary concessionary subscription was abolished at the 2013 AGM, so do make sure that you have told your bank of the amended amount in plenty of time.

The rates are £25 for single members and £30 for joint members at the same address.

The question of online newsletters is under serious review – if you have any comments please let me know. I am in the middle of changing to a new, and hopefully more efficient, membership package, so patience may be needed!

Shiela Broomfield
membership@kentarchaeology.org.uk

fact, the sole survivor of no less than four medieval churches in the town. In the days before the great storm of 1287, which diverted the River Rother to Rye, St Nicholas's was located next to the harbour on a spit of land surrounded by water on three sides. The huge amount of sand and shingle which the storm deposited on New Romney is responsible for the fact that one now has to go down several steps to enter the church. This impressive building with its massive Norman tower was originally built



Fig 2

between 1140 and 1240 under the patronage of the archbishops of Canterbury. The light and graceful east end was added in the 14th century. Its large side chapels with processional route, Easter Sepulchre, and three sets of piscina with triple sedilia, point to the elaborate nature of the medieval liturgy. St Nicholas's has recently been restored with the help of the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust.

We are grateful to Mr Hendy for delaying his departure on holiday to show us these fascinating churches, and to the volunteers at St Nicholas's who welcomed us and provided refreshments.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Kent Records New Series will continue but be put on the Society's website, as agreed in July 2012. A further volume of *Archaeologia Cantiana*, no. 134, will appear later in 2013. The Committee has been unable to move forward on the cumulative index of volumes 121-130 of *Archaeologia Cantiana*. A team of adjudicators is currently reading and assessing the seven theses submitted for the biennial Hasted Prize for 2013. It was recently agreed that a separate annual MA thesis prize of £250 be awarded in order to encourage younger scholars to join the Society. Grants have been awarded for various publications including *The Royal Charters of Faversham* (Faversham, 2013).

COMMITTEE ROUND UP

CHURCHES COMMITTEE

Visit to Old and New Romney by Paul Lee

The visit in June to these ancient marsh churches attracted a good attendance on a windy afternoon. Our speaker at both places was Mr John Hendy, of the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust, who is expert in the history of the marsh churches as well as of the marsh itself. Mr Hendy was thus able to set the architectural history of these buildings in the context of the significant changes there have been to this low-lying landscape over time. St Clement's Old Romney is a sympathetically restored Norman church with 14th-century side aisles and tower, and a decorated chancel. Mr Hendy explained the medieval liturgical use of the building, referring to the two surviving hagioscopes either side of the chancel arch which most likely allowed priests celebrating at the nave altars to coordinate their actions with those of the priest at the high altar. The Reformation took deep hold on the Romney Marsh,

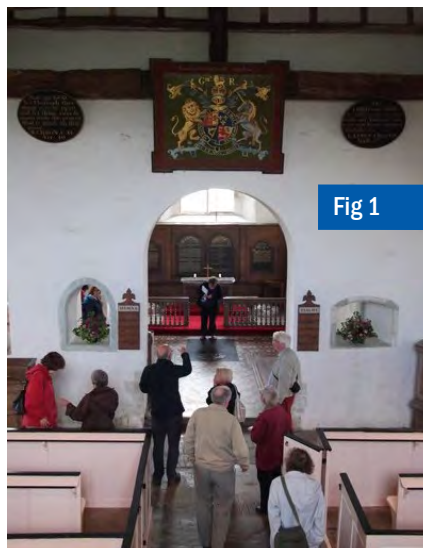


Fig 1

however, and Old Romney has a good set of 18th-century Scripture text boards on the walls, with the Ten Commandments, Creed and Lord's Prayer in the Sanctuary. The visitor to Old Romney is, however, first struck by the late 18th-century box pews, which were painted pink for the filming of Disney's 1963 smuggling adventure 'Dr Syn'! St Nicholas's New Romney is a grand building, reflecting the importance in the middle ages of this Cinque Port. It is, in

NEWS FROM THE KAS LIBRARY

The Wotton transcription project gave our working group of KAS members a taste for more palaeography and they are continuing work this year under the leadership of Dr Bower. The group often come into the Library to work on a Tuesday morning. To help facilitate their work Peter Titley generously donated the following useful items to the Library stock:

- » Bristow, Joy - The Local Historian's Glossary of Words and Terms
- » Marshall, Hilary - Palaeography for Family and Local Historians
- » Raymond, Stuart A. - Words from Wills and other probate records 1500 -1800

These complement the current Library stock well and we now have a good collection of books for those starting out in the art of Palaeography and for those needing more specialist reference works. Please do come and use them.

