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## INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

### I. REPORTS ON EXCAVATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE SOCIETY

#### *Interim Report by Mr. P. J. Tester, F.S.A., on the Excavations at Boxley Abbey.*

By the courtesy of our member, Sir John Best-Shaw, the Kent Archaeological Society has conducted excavations during 1971 at Boxley Abbey for the purpose of determining the monastic layout. Five members of the Excavations Committee have taken an active part in the investigation and assistance has been given by the Archaeological Society of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group and the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group. A preliminary site-plan was prepared by Mr. J. E. L. Caiger who also conducted a resistivity survey. Excavation has consisted mainly of cross-trenching to locate buried footings, and by this means considerable additions have been made to our knowledge of the plan.

In general, the arrangement as shown in the late F. C. Elliston-Erwood's plan in *Arch. Cant.*, lxvi (1953) has been proved to be substantially correct, with several qualifications. The church was of the same form and dimensions as he showed except that the transepts were longer (north-south) and contained three eastern chapels each instead of two. Some walls discovered in a small excavation by Mr. B. J. Wilson in 1959 and 1966 are now seen to be related to the night-stair in the south-west corner of the south transept. Inside the nave, the width of the north aisle has been established by finding the foundation of the sleeper wall on which the north arcade stood. At the west end the foundations of a tower with diagonal buttresses have been brought to light.

All four alleys of the cloister have been located by excavation and the enclosed area appears to have been much longer north-south than east-west. The range on the south side is now known to have occupied the position indicated on Elliston-Erwood's plan as 'Alternative site for Refectory', and not to the north as he suggested. A hearth has been uncovered in the small room at the east end of this range, clearly indicating that it was the warming-house, situated according to normal Cistercian practice between the refectory and the dorter undercroft. The chapter house was somewhat wider than conjectured in the 1953 plan, and was flanked by the parlour on its south side with a through-passage next to it. The width of the dorter range has been established

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and the vaulted drain observed to pass through its south end with a sluice to control the flushing of the rere-dorter.

The west range stood where Elliston-Erwood indicated, and a plan made in 1801, now in the possession of Sir John Best-Shaw, shows that this building, in a modified form, was standing and occupied at that date as part of the post-Dissolution house created from the monastic remains by the Wyatt family and their successors.

From the excavation of the transepts and elsewhere numerous small glazed floor-tiles of various shapes and sizes have been recovered, from which it is clear that tile-mosaic was employed here in similar fashion to other Cistercian churches. Specimens of tiles have also been found bearing patterns formed by impressed lines or in moulded relief.

Roman roof-tiles and pieces of box flue-tiles occur as re-used material in the body of the medieval rubble foundations, and it is likely that they came from a villa or other building on or near the site of the abbey.

It is hoped that work will be resumed in 1972 to clarify some remaining uncertainties, and a full report with a plan will be published in due course.

### *Interim Report by Mr. F. Jenkins, M.A., F.S.A., on the Excavations at Canterbury.*

Excavations were carried out by the Society at the request of the Department of the Environment which provided financial aid, and with a further grant provided by the Kent Archaeological Society; they were supervised by Miss L. Millard and Mr. F. Jenkins. The site selected for examination lies on the north-west side of the Keep of the Norman Castle. It is now quite certain that the main entrance to the Keep on the first floor was originally on that side. After clearance of a complex of the foundations of eighteenth-century oast-houses and other more recent buildings the complete ground plan of the forebuilding and associated staircase was obtained.

The forebuilding turret was 30 ft. long and projected out from the wall of the keep for 15 ft. The foundations were of flint and mortar rubble with stone quoins and were just over 4 ft. thick. Access to the forebuilding was by way of a staircase from the north-east (i.e. from the direction of present-day Gas Street). The foundations of this staircase were of the same construction and had an overall length of 32 ft.

