

# KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER



No. 13

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## CANTERBURY PILGRIMS WAY EXHIBITION

An audio-visual story  
by Ted Connell

Within the redundant Church of St. Margaret, Canterbury, an exhibition meticulously recreates a Chaucerian pilgrimage in Medieval England.

When the visitors enter, they leave behind the 20th century and become, like thousands of others over 600 years ago, a pilgrim, journeying to the shrine of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, murdered by the King's men and martyred for his convictions.

### The Prologue

The visitors will find themselves back in medieval London, where, as they wait, they will learn something of the atmosphere of the time, and of the man whose famous tales will provide the thread of the story, Geoffrey Chaucer. This is the Prologue. Visitors in small bands will then be led to the Tabard Inn on London's south bank. It is early evening in April 1396.

A host pilgrim will greet them, introduce them to the reason for their journey and, as they prepare to leave, show them briefly, by special effects, the murder of Thomas Becket, in Canterbury Cathedral. Fortified with this inspiring vision, the pilgrims will set out on their condensed four day journey.

### Canterbury Tales

As they join Chaucer's immortal band, the courtly Knight, the bawdy Miller, the Wife of Bath, the Nun's Priest and the Pardoner will all recount their distinctive tales to them. Travelling along through the exhibition, they will learn something of Medieval life through a selection of the stories presented as glimpses and extracts with sound, light and vision. The tales have been carefully selected for their educational, descriptive and entertainment value. This is so that the content of the tales will be relevant to present school study programmes.

The pilgrim road will rise and twist in a series of steps and ramps passing through reconstructions and

impressions of the route to Canterbury. High in the roof of the building, the road will cross over itself on an impression of Rochester Bridge which marked the half-way stage in the pilgrims' journey.

### Journey's End

Turning a corner and doubling back, the travellers will be confronted by the great West Gate of Canterbury. Through the gate, the visitors will find themselves in the upper gallery of the "Checker of Hope" which in Chaucer's time was the principal lodging house of the pilgrims.

A splendid medieval staircase will take them down, turning as it does so into the steps of the Nave of Canterbury Cathedral which in Chaucer's time was being rebuilt and so we see it surrounded by scaffolding and stonemasons. From here, they will enter an impression of Trinity Chapel with an accurate reconstruction of the bejewelled tomb of Thomas Becket, the end of the pilgrims' quest.

### Artful Story

It is hoped that an appealing blend of literature, architecture and art, will mix together to reflect the Pilgrimage History, the Chaucerian influence and the city's individual charm.

The Canterbury Pilgrims Way, located in St. Margaret's Way, is open seven days a week. From 1st April until 31st October the opening times are 0900-1900; and from 1st November until 31st March they are 0900-1730 with last admission ½ hour before closing. A visit takes approximately one hour. Entrance charges: Adult £3.00, Children £1.50. For further information please contact: The Press & Information Office, Heritage Projects Ltd, St. Margaret's Street, Canterbury CT1 2TC. Telephone 0227 454888.

*See inside for location map.*





## KENT CERAMICS STUDY GROUP

by Christopher St. John Breen, B.Sc.

The fourth Pottery Workshop was held on Saturday 7th November 1987, at Bromley Museum, Orpington, by kind permission of the curator, Dr. Alan Tyler.

The programme consisted of looking at and talking about the surface finds of pottery from Poverest Road, Orpington, excavated by Peter Tester during 1965-68. All the pottery was displayed so that it could be studied in the hand and a talk was given by Christopher Breen on the range of fabrics and forms present. Romano-British sherds from the site and its immediate area came into the Museum's collection from three main sources. The earliest was Arthur Eldridge, who collected items between the 1920's and 1940's recovering material from service trenches and holes on, across and adjacent to the site. Some sherds are marked, in pencil, with the findspot and month/year date. The date range of the Eldridge sherds spans the whole of the Romano-British period (*Arch.Cant.* Vol.60 (1947) 101).

The second source came from the excavations conducted by Peter Tester during the 1960's (*Arch.Cant.* Vol.83 (1968) 125-150; Vol.84 (1969) 39-77; Vol.93 (1977) 201-202) which produced large quantities of Romano-British sherds. Many were context recorded and these have been rebagged and boxed as such during work on the site collection by the writer in July and August 1987 at the Museum.