One Thursday morning I was delighted to discover a book commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the Dartford Historical & Antiquarian Society, deposited in the Library by Dr Mike Still. The book's title is Dartford: A Century of Change. The book includes a brief overview by Chris Baker of the history of the Dartford Historical and Antiquarian Society since its founding in 1910, but mainly consists of a selection of images of Dartford through time. The images are well chosen to give a feel for the changing face of Dartford through the years and, as always, bear a special resonance if you know a place well. I especially enjoyed the image of the Dartford Road looking west towards West Hill Schools and Crayford c 1910. Having lived on the Dartford Road it is amazing how a place can be scarcely recognisable and yet still retain an element of familiarity.

The KAS supported the production of 'The Royal Charters of Faversham, including the Magna Carta' by Peter Tann, with contributions from other scholars, which is hot off the press currently. Peter Tann has kindly donated a copy of this both beautiful and useful book charting the history of Faversham from the 12th to the 17th century. It is bound to prove a useful resource for KAS members.

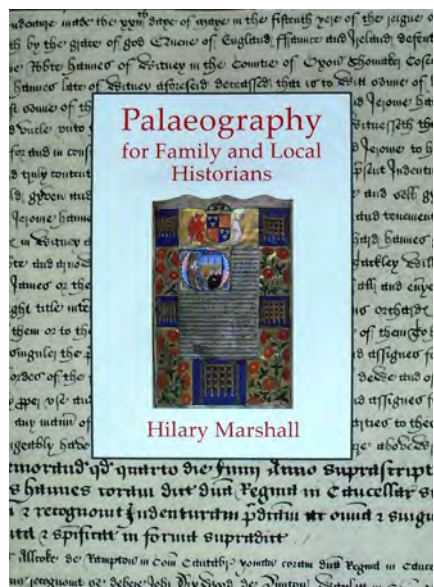
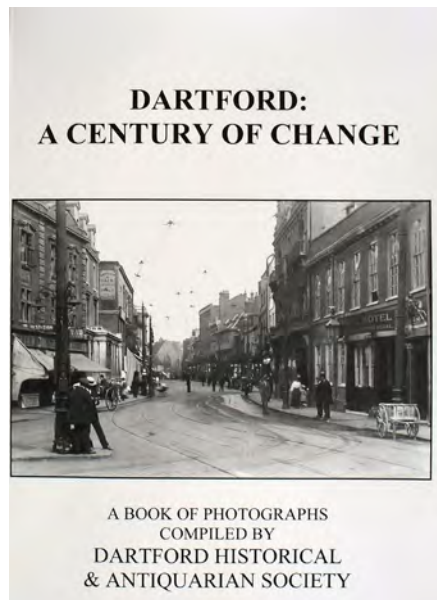
Finally, I have been asked to highlight the Library's collection of Journals and to help you to access them. We have an extensive collection of both national and local society Journals.

The 2012 editions of the following journals are now available to consult at the Library:

- » The Antiquaries Journal, vol. 92
- » Britannia, vol. 43, which incidentally contains an article by R.S.O. Tomlin on Inscriptions, including the East Farleigh Curse Scroll and a mention of inscribed sherds of coarseware found in Minster-in-Thanel at Abbey Farm.
- » The Journal of Roman Studies vol. 102
- » Medieval Archaeology, vol. 56.

If you are looking for Journals that the Library holds please be aware that the online catalogue is a little quirky and does not always pick an item up on the title. The easiest way of getting an overview of the Journals is by typing 'Journal' into a CONTENT search which then brings up the full Journal list.