The plinth of the keep was also uncovered. It was ashlar-faced, but for the whole length of the staircase and the forebuilding, the chamfered stonework had been destroyed down to present-day ground level. This destruction may be due to the building of the more recent structures against the wall of the Keep. On the other hand, as it is only confined

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to that part enclosed by the Norman work, it is possible that the original builders never provided the chamfered stonework because it would have been hidden by the attached forebuilding and staircase. The vertical joint between the latter and the plinth of the Keep was clearly seen and suggests that the forebuilding and staircase were built after the builders of the keep had reached first-floor level. Mr. S. E. Rigold has inspected the foundations and is of the opinion that not much time elapsed between the commencement of the building of the Keep and that of the forebuilding.

A useful series of sherds recovered from the contemporary Norman ground level down to the late Roman surface awaits study. Only one small fragment of a polychrome jug, at present a rarity in Canterbury, found at a higher level, is at present noteworthy. A full report of the excavations will appear in due course.

*Interim Report by Mr. J. H. Money, M.A., F.S.A., on the Excavations at the Iron Age Hill-forts on Castle Hill, Tonbridge.*

From 14th August to 5th September and on subsequent weekends, there was a third and final season of digging in the Iron Age hill-forts at Castle Hill, near Tonbridge.

It had been intended to concentrate on the entrance of the larger of the two forts, and to examine two features revealed by air photographs, a possible occupation site and what appeared to be ploughed-out ramparts. Unfortunately, the farmer turned the arable field over to grass and would not allow any digging in it. All efforts, therefore, were concentrated on the entrance, which turned out to be much more complicated than had been expected and its excavation was not completed until the beginning of November.

Excavation revealed the holes of gate-posts on either side of the inner entrance, post-holes across it which may have held a bridge, and other timbering on the inner rampart, which must originally have stood far higher than it is today, with palisade and stone revetment. In the northern end of the ditch, which lies between the inner and outer ramparts, were found many tumbled revetting-stones and burnt timbers, both posts and planks, which were once part of the palisade and a fence along the side of the causeway; this suggests that the fortifications were deliberately destroyed and thrown down into the ditch.

The outer rampart was much more complete, with stone revetments still intact and numerous post-holes and stake-holes which held timbers for supporting the revetment and carrying a bridge across the entrance. On the crest of the outer rampart, there were other post-holes which were probably part of an outer palisade. One gate-post was

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found, and there were smaller post-holes in the roadway which may have held removable timbers for blocking the entrance. The roadway itself was cobbled with iron-stone nodules. Outside the rampart proper but linked with it were outerworks flanking the roadway, which possibly have served as fighting platforms.

On either side of the roadway were drainage gullies which reached nearly into the interior of the fort. They were a secondary feature which followed the burning of the timber-work and may, therefore, have belonged to a peaceful phase when the top of the hill was given over to farming, which required drainage. The gullies were peppered with small stake-holes which appear to represent fencing and could have been intended to prevent livestock from straying into the ditches on either side of the causeway. A single gate-post on the south side of the inner entrance possibly belongs to this second phase.

A track, which may be ancient, once led downhill from the entrance in a northerly direction. It was destroyed some years ago during abortive operations in connection with the widening of the A21, but not before it had been planned and photographed.

A few indeterminable sherds were found in the entrance, but they do nothing to help with the dating of the fort. Fortunately, the British Museum has agreed to do radiocarbon tests on stratified charcoals which were found during the two previous seasons, and these it is hoped will put the two forts in their proper context.

In due course a report on the work will be prepared for publication in *Arch. Cant.*

### *Interim Report by Mr. A. P. Detsicas, M.A., F.S.A., on the Excavations at the Eccles Roman Villa.*

The tenth season of excavations was carried out by the Eccles Excavation Committee, at weekends between late March and late October, 1971, at the site of the Romano-British villa at Eccles, in the parish of Aylesford.

The work was supported by grants from the Kent Archaeological Society, the Society of Antiquaries of London, the British Academy and the Haverfield Bequest of the University of Oxford. The season's excavations were concentrated to north-east and south-east of the main building and the following is a preliminary summary of the results obtained:

(i) Further trenching immediately north-east of the villa provided evidence for a probable gravel path leading away from the building towards the east and for a number of rubbish pits cut into this area when it had ceased to be the forecourt of the villa. New sections were cut across the line of Ditch VIII.

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(ii) The cemetery located last year immediately east of the villa was further explored and some thirty inhumation burials were recorded and removed; the area occupied by this cemetery is still incompletely known.

