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ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1963

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1963

Council presents its One Hundred and Fifth Report, and the Statement of Accounts for 1963.

VICE PRESIDENT

Council is gratified to report that His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, P.C., D.D., has accepted the office of Vice President of the Society.

OBITUARY

It was with the deepest regret that Council received the news of the death of Major M. Teichman Derville. He had filled the office of President of the Society with great distinction from 1939 to 1959, during which time he had the felicity of presiding over the Centenary celebrations of the Society. He had occupied the Presidential Chair for longer than any previous President, and the Society owes much to his wise guidance.

Council has also to record with regret the deaths of its Honorary Member, Major R. W. Tomlinson, and of Mr. C. S. Chettoe, a valued member of Council.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Museum, Maidstone, on the 22nd June, 1963, the President in the Chair. Council's Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts for 1962 were received and adopted.

After the luncheon interval some fifty members and their friends heard an excellent lecture on Industrial Archaeology by Mr. Rex Wailes, F.S.A., M.I.Mech.E., Consultant to the Industrial Monuments Survey. This was illustrated by a series of most interesting slides, and the lecture was warmly received, the President expressing the thanks of the meeting to the lecturer.

MEMBERSHIP

During the period from 1st January, 1962 to 1st January, 1964, under the new amendment to annual subscriptions, 126 new members were elected. Losses from death and resignation amounted to 178, showing a net loss of 52 members. The total membership stands at 1068. The Society continues to flourish; but Council feels that there are still many people who would desire to become members, and appeals to all members to bring in persons known to them who might wish to belong to the Society. Young members are especially welcome, and a special reduction in subscription is available to help them to join; and a similar reduction applies to a joint subscription in the case of husband and wife.

COUNCIL

At the Annual General Meeting Professor F. R. H. DuBoulay, Mr. F. C. Elliston Erwood, Dr. F. Hull, Lieut.-Colonel G. W. Meates, Dr. P. H. Reaney and Mr. S. Mendel were re-elected to Council.

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Mr. F. C. Elliston Erwood was appointed Chairman of Council on the relinquishment of that office by Lieut.-Colonel G. W. Meates, on the appointment of the latter as General Secretary.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

General Secretary. Miss K. E. Spears having resigned, Lieut.-Colonel G. W. Meates was appointed to this office, and Council expresses to Miss Spears its warm appreciation and gratitude for her devoted work in the management of the affairs of the Society.

Treasurer. Mr. H. Grugeon has been confirmed in the appointment of Treasurer to the Society.

Honorary Auditor. On the resignation of Mr. Colin McAbe, Mr. S. Mendel was appointed to this office, and Council thanks Mr. McAbe very sincerely for the long service he has given in this capacity.

FINANCE

The Accounts for 1962 and 1963 are published with this Report and cover the two years since the subscription was raised from £1 to £1 10s. 0d. Council again appeals:—

- (1) For new members.
- (2) For donations to the *Archæologia Cantiana* Fund and to the Records Publications Fund to help meet the ever increasing cost of printing.
- (3) For members who do not use Bankers' Orders to pay their subscriptions (due on the 1st, January) to the Treasurer, Mr. H. Grugeon, Merin Cottage, Iden Green, Benenden, Cranbrook, as early in the year as possible. Cash and postal orders will be acknowledged but in accordance with modern practice no receipt will be given for cheques unless specially required.
- (4) For more members to enter into seven-year covenants to enable the Society to recover Income Tax on their subscriptions at no extra cost to the members. Forms may be obtained from the Treasurer.

EXCURSIONS

Again favoured by the weather, the excursions were arranged as follows:

Saturday, 15th June.	Benenden : Pympe Manor ; Roman ford, Iden Green ; Benenden Manor House ; Benenden School ; Church of St. George, Benenden.
Saturday, 20th July.	Excursion into Sussex : Exhibition of Heraldry, Tunbridge Wells ; Royal Pavilion, Brighton ; Preston Manor, Brighton.
Saturday, 7th Sept.	Rochester—Cobham : Temple Manor, Strood ; Restoration House, Rochester ; Church of St. Mary, Cobham ; Cobham College ; Cobham Hall.

The Society is very grateful indeed to those ladies and gentlemen who contributed so much towards the success of the excursions by doing everything possible, in spite of great inconvenience, to make its members welcome to their homes. It is indebted to Mr. H. F. Thoburn and to Mr. and Mrs. Wigham Richardson for their kindness in allowing members

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the freedom of Pypnpe Manor and Beneden Manor, respectively, and to Miss E. B. Clark, Headmistress of Benenden School, which is a corporate member of the Society, for her hospitality. To Mrs. M. C. LeBon, Local Secretary for Benenden, it is especially grateful for all she did to ensure the success of this visit to her area. The Members who visited the exhibition of Heraldry arranged by the Kent Archives Office were very appreciative of the opportunity. At Preston Manor, Brighton, Miss Margery C. Roberts did not spare herself nor her enthusiasm to make the visit a most enjoyable occasion. The Society is especially grateful to Mr. G. W. G. Mackay for allowing the visit to Restoration House, Rochester, to take place during his absence. Surgeon-Captain M. S. Moore very successfully guided the members through Cobham College and the Church of St. Mary Magdalene where the plate was displayed for the party. At Cobham Hall it enjoyed an excellent tea after a tour of the rooms on show.