The final group came from further excavations between 1971 and 1978 by Susann Palmer who brought to light a further large group of Romano-British sherds, part of which was reported upon by Christopher Green (Palmer 1984, 31-46). Her site report received unfavourable reviews in *London Arch.*, *Arch.Cant.* and *K.A.R.* and this has had the effect of hiding the ceramic wealth which the site has yielded to date.

The surface finds alone point to the site, only a small area of which has been sampled by excavation, as being the most important in the Cray Valley while the range of late Romano-British ceramics stress its importance when compared with all other sites in Kent known to date.

Amongst the surface finds were the following:

**Samian Ware:** DR.15/17, 29 and 18

**Ring and Dot Beaker**

**Rodwell** type 2C bowl, with block stamp decor *but* no ring and dot decor.

**Black Burnished 2 Ware** from the Cliff Peninsula including bead rim bowl, dish with *and* without incised acute lattice decor, everted rim jars, outcurved rim jars with reserved zone decors, folded wall beakers, plain rim bowl, dish, plain and decorated, plain rim with single incised line on exterior bowl and dish lids.

**Black Burnished 1 Ware** from Dorset including everted rim jars, plain rim bowls and flanged rim bowl and dish.

**Alice Holt/Farnham Ware** includes over twenty different jar forms and a good range of flanged rim bowls.

**Otford Kiln Ware** — a bowl sherd

**Patchgrove Ware** — a good range of the main jar form with horiz. row/s of stab. decor, the earlier plain form, bead rim jar and rims of jars which are variants of the common rim style.

**Colour Coated Wares** — mainly from Central Gaul (Lezoux), Trier, Colchester and the Nene Valley.

**Handmade Kent Grog Ware** — dozens of rims of simple outcurved rim jars and flanged rim bowls and dishes.

**Mortaria** — includes Brockley Hill, Soller, Nene Valley and Oxford.

**Oxford Wares** — includes parchment ware, black on white and grey coarse wares and 46% of **Youngs** form series, the largest known range of any Kent site.

**Upchurch/Slayhills Area Wares** — the fine fabrics of this industry are represented as is the **Hoo** flagon fabric.

**Flagon** types such as **Disc Rimmed**, **Disc Necked**, **Cup Ring** and **Pinched Mouth** are present — from sources such as **Hoo**, **Brockley Hill**, **Nene Valley** and **Much Hadham**.

Overall the surface finds collection indicates that Susann Palmer's viewpoint that the site was vacated c.AD 370 now has to be set aside and consideration given to the idea that the RB site existed into the early 5th century. The reasons for taking this view are compelling, as the sheer volume and vessel form extent of the later RB wares from contexts speak for themselves.

Future work on this site should aim to capture secure horizons, whether such layers will prove free of disturbance is quite another matter altogether. The 'spread' of the site, its location and what is known of the nature and depth of the RB layers suggests a settlement adjacent to an inland quay on the River Cray.

## KENTISH BRICKFIELDS

Mr Ron Fairman, author of *The Crouch Valley Parishes* has written requesting information about the supply of stock bricks in or about 1888 by barge from Halstow to The Stoke Farm Landing at Althorne in Essex on the River Crouch for use on the Southminster Branch Line. The old stations have now been demolished and he has in his possession bricks marked "V WH 6 SB (or SD)". If

anybody has information as to which Kent Brickfield they came from he would be most grateful.

## TEBBUTT RESEARCH FUND

A fund has been established as a tribute to the life and work of the late C. F. Tebbutt, O.B.E., F.S.A 1900-1985. Applications are invited, from both individuals and groups, for grants towards research into the Wealden Iron Industry. Applicants should initially contact the Hon. Secretary of the Tebbutt Research Fund, who will send details of the fund. In this, the first year of the fund, applications should reach the Secretary no later than 31st May 1988.





## WILLIAM AND MARY TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION 1688-1988

### Celebration of the Glorious Revolution

Throughout Britain and the Netherlands events are being held during 1988/89 to commemorate the achievements of the Prince of Orange who in 1688 became William III joint sovereign of Britain with his Queen Mary II. The principal part of the celebration of the success of William and Mary to be held in Kent will be an exhibition staged in the Crypt of Penshurst Place from the end of May to the 25th September.

This historical exhibition will trace the origins and consequences of the Revolution of 1688-89 and relations between England and the Netherlands in the preceding century.