(iii) A large part of the villa's south-east wing was excavated and six of its rooms have so far been explored. Evidence has been found that, originally, most of the area occupied by these rooms had been laid out as an open courtyard which was to be later converted into a fairly large granary, with a suspended floor and provision for both hot and cold air circulation beneath this floor. In the final stages, a hypocausted room had been inserted at the eastern corner, served by a furnace-room constructed outside the north-east wall of this wing.

(iv) The excavation of *Room 94* was completed, and it was found that a drain had been built through the southern corner of this feature to reinforce the indications that water may have been contained within its walls which were rendered internally with *opus signinum*.

(v) Two more ditches, both earlier than the building of the villa, were sectioned; great care had been taken to avoid subsidence by back-filling them with clay deriving from construction-trenches and where walls were built across the line of these ditches, their foundations had been carried down to the bottom of the ditches.

(vi) Trenching was also undertaken, in advance of water-pipe laying operations, in two areas very close to the main building where ploughing had earlier indicated the presence of a building. Evidence was secured for another ditch and a probable track leading towards the area where a tile kiln was excavated in 1966 (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxii (1967), 170 ff.), and for some industrial activity suggested by much iron slag. A wall was exposed at a short distance from this area and traced for some 70 ft. (21.35 m.); it was associated with some metallurgy, which may represent a track leading to the Medway, and other features to be further investigated on a future occasion.

Much still remains to be done at this large site in order to complete the plan of the south-east wing, to explore the inner courtyard facing the house, to search for the road connecting the villa with the Roman road on Blue Bell Hill and for the cemetery in use from the first to the fourth centuries.

### *Training Course*

The fourth Training Course in Romano-British archaeology was based on the site between 14th and 28th August, 1971; it was jointly sponsored by the Kent Archaeological Society and the Eccles Excavation Committee and directed by Mr. A. P. Detsicas, M.A., F.S.A., assisted by Mr. A. C. Harrison, B.A., F.S.A., and Miss S. M. Emerton, B.A.

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(now Mrs. D. I. Frettingham). Once again, this course was officially recognized by the Kent Education Committee for training teachers serving in Kent.

As far more accommodation could be found this year, nearly fifty students could be accepted from a total of applicants exceeding 100. The programme afforded students field work in excavation techniques and recording, including surveying, field drawing, electric resistivity surveying as well as background talks and seminars, at noon and in the evenings, on archaeological drawing, coarse pottery, samian ware, small finds, site photography, Iron Age Britain, Roman London, Romano-British Kent, post-Roman Kent, the Saxon Shore forts, Romano-British towns and villas, Roman and medieval Rochester, the Lullingstone villa, the Eccles villa, and Roman sculpture.

Both the organizing bodies and the honorary director are indebted to all those who assisted with the general conduct of this course and ensured its success, and to the visiting lecturers, Mr. J. E. L. Caiger, Mr. R. G. Foord, Lt.-Col. G. W. Meates, F.S.A., Mr. R. Merrifield, B.A., F.S.A., Mr. S. E. Rigold, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S., Professor D. E. Strong, M.A., D.Phil., F.S.A., and Mr. P. J. Tester, F.S.A.

It is hoped to offer a fifth Training Course in 1972.

### *Interim Report by Mr. S. R. Harker on the Excavations at the Romano-British Site of Springhead.*

During the 1971 season, work was concentrated mainly on recovering the complete plan of Temple VII and its immediate environs. A large proportion of the area was sealed by rubble from the fallen west wall of Temple III (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxiv) and the destruction phase of Temple I (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxiii). Below this were several layers of clay apparently used for filling or levelling, interspersed with considerable quantities of mortar rubble, *opus signinum*, and painted wall-plaster with a wide variety of patterns and colours, evidently derived from the reconstruction phases of the adjacent buildings from the Antonine period onwards.