ARCHÆOLOGIA CANTIANA

Volume LXXVII was published early in 1963. The papers contained in it are not only excellently written and abundantly illustrated, but also cover a wide field of the archæology and history of the county. The volume maintains, under the able direction of the Honorary Editor, the very high standard which is the tradition of the Society.

LIBRARY AND COLLECTIONS

Members will be interested to know that the Library is in process of reorganization, with the intention of making its contents more readily available to members for consultation, and of rendering it a suitable headquarters of the Society to which members may be attracted.

The considerable mass of pamphlets and notes on the history and activities of the villages of Kent, presented to the Society by the late Dr. Gordon Ward, and which have hitherto been deposited in a range of cardboard boxes, are now being more conveniently filed in a new filing cabinet, which will allow these sources of local history to be more accessible. Shelving space is thus being released for the better display of the library.

The library has recently acquired the newly published 'History of the Kings' Works.' So far two volumes of this work have been issued together with a case of plans. The chronological scope of this work extends from Saxon times to A.D. 1485, and it has some particular interests for students of the history of Kent, notably in its studies of Dover, Rochester and Canterbury castles.

On behalf of the Society a subscription has been made to the publication of a new work by Sir John Dunlop on the history of Sevenoaks, and this will be available in 1964.

RECORDS PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The work of this Committee has continued during the past twelve months and volume 18, *Documents Illustrative of Kentish Medieval History*, should be published during the early months of 1964.

The work on the *Calendar* of the White and Black Books of the Cinque Ports, which is being carried out in association with the Historical Manuscripts Commission, is also progressing favourably and it is hoped that this volume, which will be available only to members of the Kent Archæological Society at a reduced rate, will be published early in 1965.

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The Committee has also considered future projects but it is thought that, until the financial position after the issue of the next two volumes is clear, a firm decision should be deferred.

PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE

Mr. John Evans and Brigadier E. V. Bowra have joined the committee. Mr. John Ward, son of the late Dr. Gordon Ward, has agreed to put his late father's Place Name material into the care of the Committee. This material includes 6 in. gazetteer slips, estimated at some 7,500, and slips from printed sources including 6vv Charter Rolls, Book of Fees, Feudal Aids, Curia Regis Rolls, as well as names drawn from MS estate maps at the British Museum, the Kent Archives Office, etc., and Tithe Awards, for (e.g.) Herne, Reculver and Lamberhurst.

Progress continues on the Schools' Current Place Names Scheme; and the Place Names Group of the Tonbridge Historical Society is collecting material, not only for the Tonbridge area, but is extracting all Kent material from such printed documents as Curia Regis Rolls and Patent Rolls (temp. Elizabeth I).

JOINT COMMITTEE

WITH THE COUNCIL FOR THE PRESERVATION OF RURAL KENT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS

Many cases of redevelopment involving demolition of houses of architectural or historic interest were considered by the Committee during the year under review. Redevelopment, in particular of Canterbury, Faversham, Maidstone, Rochester and Sandwich is endangering much that should be preserved, and projected demolitions in the High Streets in Tenterden and Tonbridge are of especial concern.

Efforts are being made to preserve St. Edmund's Chapel, Dover, and to restore St. John's, Swingfield, with a view to its being taken over by the Order of St. John. The ruined church of St. Mary at Little Chart, near Ashford, which was destroyed by a flying bomb in August, 1944, is to be stabilized and preserved as a tidy ruin, very largely as a result of the action of this Committee.

It is hoped that, as a result of efforts by the Committee, the attractive All Saints' Vicarage, Maidstone, will be saved from demolition. A Decimus Burton house in danger of being demolished, forming part of the Calverley Park Estate at Tunbridge Wells, has been saved.

Action has been taken to preserve windmills, for not all of which have Kent County Council or the local council concerned taken responsibility. The fine smock mill at Willesborough, on the outskirts of Ashford, is in urgent need of repair, and the Committee has supported the proposal to restore and convert for residential use the windmill at Woodchurch.

A Study Group was appointed to go into the question of collecting measured drawings and photographs of ancient buildings in the county, some of which have already been demolished. A system is under consideration of preparing microfilms of such drawings, and of evolving a special card mounting for safe storage, so that they are both accessible and completely protected. It is believed that such a collection will be of great benefit to students, and will help to preserve a record of buildings of architectural merit which have over the centuries been constructed in Kent. The collection is housed at the County Archives Office, County Hall, Maidstone.