If you come and visit the Library regularly you may notice that it is a little tidier. We are making a real effort to catch up with the 'housework'. The Visual Records group's appearance on BBC South East this July was in a smarter library than the last performance! If you have not been before you might like to visit us on a Wednesday or a Thursday morning. The Library is



open at other times, but please do ALWAYS CHECK in the online diary before you travel to avoid disappointment. During term time Adult Learning takes place on Mondays and meetings and talks take place at other times. Please also remember to show your membership card and sign in at the front desk of the Museum. I will look forward to seeing you there.

Pernille Richards, Hon. Librarian

As I walked through the cloisters of Canterbury Cathedral to the Archives Library, I already had a strong sense of medieval history even before the brittle and slightly ragged thirteenth century parchment was spread on the desk in front of me. What I hadn't expected was to be able to read it! Even though the language was medieval Latin, the script was surprisingly clear and instantly recognisable place names jumped off the pages, of the 'perambulation of the Lowy of Tonbridge' written in 1279.

A jury of twenty four knights perambulated the castle lands through about 30 miles of Wealden countryside around Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. Their purpose was to define the lands belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Earl of Gloucester, Gilbert 'the Red' of Tonbridge Castle. The original manuscript in the archives is the Archbishop's copy. A translation can be read in Harris's History of Kent written in 1719, but eighty years later Hasted decided not to include it in his great work on Kent, remarking unadventurously that "the places... being obsolete and now totally unknown, the insertion of them can give so little information to the reader" (p.175, Vol. V). Undeterred, I continued my research.

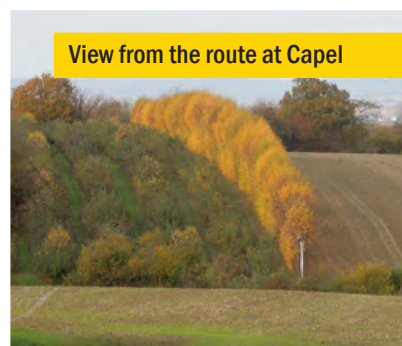
There are sixty place names on the document and thirteen still exist today; they are Claygate, Oak Weir, Downingbury, Sunninglye, Hawkenbury, Culverden, Penshurst, Redleaf, Coppings, Priory Lands, Nizels, Romshed and Hollanden. Another twelve are found in written histories, old maps and documents and, after locating them on maps I could confirm what W. V. Dumbreck had noted in the 1958 edition of *Archaeologia Cantiana*: in general, the old pre-1870 parish boundaries were followed. Thirty five places remained elusive but they could at least be transcribed with confidence because of the clarity of the handwriting.

Armed with the lines of the old parish boundaries and a list of the thirty five missing names, I explored on foot the bounds of Tonbridge looking for names on houses, road names or



Crossing the Medway at Ford Green Bridge

landscape features that might reveal the missing places. I linked public footpaths in order to follow the route as nearly as possible and some exciting discoveries were made. Very early on, east of Shipbourne, I was able to identify and follow a linear bank at the edge of the great North Frith, once the hunting forest of the Clare family. This



View from the route at Capel

was probably the course of the forest pale recorded in 1279. Another was seen much further round at Pembury, representing the forest pale at the edge of the South Frith. The route passes old moat sites which might have guarded their residents at the time of the perambulation. At 'Nizels mead' near Weald village there is a boundary stone, adjacent to a watery meadow. Another boundary stone is set in paving at the southernmost part of the Lowy outside the church of King Charles the Martyr in Tunbridge Wells. This site was probably marked by a distinctive oak, the only tree mentioned on the route. A hill with an old forge and known to be a centre of iron working

was probably the 'hill of Smethedonne'. These are just some of many discoveries.

When I finally marked out the Lowy boundary on a map it appeared very circular and led me to think that perhaps there was some truth in Robert de Torigni's 12th century chronicle. He relates that he heard "many old people tell", that soon after the battle of Hastings, Richard Fitzgilbert of Tonbridge built his castle and then measured out his Lowy with a line.

Walking the route confirmed to me what I already knew: the countryside in this part of South East England is extraordinarily beautiful. It changes dramatically from the steep rocky wooded hills of Tunbridge Wells and Speldhurst, to the soft rolling fields of Leigh, the dramatic backdrop of the greensand ridge at Underriver, the huge skies of the flat river meadows in Hadlow and Golden Green, and the sloping orchards of Capel and Pembury. There can be no better way of creating a Tonbridge Circular Walk than using one that was already walked and recorded seven centuries ago. A book of the route, divided into short walks with historical notes is now available. For more information visit www.tonbridgecircularwalk.co.uk. The publication of this book was made possible with an award from the Allen Grove Fund by the Kent Archaeological Society.