Elsewhere, there was evidence of a succession of insubstantial buildings of wooden construction having floors of clay and crushed tile. This area was notable for the number of coins it yielded. These were predominantly concentrated in the upper layers and of fourth-century date, but earlier periods were also well represented. Taking this in conjunction with the pottery and other finds attributable to the early or mid-second century A.D., it seems clear that the building had either been demolished down to its foundations and the site cleared or abandoned at foundation level early in the century. Notable among the small finds was a pipe-clay figurine of the *Dea Nutrix* type, headless

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but otherwise complete. Part of a second and almost identical figurine was also found nearby.

Further investigation of the area north of Road R1 has revealed no more buildings, but has added more detail to a complex pattern of road surfaces, paths and ditches. More evidence of early occupation in the middle of the first century has also been recovered.

## II. REPORTS FROM LOCAL SECRETARIES AND GROUPS

*Ashford Area.* Mr. J. Bradshaw reports:

### ASHFORD

An ornamental boss of fifteenth-century date, with a heraldic shield without a design carved at its centre, was found in the garden of 16 Dunkery Rise (N.G.R. TR 006436).

### KINGSTON-UPPER HARDRES

A much-mutilated mound, possibly a barrow or a boundary marking point of Saxon or medieval origin, is located on the boundary between these parishes (N.G.R. TR 16345036).

### STOWTING

A small symmetrical mound is situated at the north-west corner of Stowting Common (N.G.R. TR 12474365), at 550–600 ft. A.O.D.; it may be a much-eroded barrow, with a diameter of 37 m. and 0·80 m. in height.

### BOUGHTON ALUPH

A brick barrel-drain, with an inner diameter of 0·50 m. and 14 m. in length, was explored on Eastwell Park Estate at N.G.R. TR 02564829 and, some 37 m. to the south-south-east, a well, stined for a considerable depth with bricks of possible Tudor size.

### ELMSTED

A tanged and barbed arrowhead, of white patinated flint, 44 mm. long, 26 mm. wide and 5 mm. thick, was found at the side of the lane leading to Spong Farm from Little Gains (N.G.R. TR 125460), by Mr. D. Coultham, who retains it.

### WYE

Tiles and pottery were reported from an area 24 m. west of the River Stour centred on N.G.R. TR 04774648 and covering a strip 55 m. long, 12 m. wide and running parallel with the river. Bulldozing



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prevented the identification of any foundations, but the fragments of roofing- and flue-tiles indicate the presence of a building in the vicinity. There was a quantity of Romano-British coarse pottery as well as some samian ware dating, perhaps, to the middle of the second century A.D.

Romano-British occupation material was visible in the side of a ditch at N.G.R. TR 04674662.

### HASTINGLEIGH

A number of flint artifacts, including an unpolished Neolithic axe, were collected on Smeed Farm, at N.G.R. TR 086458, and a broken Neolithic axe at N.G.R. TR 089455.

### LYMPNE

Much Romano-British material collected from the fields crossed by Stone Street, from Canterbury to West Hythe, south of Newingreen, mostly from N.G.R. TR 12503503; this includes many samian and coarse ware fragments and two coins, of late-third century date, retained by the finder, Mrs. W. Cookson.

*The London Borough of Bexley.* Mr. P. J. Tester, F.S.A., reports:

The late-sixteenth-century mural monument to Sir John Champneis in the north aisle of St. Mary's Church has recently (July 1971) been restored and re-coloured at the expense of the Skinners' Company, the City of London and the Pilgrim Trust. Miss Inger Norholt carried out the work. Sir John was a member of the Skinners, and Lord Mayor of London in 1534. He built the oldest remaining part of Hall Place and died in 1556, the monument being erected by his son Justinian in 1590.

Our member, Mr. L. C. Dale, observed in May, 1971, evidence of a partly-destroyed tile-kiln during building operations in Tile Kiln Lane, N.G.R. TQ 5047872533. An emergency excavation revealed the lower part of a rectangular structure built of tiles, approximately 14 ft. 6 in. long by 9 ft. 6 in. wide externally, with a dividing wall down the centre. The latest finds in association were eighteenth century, but there were a few earlier sherds of medieval and Tudor age in the vicinity. A detailed report will be published in due course.

High Street House, the eighteenth-century home of John Thorpe, the famous Kentish antiquary, has recently passed into the hands of new owners who are carrying out extensive and much-needed restoration. A grant towards the cost of this has been made by the local authority.