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Mr. L. R. A. Grove, Curator of the Maidstone Museum and Art Gallery, a member of this Committee, has drawn up a list of ruins, moated sites and field antiquities for the county, excluding windmill sites and bridges, and he has enlisted the aid of three members of the Ordnance Survey (Archæological Division) who will add to or subtract from the list on their travels for gathering information for a new edition of the O.S. 6 in. maps for Kent.

The Folkestone Office is now in possession of what is believed to be a complete collection of all lists so far published for the county of buildings of architectural and historic interest under Section 30 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. It is clear, however, that many of them are inadequate as to grading and incomplete as to subjects, and the Committee has put forward to its two parent bodies a recommendation as to how the procedure of listing buildings could be improved.

EXCAVATIONS COMMITTEE

The research programme of the Society, that of investigating and dating the Iron Age earthworks of the county, has proceeded with great success under the direction of Mrs. E. V. Piercy Fox, F.S.A. who reports:

Mr. D. B. Kelly of Maidstone Museum assisted the Director with the organization and direction of the excavation at Boughton Quarry Camp, Loose near Maidstone, in April 1963. More than twenty-five boys and girls from schools in the Maidstone area and some older volunteers, notably Mr. Ray, Mr. Miles, Mr. Chaloner Evans and Mr. Greenhalf, worked hard to clear the undergrowth and dig the sections. The unvallate defences consist of an impressive rampart, steep-sided and of exceptional height, and a ditch 30 feet across. Boughton Quarry has damaged one side of the camp and today there remain two disconnected linear earthworks without obvious gateways. The size and scale of the earthworks and the recorded finds attest an important site, and if the findings of the first season are confirmed by excavation in 1964, the entirely new concept of the Iron Age centre of power in the Medway valley near Maidstone will require major adjustments in Iron Age studies. The Society is indebted to the landowners, Miss J. Foster Clark and Sir Godfrey Davies and the Ministry of Public Building and Works for permission to excavate.

The Society's excavation at Boughton Quarry Camp, Loose, near Maidstone, will continue for a second season from April to May 1964. Members of the Society and their friends and members of affiliated Societies who wish to take part in the excavation or to visit the site are requested to contact Mr. D. B. Kelly at Maidstone Museum, Telephone Maidstone 4497. The excavation will be directed by Mrs. Piercy Fox and Mr. Kelly; work will be in progress from April 14th until early in May.

The Committee are glad to report that Mr. A. C. Harrison has become one of its members.

The state of excavation throughout the county is very satisfactory; archæological research is being conducted in different fields of antiquity by qualified directors and in accordance with modern scientific practice. Reports of those excavations practically supported by the Society will be found at Appendix 1.

General interest in the archæology and history of the county is widespread. A further meeting was arranged by Mr. Frank Jenkins on 19th October 1963 for field archæologists at Canterbury. This was opened by the President of the Society and was exceedingly well attended.

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A series of short papers was read by directors of excavations, many exhibits were on view, and the whole proceedings were enjoyed and received with acclamation.

LOCAL SECRETARIES AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Dr. J. D. Ogilvie has resigned the Secretaryship for Deal, Walmer and Sandwich, and Council is very grateful for the services he has rendered. They are glad to report that Mr. David Downes has very kindly taken over these duties; they wish to thank all Local Secretaries for their work in the interests of the Society. Detailed Reports from Local Secretaries will be found at Appendix 2.

By Order of the Council,
G. W. Meates, Lieut.-Colonel,
General Secretary

20 January 1964

APPENDIX 1

Reports on excavations supported and aided by the Society

Interim Report by Mr. Frank Jenkins, F.S.A., on Excavations at Bigberry Camp, Harbledown, near Canterbury, 1962-3 :

The first stage of the planned programme of excavations at the hill fort known as Bigberry Camp, Harbledown, is now completed. The area selected for examination is situated immediately to the north of the supposed eastern entrance through which runs a disused section of the Pilgrims Way. The object of the excavations is to test the 'cause-way' crossing the line of the defences, now deeply cut by two hollow ways, and to recover any evidence pertaining to the structural phases of the earthworks.

A trench 38 ft. long by 10 ft. wide was cut at right-angles to the line of the inner ditch from the highest point of the scarp into the bottom of the ditch. In addition to this, seven trenches, each 6 ft. by 4 ft., were sunk into the ditch bottom from the present day surface which lies at an average depth of 17 ft. below the top of the rampart. The original bottom of the ditch lay at a depth of 4 ft. 6 ins. (average) in the natural Thanet Sand which forms the basis of the hill spur on which the fort is situated. It is evident that here the builders of the earthworks took advantage of the natural slope of the end of this spur in order to avoid the digging of deep ditches.

The bottom of the ditch was sealed by a deposit of dark grey sandy silt flecked with specks of charcoal, which must have rapidly accumulated soon after the ditch was first opened. From this silt came several potsherds, all of much gritted ware typical of the East Kent Early Iron Age A culture fabrics. Two large postholes found in the ditch bottom had been set in a narrow trench sunk into the natural sand, and filled with clean loamy sand, less compacted than the former. The postholes and the trench filling were sealed by the deposit of primary silt. Single potsherds were found in the dark fillings of both postholes.