By Deborah Cole

MUSHROOM TOWNS?

The Kentish Urban

Studies Conference, June 2013.

Sponsored by the KAS and
Historical Association

By David Birmingham and Doreen Rosman

What is urban history anyway? And what did the Romans do for us? And how far back can we stretch the archaeological data? And what about the documentary evidence, let alone the statistical material? Towns, we were lucidly told, at the start of a conference on Kentish Urban Studies, grew where specialist markets flourished, they developed complex patterns of social relations, they kept records of their sophisticated political arrangements and they acted as magnets for the scattered rural folk of the hinterland.

We began with a Late Iron Age industrial complex which used 'Folkestone Granite', or Greensand, to make corn-grinding equipment, sold up and down the south and east coast of Britain. Maybe it was this 'Folk's Stone' which gave the town its name. Then round the coast to Faversham, one of the famed Cinque Port 'limbs', where a group of archaeological enthusiasts, admirers of the late Mick Aston, have spent the last nine years sifting through the layers of material 'treasure' to create an historical collage which runs from the Mesolithic to the gunpowder mills of the 1920s. On again to another of the famed 'limbs', this time at Grange on the Medway, a London staging-post for the citizens of Hastings. Odo, the bishop of tapestry fame, once owned both banks of the river and Grange became handy for the smuggling of Kentish wool as well as for the waylaying of pirates plundering Thames traffic.

Back south to Hythe whose fascinating 'maletotes', local taxation records, enable historians to reconstruct the working lives of the tanners, brewers, carpenters, bakers, butchers and fishermen who filled the town. Merchants traded in high quality commodities – figs, raisins and wine – as well as firewood and sea-coal, iron, salt, and basic foodstuffs. In 1468-69 15 fishermen landed sprats, mackerel, herring and even the odd porpoise, as well as transporting pilgrims and cattle. Meat from Hythe may even have been

sold to the garrison at Calais. Butcher/ graziers paid tax on oxen at tuppence a head, cows at a penny, sheep at a ha'penny, and two lambs at a farthing. Further along the coast at Dover in the early 17th century vigorous debate how best to refurbish the harbour was recorded in lively dialogue by a leading citizen.

So next to the 1641 Poll Tax, levied to pay for an army which had failed in its mission against the Scots. The surviving records of who paid what in Canterbury are compellingly fascinating. You can access the data at www.canterbury.ac.uk/arts-humanities/history-and-american-studies/history/1641PollTax, discover what jobs over a thousand householders performed and who paid the highest rates. Some of the same names can be traced on contemporary petitions. Some signatories were royalist and others parliamentarian, some changed allegiance and some did not. Some families fled to America before the crisis intensified, and some women even became involved in politicking.

We finished the day in the second half of the nineteenth century. The closing of the Deptford and Greenwich dockyards in 1869 led to the massive extension of the dry-docks and wet-docks at Chatham which grew to cover 400 acres, much of the digging done by convicts. Thousands of shipwrights, rope makers, sail cutters and the like poured into the Medway basin as if in gold rush from ports and harbours all over the south and east and even from Pembrokeshire. New Brompton mushroomed into the old village of Gillingham, whose name was retained when the area was incorporated in 1903. Meanwhile in Sevenoaks a local builder created a working man's suburb at the back of the gas works near the Bat-and-Ball railway junction. Census records show how life was changing: in 1851 59% of householders married women born within five miles of the town; by 1901 the number had dropped to 26%.

Ablely organised by Sheila Sweetinburgh, the study day covered many fascinating 'New Developments in Kentish Urban Studies', a theme which Christ Church's proposed 'Centre for Regional History' will surely want to keep a friendly eye on.

Archaeology Day at Knole House, Sevenoaks

By Shiela Broomfield

KAS Membership Sec.