In the exhibition will be shown portraits, books and documents, whilst Dutch craftsmanship or influence will be illustrated by examples of pottery, glass and silver. Many of the exhibits will be lent by Lord De L'Isle from his own collection, but there will be a great many items of interest from other sources.

At Penshurst its special significance lies in the association of the Sidney family with some of the important national events which preceded the fall of James II and the succession of his nephew and son-in-law, the Prince of Orange as William III.

The exhibition will be open daily except Mondays from 1.00p.m. to 5.00p.m., and admission will be included in the House ticket costing £2.75 for adults, OAPs £2.00 and children £1.50. Special group rates are available for parties over 20 in number.

It is hoped by the organisers that members of the K.A.S. will take this opportunity to visit this exhibition marking events of great historical significance.

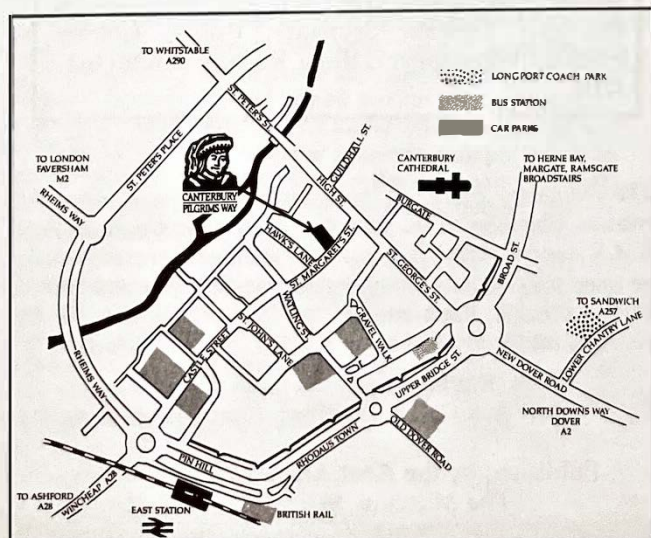
### EXCURSIONS 1988

Saturday 3rd July: a half-day tour of Wingham. Afternoon only, with tea at Dane Court.

Saturday 24th July: an all-day visit to Winchester

Saturday 8th September: a half-day afternoon visit to Tenterden.

Programmes for these excursions are obtainable by sending a s.a.e. to M.A. Crane.



## NEW BOOKS

### Contents Summaries

**The Courtenay Affair, 1838** by Wendy Safe, No.3 in the series of "Nutshell" guides to places, features and figures of local interest, has just been published by the Faversham Society, price 60p post free from the Fleur-de-Lis Heritage Centre, 13 Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NS.



Sir William Courtenay, alias John Tom,  
on his favourite charger

(From *The Penny Satirist*, June 9, 1838)

**Upchurch and Thameside Roman Pottery** by Jason Monaghan, B.A.R. 173, 1987. A ceramic typology for northern Kent, first to third centuries A.D. ISBN 0 86054 462 1. £14 post free from B.A.R.

**The Roman Villas of South-East England** by E. Black, B.A.R. 171, 1987. ISBN 0 86054 457 5. £15 post free, address as above.

**Canterbury's Archaeology** — C.A.T. 11th Annual Report, limp bound A4, 48pp, profusely and superbly illustrated with maps, plans, line drawings and photographs. Another outstanding publication from the C.A.T. team which reports on and brings up-to-date all the work going on in and around the City. Available from C.A.T., 92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2LU, price £3.50.

### Arch. Cants for sale

The Otford & District Historical Society is disposing of the following volumes of **Arch. Cant.**:—  
1909, 1910, 1912-1917 inclusive, 1930, 1934, 1936, 1939 and 1940, 1955-1969 inclusive, 1972, 1980-1987 inclusive, plus **Testamenta Cantiana** 1907 and index volume. Anybody who is interested should write to the Secretary, Mr David Asprey.



## WILLIAM URRY MEMORIAL LECTURES

The fourth illustrated lecture in the series will be given by Professor Nicholas Brooks, who is Professor of Medieval History at the University of Birmingham, on Wednesday 18th May 1988 at 6.30p.m. in the New Lecture Theatre, Christ Church College, Canterbury. His subject will be **Archbishop Dunstan: the verdict of the first millennium.**

Copies of the first two lectures may be obtained from all good booksellers, price £1.70 (or by post from Cathedral Gifts Ltd., 3 The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EE, price £2.20).