Although much work is still needed to prove the function of these features and to recover the complete plan, one may perhaps be permitted to hazard a guess that they represent a strong palisade set in the trench in the ditch bottom to strengthen the defence system hereabouts. It is clear that as the remains were sealed by the primary silt they belong to the first phase of structural work on the inner defences.

One noteworthy object is an ovoid shaped sling bolt of burnt clay found in the primary silt in the ditch. It is precisely matched by one, now in the

Musée Cinquantenaire at Brussels, which came from an Early Iron Age hill fort in Belgium.

This project, sponsored by the Kent Archaeological Society Excavations Committee as part of the work of the Earthworks Committee, was supervised by Mr. Frank Jenkins. F.S.A., and members of the Canterbury Archaeological Society Stour Valley Research Group carried out the work. The Council for British Archaeology kindly recommended a grant from the Carnegie Trust for training purposes. Thanks are also due to Mr. A. G. L. Payne, of 'Woodside', Bigberry Hill, who kindly gave permission for the excavations to be carried out on his property. Next season it is hoped that the work will continue in order to recover the plan of the palisade, to test the 'causeway' and to examine the original ground level on which the rampart bank is based.

Interim Report by Mr. P. J. Tester, F.S.A. on the discovery of a Palaeolithic site at Cuxton :

Excavation since October 1962 in the garden of Cuxton rectory has revealed a very extraordinary concentration of Acheulian implements in a thin stratum of ancient terrace gravel apparently related to the Medway. Within a total area of 86 square feet over 200 hand-axes have been found, not more than 6 ft. from the surface. With these occurred numerous flake-tools and a considerable quantity of waste flakes.

Typologically the industry appears to be Middle Acheulian, of similar facies to that of the Middle Gravel in the Barnfield Pit at Swanscombe. At the latter site, however, the implements occur in the '100-ft.' terrace gravels of the Lower Thames, while at Cuxton the implement-bearing gravel is much lower in relation to the Medway, the deposit resting on a bench cut in the chalk at about 55 ft. o.d. This involves serious problems of geological interpretation as the '50-ft.' terrace of the Thames contains much later industries of Levallois type.

At the beginning of November 1963, Professor Frederick E. Zeuner visited the site and discussed with me the problems associated with the discovery. It was then arranged that further research should be conducted in collaboration next season, but the Professor's sudden and untimely death only four days after his visit to Cuxton leaves future plans for continuing the excavation in a state of uncertainty.

Our members, Mr. A. C. Harrison and Mr. E. R. Swain, have given valuable support with the undertaking which has called for careful digging and intricate recording, while Mr. M. Ocock has taken the levels. The Kent Archaeological Society made a grant towards the cost of the work, and this is herewith gratefully acknowledged. Permission for the digging has been given by the Rector of Cuxton, the Rev. R. A. Smith. A fine display of the exhibits has been mounted in the British Museum, where they may be studied.

Interim Report by Mr. A. P. Detsicas, M.A., F.S.A.(Scot.), on the site of the Romano-British villa at Eccles :

The excavations at the site of the Romano-British villa at Eccles were continued throughout the 1963 season by the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group under the direction of our member, Mr. A. P. Detsicas, M.A., F.S.A.(Scot.).

Excavation was again concentrated mainly on the successive bath buildings of the villa. The major result of the season's work has been the dis-

covery of a third, and earliest, bath building partly underlying its successors and belonging to the first period of occupation of the site (c. A.D. 75-100). This early bath building contained several rooms, some of which were hypocausted, one was apsidal in shape, and two had mosaics since almost completely destroyed—but undoubtedly the most outstanding room was an unusually large (18 feet in internal diameter) *laconicum* belonging to this period.

Further exploration of the second and third bath buildings resulted in the recovery of the plan of the former's furnace-room, the discovery of another hypocausted room of a phase not previously recognized, and the addition of new rooms to the plan of the third bath building as well as the clarification of the precise relationship between the second and third bath buildings.

Excavation was also initiated in the area of the villa's living accommodation resulting in the discovery of structures contemporary with all three bath building periods.

Interim Report by Mr. B. J. Philp on the excavation at the Roman fort at Reculver :

The Reculver Excavation Group completed its seventh season's work inside the Roman fort in February, March, June, August, October and December 1963.

Additional sections dug across the foundation-pebbles of the Principia fully confirmed the conclusions of earlier work.

The small underground water-cistern (?) located in 1962 outside the east wall of the Principia was totally excavated.

An extensive network of trenches dug across the unexplored rear division of the fort south of the Via Quintana revealed extensive destruction by robbing, erosion and later ploughing. The Via Decumana running from the rear of the Sacellum to the south gate was found intact having been remetalled once. Only slight traces of two internal walls survived of the structure originally east of this road, but to the west masonry footings based on foundations of flat beach-pebbles were uncovered. The construction was identical to that of other buildings examined inside the fort and clearly this had formed part of the original plan. The floor of this structure was of clay and chalk.