On one of the few wet days this summer Chris and I spent the day at Knole House, Sevenoaks, assisting with their special Archaeology Day, part of the 2013 Festival of Archaeology.

The new KAS banner had its first outing and did much to promote our existence. I had spent the previous evening making up packs of KAS promotional material, including the all-important membership application form. I also included loads of details of other archaeological organisations, both local and national. The rain did us a good turn as, instead of being in a gazebo in the garden, we had a prime position in the 'outer wicket' (entrance gate house) so we met the visiting public as they arrived. This meant that my prepared information packs went like hot cakes! I spoke to many interesting people, including members, a great opportunity to get some feedback. Most enjoyed their membership of KAS with the opportunity to attend events, read about what is happening in our county etc.

The day included other organisations, especially those concerned with the wonderful new Knole project for the creation of a much needed conservation facility – the success of the Heritage Lottery Fund application was announced that day which meant that the media also attended. The Museum of London Archaeology team had a very comprehensive display of what they have done on the first phase at Knole and what they intend to do in future.

One of the features uncovered so far has been the extensive historical graffiti. This gave me a splendid opportunity of talking at some length to Matthew Champion, who has long been one of my 'heroes'. Again, the weather did me a personal good turn as he was in his gazebo in the garden with no other visitors at the time. This soon changed when I pointed people in his direction. I was also pleased to meet again Al Oswald, formerly of English Heritage and Stewart Ainsworth of Time Team fame. Their combined expertise will also bring much to the project. Once the new project is well and truly underway, Nathalie Cohen, archaeologist for the National Trust, is hoping to involve more non-professional assistance.

All in all a very enjoyable day and so near to our home for a change!

If you have read earlier articles on the activities of the Faversham Society Archaeological Research Group (FSARG), you will know that our research area is the town itself and its immediate surrounds. We take one piece at a time and seek answers to the most important research questions for that section. Our latest project focuses on Preston Next Faversham, an odd and ancient parish, nowadays mostly merged into Faversham Town.

For most of its history, Preston was a rural parish with a number of manors such as Macknade and Westwood. In AD822 it was given to the Archbishop of Canterbury, hence the name Priests town. Preston has a very ancient and intriguing church, St Catherine's, which will be central to our work in 2014, but this year our interest has been in finding evidence for medieval activity along the line of Preston Street and the Mall. This forms a north-south line connecting central Faversham with Roman Watling Street and marks the western boundary of Preston Within. Some very striking finds of Roman and early Saxon material have been made along this line but all of them are historic - no modern archaeology has taken place here apart from an evaluation during alterations at the Fleur De Lis Heritage Centre in AD2000.

In 2013, investigations took place in six locations along this north-south line, all of which yielded substantial medieval material. This article, however, concentrates on the largest excavation which was in the garden of the Old Wine Vaults pub. On Saturday 21st July it contributed to a festival day, 'Faversham in the Making', involving lively re-enactors and hands-on activities manned by FSARG members. During the week that the Old Wine Vaults trench was open, we talked to around a

thousand visitors, some of whom returned repeatedly and many of whom were people who would never normally visit a museum. This was very enjoyable and the kind of community involvement for which FSARG was founded ([Fig 1](#)).

The trench, initially 4 x 1 metres, was located towards the back of the pub garden, across a former pub garden boundary wall visible in parch marks, geo-resistivity readings and on maps. Beyond the wall had been a cottage, identifiable in the 1840 tithe map but long gone ([Figs 2a and 2b](#)). The wall itself remained standing until the 1960s. Our plan was to expose contrasting deposits either side of the wall foundation with the expectation that underlying the contrasting cottage demolition and pub garden contexts would be a medieval level.

This did indeed prove to be the case, although on the former cottage side of the wall two pipes, running east-west, meant that only a small area between them was undisturbed. This tiny triangle was taken down to a depth of 1.2 metres. On the pub side, once large paving slabs under the grass had been removed, trowelling was much easier and a layer yielding only medieval pottery was reached from 62cm downwards ([Fig 3](#)). This pottery included not only our old friend Tyler Hill pottery, the commonest kind of medieval pottery found in Faversham, but also earlier North Kent shelly ware. The earlier pottery consisted of many small abraded sherds and was found associated with many small bone and shell fragments - classic midden scatter. The later medieval sherds were larger and fresh-edged, implying a transition on the site from agriculture to settlement in the late medieval. This fits with what is known about the Old Wine Vaults building itself, thought to

date from around AD1450.