They are: **The Monks of Canterbury and the Murder of Archbishop Becket** by Sir Richard Southern and **Thomas Becket and His Clerks** by Professor Frank Barlow. (Both published by the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral.) It is hoped to publish the third lecture, **Medieval Monastic Dress: precept and practice** by Barbara Harvey later this year.

## DIPLOMA IN LOCAL HISTORY

The University of Kent is running a course leading to a Diploma in Local History at its West Kent Centre in Tonbridge from Autumn 1988. The three year course aims to provide an understanding of the history of Kent and an insight into the tasks of the local historian, the sort of questions raised and the resources available to tackle them. Emphasis is placed on the use of primary material (documentary and archaeological) as well as secondary sources. Students will be encouraged to study a more specialised topic in the third term of each of the first two years, and in the third year will undertake a dissertation.

Anyone interested in considering applying for this course is encouraged to seek further information from Anthony Ward, Lecturer in Continuing Education, The University Centre, Avebury Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1TG. Tel: 0732 352316.

## ST. DUNSTAN'S MILLENNIUM

A major exhibition is being held in Canterbury as part of the celebrations to mark the millennium of the death of Dunstan, Abbot of Glastonbury and Archbishop of Canterbury (959-988). In his lifetime, Dunstan was a major promoter of monastic reform, and after his death his shrine came to be the most important in Canterbury Cathedral until the murder of Thomas Becket.

From April until mid-June 1988 there will be an exhibition in the Royal Museum, High Street, Canterbury, entitled "St. Dunstan in History", which will contain many Canterbury manuscripts and other objects associated with St. Dunstan, his times, and his later cult. For any further information contact Mr T.W.T. Tatton-Brown,

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AWARDS

The Maidstone Area Archaeological Group have been awarded a grant from the Lloyds Bank Dating Fund to enable a Carbon 14 dating to be carried out on an artifact from the prehistoric site at Allington, near Maidstone.

### MISS ANNE ROPER

It was with very great regret that we learnt of the death on the 7th February of our member Miss Anne Roper M.B.E. at the age of 84, who was, as *The Times* said, "the epitome of a favourite aunt".

## Excavations at Sedgebrook Roman Villa, Plaxtol

Excavations re-commenced during March, and will continue on most Sundays throughout the summer. Everyone interested in taking part should contact Ted Connell, 29 Penenden, New Ash Green, Dartford DA3 8LR. Tel. no. 0474 872763.

## GRANTS FOR RESEARCH IN 1988

The following grants have been made by the K.A.S. to assist work being undertaken in Kent during the current season:

**Thanet Archaeological Unit** will be assisted by a grant of £150 towards the purchase of a secondhand theodolite for surveying and planning during their excavations.

**The Kent Archaeological Society's** excavation at **Sedgebrook Roman Villa, Plaxtol**, directed by Mr Roger Cockett, has been allocated a total of £150 to enable excavation and post excavation work to continue during 1988.

**Fieldwork Grants.** Are you planning an excavation of fieldwork within the county of Kent during 1989? Grants are available from the K.A.S. to assist work carried out by Affiliated Societies or individual members. Applications on the appropriate form (obtainable from the Hon. Gen. Sec.) should be made to the Hon. General Secretary by 1st October 1988.

### Are you interested in the history and archaeology of the County of Kent?

The Kent Archaeological Society was founded in 1857 "to promote the study of archaeology in all its branches, especially within the County of Kent". Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in the local history of Kent, in its churches, in the recording and preservation of its ancient buildings, in the lives and achievements of its men and women, and in the study and publication of its records.

Of all its activities the most important has always been, and continues to be that of publication. Every year the Society publishes and issues free to members, *Archaeologia Cantiana*, an attractively bound volume of some 300 pages, reporting on the activities of the year and containing papers, many of them illustrated, upon a wide variety of Kentish subjects. To maintain contact with members, a Newsletter is also issued giving details of activities within the County.

The annual subscription is £10 (£5 for persons under 21) and Joint Subscription (Husband and Wife) £13. Write now to Mr A. C. Harrison, B.A. F.S.A., Honorary General Secretary,

*The Honorary Editor of the Newsletter wishes to draw his readers' attention to the fact that neither the Council of the K.A.S. nor the Editor is answerable for the opinions, attitudes or views which contributors may express in the course of their signed articles. Each author is alone responsible for the contents and substance of their letters, items or papers.*

**Hon. Editor: Ted Connell.**

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