Another defensive ditch was found deeply buried beneath this part of the fort. This seems to be the southern side of the rectangular earthwork discovered first on the east side of the fort. A short section of the west side of this earthwork was also located and thus the outline of this interesting feature is slowly emerging. Pottery of mid-first century date was again found in the filling of the ditches and this prompts the suggestion that the earthwork may represent part of a Roman fortlet of the Conquest period. Some nine sections have now been dug across the ditches and the profiles revealed show an alarming variation, and clearly more work needs to be done.

In October, workmen digging foundations for a new toilet-block on the Council Caravan site, some 200 feet south-east of the fort, struck a hitherto unknown Roman structure. Immediate excavations revealed an impressive furnace-chamber, with walls four feet high, presumably attached to an adjacent building (perhaps the bath-house of the fort) yet to be discovered. Fifteen small flues fed hot air into hollow channels inside the walls which in turn led into a substantial arched flue. Representations made by the

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Group to the Herne Bay Council resulted in the toilet-block being re-sited, and the Roman building is no longer threatened.

APPENDIX 2

Reports from Local Secretaries and Groups

Ashford

Mr. E. T. Mortimore reports that the local affiliated Societies are flourishing and are working closely with the recently established Civic Society.

Bexley

Mr. P. J. Tester reports as follows :

The eighteenth-century Mansion in Danson Park has recently been restored by Bexley Council who have at the same time pulled down the contemporary stone lodge at the east gate and substituted a brick house. A new dam has been built at the east end of the lake to take the place of that generally considered to have been constructed by Capability Brown when he landscaped the Park for John Boyd about two centuries ago. The old stables north-west of the Mansion are in bad condition and there is talk of their demolition in spite of their architectural interest.

St. Mary's church is having its curious ' candle-snuffer ' spire reshingled.

The ornamental iron gates and railings in front of Hall Place have been taken down for much-needed repairs which are being undertaken, it is learned, with the aid of a grant from the Ministry of Public Building and Works.

On the north side of Bexley High Street our member Mr. L. C. Dale has been excavating on the site of a recently demolished house adjoining the west bank of the Cray. The house, which is considered to have been built about 1700, has been shown by these excavations to overlie flint footings of an earlier structure associated with medieval pottery.

Bromley

Mrs. E. V. Piercy Fox reports as follows :

An important discovery was made by the writer in the Roman Cemetery at Warbank, Keston, during the re-excavation of the cemetery which has been in progress since 1961. The well-known circular building was re-excavated in 1961, and in 1962 a *bothros* or ritual pit was discovered 70 feet westward from the centre of the circular building. The *bothros* is excavated in the natural chalk rock ; it is a circular pit or shaft 11 feet in diameter and 16 feet deep, divided into two sections by a projection 1 foot wide at a depth of 7 feet 6 inches. The projection becomes a flat step 4 feet wide at one place in the western segment. The *bothros* was carefully made and smoothly finished. The cremation of a lap-dog and a smaller dog had taken place above the flat step and in the adjacent area. A late Roman quarry had broken into the *bothros* near this point and destroyed the area behind the step but fortunately there remained on the step and extending backwards for 1 foot 2 inches an extensive foundation of clay burnt *in situ* to a tile-like condition with large burnt and severely comminuted flints among the debris. One clue suggested that this area may have been circular, perhaps a small circular pit opening off the *bothros*.

When the cremations were completed the remains of the dogs mixed with finely comminuted charcoal were placed in a pile on the floor of the *bothros* and seven sherds of a red ware pot were placed on the pile, which was covered

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with an extremely hard layer 1 foot 3 inches thick lying evenly over the floor of the *bothros*. The hard layer was made up of chalk and a fine soft brown powder not yet identified and the surface was covered with a fine powder 3 inches thick which thickened towards the sides of the *bothros*. The *bothros* was covered over and remained undisturbed until late Roman times when men quarrying for chalk broke into the *bothros* in the cremation area. At this stage it was decided to fill the *bothros* and this decision can be dated to the fourth century A.D. by pottery found in the filling. Dr. G. W. Dimbleby has examined the charcoal; Dr. I. Cornwall identified the cremated bones which were the first cremated animal bones to be submitted to him. The dog had its place in Celtic ritual and the *bothros* would seem at Warbank to considerably antedate A.D. 75, because fine-quality Roman buildings were being erected at Warbank about this date. The red ware sherds can not be precisely dated. Celtic ritual at Keston is not surprising; its roots would lie in Caesar's Camp above Warbank on Holwood Hill which is of La Tene II date (Second B. c. 125 B.C.) and represents the first concentration of power in the Lower Thames Valley prior to the founding of London.

Dover

Mr. E. H. Bayly reports on archaeological activity in 1963 :

An area of about 120 acres of the Western Heights has been bought by the Dover Corporation from the War Department. Excluded from the sale are the site of the Drop Redoubt, where the Bredenstone is, certain moats, and the site of the Church of the Knights Templar, which are all to be transferred to the Ministry of Public Building and Works, to be maintained as Ancient Monuments. Most of the area purchased by the Corporation will be retained as Open Space, but redevelopment will take place at Archcliffe, and in due course at Grand Shaft Barracks.