For the modern period the memories of local people were invaluable, giving us, for example, the demolition date for the cottage. We also had one of those memorable 'treasure trove' moments when a lady turned up with two albums of 1920s-30s photographs of the pub and its then huge garden: her grandfather had been the licensee ([fig 4](#)). Irene has donated these unique photos to the Faversham Society. We knew from the HER that Roman finds had been made next door in 1934 when the Argosy Cinema (now itself long gone) was being built, but never dreamed we would see a photograph of them. If you have any idea as to who these two men are, by the way, we would love to know.

At the end of the week we were tidying up the trench prior to back filling and cleaning down a small surface at the eastern end beyond a small brick border to the slabs. Almost instantly a curious scalloped stone edge appeared, looking to our bemused eyes very much like a section of a classic temple pillar of huge proportions. Joking aside, this had to be investigated ([Fig 5](#)).

It turned out to be a large toothed/fluted crushing wheel which had been set into a courtyard surface of stone fragments and can be seen exposed in [Fig 1](#). This surface clearly pre-dated the slab and brick surface found earlier. In the central square hole rested three large, smooth, egg shaped stones of serpentine and granite. We have seen boulders like this before in Faversham gardens and have been assuming they are ships ballast, but are now having second thoughts about this. The overall effect, in the words of several of our younger visitors, was 'awesome'. Its original use is still unknown: although it is of a type commonly used in initial apple crushing for cider, Faversham

has had many other industries that involve crushing. It was placed in the courtyard around AD1800. Investigations continue.

A detailed report on the Old Wine Vaults trench should be on the FSARG website, www.community-archaeology.org.uk by Christmas 2013, along with the other five 2013 locations, in the section devoted to Preston: a most Peculiar Parish. Many thanks to Nuala Brenchley Sayers, landlady of the Old Wine Vaults, who invited us to dig in the garden.

By Dr Pat Reid



Fig 1



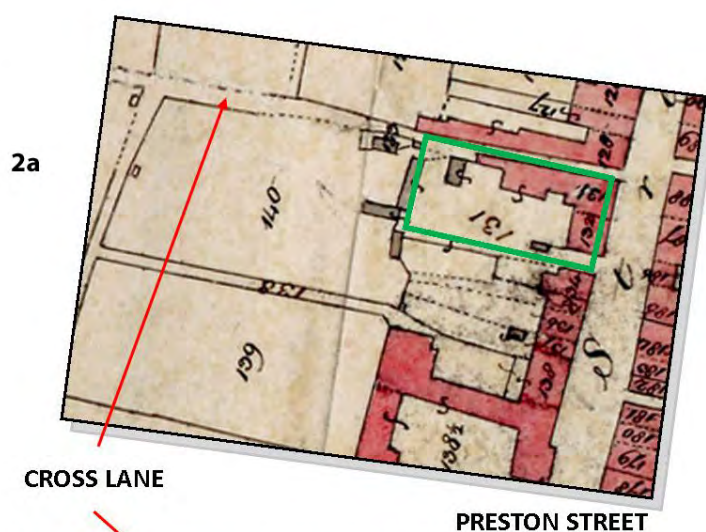
Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