In the alterations along Townwall Street east of the Hotel de France, the medieval wall has been met in several places. It has been notable that the stones have been smoothed by the action of water along its front. Nothing was discovered to suggest a Roman wall along the same line.

The excavations by St. Mary-in-Castro mentioned last year have been concluded; there is no further development to report.

The redevelopment of the site next to Maison Dieu House revealed a short length of what appeared to be a medieval wall.

Edenbridge

Mr. J. C. Irwin reports :

There have been no excavations in the area during the year. The Edenbridge and District Historical Society continues to flourish with more than 100 members and well-attended meetings. Members of the Society are engaged in two projects : (1) the compilation of a glossary of Edenbridge Place-names which will be published next year, probably as a cyclostyled pamphlet; and (2) a survey of houses of historic interest in Edenbridge Parish which is expected to take three years to complete. Both these projects are being organized under my direction as Chairman of the Society.

Faversham

Mr. Sydney Wilson reports as follows :

There is a good deal of activity at the present time. A Faversham Society has been formed; it has in mind the preservation of a Green Charge

Mill, the last of the many which were included in the Royal Powder Mills. It is almost identical with a drawing dated 1798. The Society is also striving to preserve a Tithe Barn at Davington and turn it into a Museum for relics of the old Gunpowder Industry, and they are in touch with I.C.I. on this matter.

The rehabilitation of Abbey Street is making good progress. All interesting features are being carefully brought out and restored; already the Street, once in danger of becoming a slum, is assuming the character of a residential area, and the many interested Societies who have visited the Town have expressed satisfaction and the hope that others will adopt similar schemes elsewhere.

Work will soon commence on the new co-educational grammar school on land formerly within the area of Faversham Abbey. It is understood that the Ministry of Public Building and Works has arranged with the Kent Education Committee for observation to be kept on excavations for possible remains of the Abbey.

Gravesend

Mr. A. F. Allen reports as follows :

During trenching operations along the north side of the Watling Street, (September 1963), by the S.E.G.B. at Springhead, a number of signs of the Roman occupation of the area were revealed. Unfortunately, due to the fact that a large trench-digging machine was being used, a close inspection of the site was not possible, but Mr. P. A. Connolly watched the excavating for the Gravesend Historical Society. Pottery and metal objects were recovered, mostly from rubbish pits, of which six were cut through. Also destroyed were a well and three kilns or ovens. A minor road, 14 ft. wide with ditches, and a major road 4 ft. thick of gravel and chalk layers were also cut through. Two human skeletons were revealed by the digger which were dated by associated pottery to late 1st-early 2nd centuries. Most of the pottery was of this date or a little later, and included several complete vessels, a Samian platter of Form 18, and five potters' marks on Samian bases.

Operations continued on the main Springhead site to eliminate the area to be shortly covered by the widening of the Watling Street. Two structures were excavated which will be the subjects for future reports in *Archaeologia Cantiana*. One was a small chalk-walled structure which was too frail to have been a building, but was probably the foundations of a drying floor. The other is a far different type of structure with substantial flint walls. It is hoped that this will be completely excavated in the next few weeks.

A site at the southern end of the High Street, Gravesend, was watched by Mr. E. W. Tilley of the Society. Here five pits of varying depths were excavated and a large collection of late eighteenth and nineteenth century domestic pottery vessels were recovered. All the vessels were smashed into pieces but many have been restored and are complete. The ware was mostly red ware with brown glazes, although one pit yielded a great quantity of white porcelain with blue transfer decoration of the 'Willow pattern' type. Also found was a complete chamber pot with floral decoration and the crowned bust of King George III. The Collection will be housed in the Chantry Museum, Gravesend, and a report will be sent to the Gravesend Public Library.

A chalk well was found in the garden of 18 Mitchell Avenue, Northfleet, which was investigated by Mr. J. E. L. Caiger, and he reports that it is

similar in most respects to the one already illustrated and described by him in *Archæologia Cantiana*, LXXIV (1960).

Investigations in the river mud at Higham Bight—Map Reference 701754—have produced a number of pieces of Roman pottery including two pieces of red glazed ware Forms 18 and 18/31 with potters' marks. These finds appear to be in the process of being washed out of the saltings on the seaward side of the River wall at this point and would suggest a site of some Roman settlement which is now being washed away by the erosion of the Saltings. The conditions preclude any proper investigation and it is felt that all that can be done is to record the fact of Roman settlement at this point beyond the sea wall.

During excavations in May 1962, in the ground around St. Katherine's Chapel, Shorne, human bones were found confirming the tradition that the ground around the Chapel was a burial ground (*Archæologia Cantiana*, XX).

Malling

Mr. Richard G. Boyle reports :

In regard to the Chestnuts Burial Chamber at Addington, the report of this excavation in 1957 by Dr. John Alexander was published in *Archæologia Cantiana* in 1961. The owner has since found that the small fragment N is the top of the back sidestone F, also that the pieces L and Q definitely do belong to V, only a small piece of which is now apparently missing (Plan I of the Report). The importance of this is that we now know the height of the front side stones, eleven feet, and the back side stones, nine feet. The owner hopes that re-erection may be started in 1964. Mr. Bethoney of the Ministry of Public Building and Works has made splendid models of all the stones, and these have been invaluable.

Orpington

Mr. B. D. Stoyel reports as follows :

In the autumn of 1962 Philip Johnson found a Saxon coin when digging in his father's front garden at 5 Woodhead Drive, Orpington. This was identified by Mr. R. H. M. Dolley, F.S.A., of the British Museum, as a penny of Aethelred II. To quote Mr. Dolley:

'It belongs to a prolific issue which I think began at Michaelmas 991, the coins remaining current until Michaelmas 997. The obverse legend reads

+AETHELREAD REX ANGLORUM

and the reverse

+EDWERD M O LUND

the latter showing that it was struck by the London moneyer Edward. In this museum we have a coin from the same obverse die but a different reverse die which came to us in the nineteenth century from a Russian hoard.'

Although the British Museum offered to purchase this coin, Philip Johnson decided to keep it. I am obliged to our member Mr. R. D. Clarke, and to Mr. R. Q. Rahtz and the Chislehurst & Sidecup Grammar School for Boys, for reporting this find.

It may not be generally known that Miss Susanna Thrale, daughter of Henry Thrale, the friend of Dr. Johnson, came in about 1826 to live at Knockholt, and re-erected in the grounds of her house, 'Ash Grove', the summer house from the garden of the Thrale residence at Streatham. This summer house was a favourite haunt of Dr. Johnson and it is said that

he wrote some of his works there. It was moved to another part of the grounds of 'Ash Grove' in 1912 by Mr. W. Brittain Jones, a later resident, and he no doubt carried out some restoration work at the same time. In recent years, however, it has been in rather poor condition and it became obvious that it would not survive for much longer unless repairs were executed. In view of its historic interest our member Mr. D. A. Jeffrey initiated a move for its preservation and it is now very pleasing to report that, although not directly as a result of Mr. Jeffery's efforts, it has been acquired by Mr. W. H. Wells of Beckenham and given to the London County Council for preservation. It has been re-erected at the Rookery, Streatham Common, as a memorial to Dr. Johnson's associations with the Thrale family.

Rochester

Mr. A. C. Harrison reports :

The Archæological Society of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School has continued its work on the southern defences of Rochester in the Deanery Garden.

Roman. The section across the south wall of the Roman city has been completed, and from it the method of construction can be clearly seen, as well as that of the earlier earth rampart previously noted (*Archæologia Cantiana*, LXXVII, 1). A further extension to the south has brought to light, at a depth of 9 feet, the ditch belonging to the earth rampart. This, V-shaped in section, survives to a depth of 4 feet and is filled with the debris of the rampart, which was cut back when the wall was built. Pottery, which includes some Samian, recovered from the silt of the ditch, seems consistent with a date in the latter half of the 2nd century. This agrees with the pottery from the section cut in 1961, at the S.E. corner of the city, behind Messrs. Leonards' shop (*Archæologia Cantiana*, LXXVI, lxxiv).

Medieval. As already noted, the upper levels to the south of the Roman wall were removed in Medieval times by a large excavation, now proved to extend for at least 20 feet and probably for considerably more, and it seems increasingly likely that the purpose of this was defensive. In which case its identification with the ditch, known from literary sources to have been dug in 1225 and filled in by permission of Edward III in 1344, seems a reasonable assumption—which reopens an old controversy. The late Canon Livett in his article in *Archæologia Cantiana* XXI, maintained that the existing City Ditch, visible both in Eagle Court and in the Deanery Orchard, represented the 1344 defences. This view was considered to have been refuted by St. John Hope, in *Archæologia Cantiana*, XXIV, who ascribed the Deanery Orchard ditch to 1225. Neither, of course, was aware of the existence of this filled-in ditch immediately in front of the Roman wall, and pottery from it has been dated c. 1300.

An apparently fatal objection to the identification suggested above was the wall long known to exist some 50 feet to the south of the Roman wall and considered by both Canon Livett and St. John Hope to represent an early southward extension of the city in the time of Bishop Ernulf (c. 1120) as there could be no point in digging a defensive ditch inside an existing wall. Investigation, however, of the 'Ernulfian' wall disclosed :

- (1) that its masonry was entirely unlike any other Norman work in Rochester,
- (2) that it rested on 'made' soil and the tip-lines could be traced running underneath the wall, and

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- (3) that its width of only 2 feet 8 inches seemed too narrow for purposes of defence. It is thought therefore that this wall, which may well have been a precinct wall, delimiting the boundary of the priory, can be disregarded. It is hoped to continue the investigation next year.