CROSS LANE

PRESTON STREET



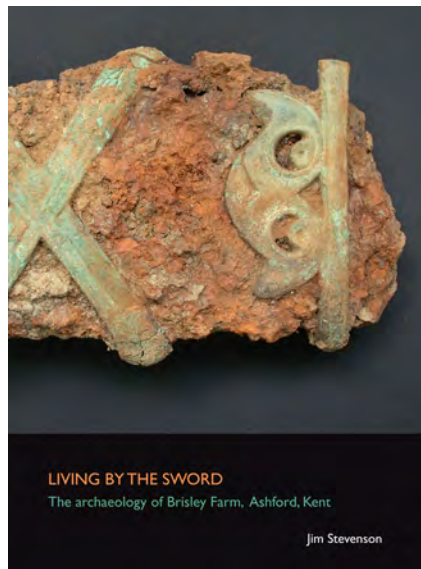
Fig 2a & 2b

Living by the Sword: The archaeology of Brisley Farm, Ashford, Kent

Following 15 years of excavation and research, Archaeology South-East (ASE) has just published this monograph presenting the findings of ten archaeological sites investigated at Brisley Farm which, at its height in the late Iron Age, was the focus for an exceptional settlement revealing evidence for everyday life and death on the eve of the Roman Conquest. The undoubted centrepiece of the excavations was two warrior burials, interred with swords and spears around 2000 years ago. These finds were just one part of a rich archaeological landscape with widespread evidence of ancient land use spanning some three millennia.

Some of the earliest evidence was for a Middle-Late Bronze Age settlement followed by a Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age stock management field system imposed across the landscape. In the Mid-Late Iron Age, a small enclosure was constructed interpreted as a corral, perhaps for horse herds, becoming the focus for the deposition of pottery and animal remains, possibly concurrent with seasonal gatherings.

However, in the late 1st century BC and first half of the 1st century AD Brisley Farm developed into a truly remarkable settlement. The sequence uncovered was very complex, comprising a dynamic landscape of ditched enclosures, circular buildings, trackways, cremation cemeteries, shrines and enigmatic 'sacred' spaces. Undoubtedly the most significant discoveries were the two warrior burials, interred about a generation apart (AD10 and AD50) and the latest known warrior burials in Britain. They are of national, if not international importance, and are part of a rare tradition; only 25 other examples have been found south of the Humber, and



they have close continental parallels. Overall, the remains represent aspects of a farming community, but one with an undoubted sacred bias, so much so that in the Late Iron Age, Brisley Farm may have been a religious and funerary focus in the wider landscape to the south of Ashford.

From around AD50 and in the 2nd century AD, there were no signs of day to day occupation. Instead there was an intensification of processes begun earlier in the century; cult or hero worship, veneration and cremation burials. By the late 2nd century, Brisley Farm appears entirely abandoned, perhaps as the nearby Roman town of Westhawk Farm grew in importance.

The medieval and post-medieval history of the site has also been studied and the publication charts the rise and decline of two farmsteads during these periods.

Copies £35 inc P&P from the ASE
Sussex office, Units 1 & 2,
Chapel Place, Portslade, BN41
1DR.

Cheques payable to University
College London. Please include
your name and address.

Kent Communicants Lists 1565

Communicants Lists are lists, by parish, of inhabitants who took Holy Communion. Generally, communicants were aged 14 years and over. There was no set method of recording and the returns for each parish were set out in a different way, with differing amounts of information. For example, for Preston only the name of the householder and the number of communicants in each household was noted. For Selling, Sheldwich and Staplehurst the names of all the communicants were given. The Communicants Lists transcribed in this book, which are dated, are all dated Easter 1565, so were presumably drawn up for a Visitation in 1565. Of the places covered in this book, the parish registers of four of the parishes start after 1565, so the Communicants Lists are important for establishing names of inhabitants in these parishes in the mid-1560s.

Part 3: Boughton Malherbe, Doddington, Newnham, Norton, Ospringe, Preston next Faversham, Selling, Sheldwich, Stone next Faversham and Staplehurst, with numbers (names not given) for Faversham and Pluckley.

Introduction, full transcript and surname index by Gillian Rickard, 2013. 50pp.

Price: £4.50, or £5.60 including inland postage. Overseas rates inc. postage: Europe: £8.00, USA/Canada £9.00, Australia/New Zealand £9.00.

Information on Part 1, and future publication of Parts 2 and 4, can be found on www.kentgen.com

Publication has been assisted by a grant from the Allen Grove Local History Fund of the KAS (see page 7 of the Newsletter for this year's grants).

Copies available from: Gillian Rickard, Bidston, The Row, Elham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6UL but email GRKentGen@aol.com to check address before sending for a copy.

Dene Hole at Sheldwich Lees

By Mike Clinch



Fig 1



Fig 2

Members of Kent Underground Research Group, one of the societies affiliated to the KAS, went to the Sheldwich Lees estate to reopen and survey a denehole. This particular denehole was first exposed some years ago whilst the field was being ploughed. The first problem was to find it. We had a digger and the man who originally discovered it. As you can see from the photo, there are few distinguishing marks on the field (Fig 1).