Dendrochronology. Mr. E. R. Swain of the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group is engaged on the construction of a chronological series of tree-ring measurements for the area and would be most grateful for any suitable sections of timber, particularly from dated buildings.

The Research Group has conducted a rescue excavation, near Funton Creek in the Medway marshes; evidence of industrial activity in the Second century A.D. was found. The precise nature of the site has yet to be ascertained.

Romney Marsh. Miss A. Roper reports an interesting find at Greatstone, dug up by the Kent River Board in August 1963, consisting of the bones of a Bottle-nosed Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*). The identification was made by Mr. Eric Philp of Maidstone Museum, and the age of the bones probably go back to the sixteenth century.

Sevenoaks: Franks Hall, near Farningham.

Lieut.-Colonel G. W. Meates reports:

Excavation of this Romano-British villa was concluded during the summer of 1962, work being carried out on the northern extremity. Much of this was found to have been swept away in antiquity by river action, but the general plan of the farm-house suggests a total length of 96 ft. and a width, including the short wings, of 64 ft. Much pottery of the Second to late Fourth centuries was found, confirming occupation to have lasted to the first decade or so of the Fifth century. Among the finds were the skeletal remains of two infants associated with the fragments of a large store-jar of Patchgrove fabric, and among objects of bronze was a small weight, biconical, and inscribed with the symbol for *uncia* and the Greek letter *Gamma*, signifying 3 ounces. Such weights are very rare on villa sites, and are thought to reflect the fiscal reorganization of Diocletian early in the Fourth century; their purpose seems to have been primarily for weighing currency when making payments, especially in gold coins. This weight was submitted to Mr. L. G. Matthews, F.S.A., who very kindly reported upon it. Work on the abundant material recovered is proceeding, and a report will appear in due course. The direction of these excavations was throughout in the capable hands of our member, Mr. J. V. Ritson.

Lullingstone Roman Villa

The impressive protective building, erected by the Ministry of Public Building and Works, was opened on 2nd April, 1963 by Mr. Richard Sharples M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry, and 58,000 persons visited the Villa during 1963. It is now one of the most popular attractions in the county, and the excavators record with gratitude the support received from many quarters during the years of excavation, and especially from the Kent Archaeological Society, whose help was accorded to the project from the earliest days.

Sittingbourne

Our member Mr. David Ford has initiated excavations at the Norman

motte and bailey castle at Tonge near Sittingbourne, with the intention of dating its phases of occupation more precisely than is at present known, and to determine if possible the original existence of wooden palisade and structures on the summit of the motte. Preliminary work has so far only been carried out, and an interim report is reserved for subsequent publication.

Tunbridge Wells

Mrs. V. F. Desborough reports as follows:

The Tunbridge Wells Branch of the Kent Archaeological Society has increased by nine members during 1963, including three active 'diggers'. Mr. I. D. Margary, F.S.A. most generously came over to lecture to our members on 'The Pilgrims' Way, and North Downs Main Trackway', illustrating his lecture by most interesting slides, on the 30th March. We had an audience of nearly a hundred people, many staying on afterwards for tea. As usual, Mr. Owen Jennings allowed us to hold the lecture at The School of Art and Crafts, and his good Caretaker and his wife arranged the tea for us. Mr. Jennings has been a very good and generous friend to the Kent Archaeological Society during the many years that I have been Secretary here. A Silver Collection was made after the lecture in aid of Mr. James Money's excavations of the Early Iron-working Site, which lies in Minepit Wood, Withyham. Owing to illness, the annual local Outing could not take place, to the Secretary's great regret.

West Kent Border Excavation Group.

Mr. B. J. Philp reports :

The Group completed its fourth season's work on Hayes Common during 1963. For the first time substantial progress has been made with the discovery of two hitherto unknown ditches. The first, some 6 feet deep and about 8 feet wide, was traced for over 180 feet. The second, much smaller, ditch joins the first at its western end and this has been traced for about 40 feet. Most significant was the occurrence of domestic rubbish in the upper filling of the larger ditch including over 100 sherds of crude and very fragmentary pottery, substantially the first from the site. In addition large pieces of quern-stone, a number of flint flakes and several 'pot-boilers' were also recovered. The finds have been tentatively dated to the late Bronze Age as have the clay loom-weights discovered nearby in 1962.

These discoveries prove, conclusively, that a settlement existed on Hayes Common in prehistoric times, and in this respect it is a welcome addition to the short list of such sites in Kent. What relationship the large number of adjacent hut-circles has with this settlement remains to be finally established. The very dense undergrowth and forest may preclude these initial discoveries from being pursued at any length.

Survey work in West Wickham and Hayes continues during the autumn and winter months. The area has been divided into numbered units which are searched as and when conditions permit. Already several new prehistoric and Roman sites have been located and preliminary excavations undertaken. Members of the Group have also assisted with excavations at Eastwood, Hartley, Reculver and Springhead.