However, by excavating a trench and checking the soil discolouration we were able to locate the top of the shaft. A little digging exposed the steel crash barriers that had been used to cover the shaft (Fig 2). These were removed and an air test was carried out. A caving ladder was lowered so that two members of the team could go down to carry out the necessary safety checks. Following their report an aluminium ladder was fixed in position. The denehole was some 37 feet deep with a large spoil heap at the bottom (Fig 3). Those on the ladder were attached to a lifeline both on the way down and on the way up. The shaft intersected a passage, the north leg of which was fairly short, but the southern end had two side passages (Fig 4).

Air testing is usually carried out by lowering a candle lantern or a miner's lamp. If the flame is extinguished it indicates that oxygen levels are low and carbon dioxide levels will be high. If the air quality is poor then we would normally pump air down the shaft and retest. Commercial oxygen meters are available but their calibration needs to be rechecked on a regular basis. The use of a flame is accurate, safe and cheap. There were very pronounced markings in the chambers indicating flooding at some time in the past. In view of the elevation of the site above the water table this is surprising and could be the result of heavy storms.

Back up to the surface and daylight. The denehole was then capped and covered with earth.

Exploration of underground sites and features can be both hazardous and dangerous if proper precautions are not observed. Kent Underground Research Group is well practiced in working underground and has the necessary experience, expertise and equipment to work safely. The group numbers amongst its members archaeologists, engineers,

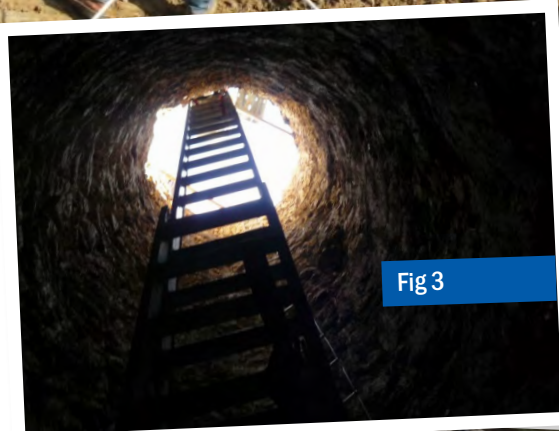


Fig 3



Fig 4

miners and rope access workers. We have in the past excavated mines, World War II bunkers, wells, icehouses, cathedral drains, secret passages and many other features. All these have been surveyed and written up. If you feel we can be of help on a dig, or to investigate that mysterious depression in the back garden, we can be contacted through our website www.kurg.org.uk or mike@mikeclinch.co.uk



Volunteer Opportunity with the Hon. Curator and Maidstone Museum

Are you interested in
joining the team?

The KAS has an extensive collection of archaeological artefacts housed in Maidstone Museum*. It is hoped to establish a small working party to work on this collection, starting with the Anglo-Saxon material. The work will involve checking the objects against existing records, ensuring that these are correct and adding and amending information and re-packing objects as necessary. The aim would be to gain a better understanding of the KAS collection, improve the records of the

collection and thereby ensure that it becomes more accessible.

Ideally we are looking for an experienced individual with the time to act as Assistant Curator and help co-ordinate and teach a small group of volunteers, who would be working in pairs in the Museum Storeroom. All volunteers would need to register as Museum Volunteers and comply with the guidance set out by the Museum. The Hon. Curator will be providing training and guidance on one Saturday per quarter.

The first meeting will be on the 30th
November 2013 from 10am - 1.30pm at
Maidstone Museum.



If you would like to take part please email your details and a short summary of your experience to Dr. Andrew Richardson, Hon. Curator at Andrew.Richardson@canterburytrust.co.uk

* Please note that the archaeology collection is stored in the old part of the Museum building and is only accessible via a steep staircase.

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Copy deadline for the next issue is 1st Dec 2013

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the contents and substance of their work.

EDITOR: LYN PALMER
55 Stone Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN11 2QU
Telephone: 01892 533661
Email: newsletter@kentarchaeology.org.uk