Danson Mansion, designed in the mid-eighteenth century by Sir Robert Taylor, has been found to be suffering from extensive decay

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of the internal woodwork. Repairs are being undertaken by Bexley Council at considerable expense.

*The London Borough of Bromley.* Mrs. Susann Palmer reports:

### ORPINGTON

Excavations were carried out from May to July for Bromley Borough Council on the Roman site in the Poverest Road area of Fordcroft (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxiii (1968), 127, and lxxxiv (1969), 54 ff.). Although the ground has been severely disturbed by Victorian building activities, some evidence was found to substantiate the theory that a building did in fact exist here, but it is not yet clear what the nature of the structure was. It had a cobble floor and may be an outhouse. Another structure may be the remnants of a kiln, but it is too mutilated by recent disturbances to be certain. Large quantities of hypocaustiles, roof-tiles, pottery, a few *tesserae* and slag suggest that settlement dates probably to the third century A.D.

A Mesolithic *tranchet* axe of flint was found about 10 years ago by Mr. C. W. Smith in his garden at 14 High Street, Orpington, and has now been donated to the museum. The find-spot is within a few feet of the River Cray. Length: 12.5 cm., maximum width: 4.5 cm.

A quantity of micro-cores, scrapers, blades and waste flakes have been collected in the garden of 14 The Greenway, Orpington. This find-spot is also near the River Cray, and within a short distance of the one mentioned above.

A convex scraper made from a corticated primary flake and a utilized core-trimming flake have been found in the grounds of 3 Jasmin Close, off Crofton Road, Orpington.

### CHELSEFIELD

A small Neolithic flint axe has been found in the grounds of 7 Crown Close, Chelsfield. It is rather crudely worked, with no signs of polishing and one face still largely corticated. It is patinated white. Length: 9 cm., maximum width: 5 cm.

*Canterbury.* Mr. F. Jenkins, M.A., F.S.A., reports:

The demolition of the Victorian cast-iron footbridge over Watling Street on the site of the Riding Gate afforded the chance to examine the city defences. The work was undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Society with the full co-operation of the City Council, and with financial support from the Department of the Environment. As a result much of the ground plan of the Roman gate has been recovered.

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On the north side of Watling Street, the Roman city wall still stood to a height of about 12 ft. above the original Roman ground level. Attached to this wall and bonded into it was an internal rectangular tower containing a guard-room, the walls of which still stood to a height of 5 ft. above the floor level, and forming part of the structure excavated by Professor S. S. Frere some years ago under the slope leading to St. George's Terrace.

A similar internal tower was also completely excavated on the south side of Watling Street. Its walls of coursed flints contained string courses of tiles, and still stood about 4 ft. or more above the floor of the guard-room. At the rear, through the thickness of the wall was a passage-way just over 3 ft. wide leading into the guard-room like that in its northern counterpart. On the south side of the gate the two lowest blocks of stone of the jambs on the inner and outer face were still *in situ*. The lowest stones forming the basal plinths were chamfered on the upper edges, and that on the front still retained part of the iron spindle on which the gate was hinged.

A section cut through the lower part of the rampart along the outer south face of the tower up to the inner face of the city wall proved that the wall, the tower and the rampart bank were of the same period of construction. A considerable quantity of sherds recovered from the various tips of soil forming the rampart bank does not conflict in any way with the known date of the Roman defences, so that it can be stated with some confidence that the gate like the city walls was built not long after A.D. 270, but before A.D. 290.

One interesting feature is worthy of mention. It seems that after the tower had fallen into ruin and its walls reduced in height, four large post-holes were sunk into the tops of the surviving walls. Their plan suggests that they were for supporting massive vertical timbers presumably for a timber turret. The date of the structure was not determined, but it was built much earlier than a grave which had intruded into the upper filling of the guard-room, and a medieval reconstruction of the city wall which effectively sealed one of the post-holes.

Mr. A. C. Hogarth, M.A., reports:

During work preliminary to the widening of A2 carriageway at Barham (N.G.R. TR 218418), Mr. B. J. Philp noticed indications of several pits, a former road and post-holes and found evidence that some of the pits were of Early Iron Age date.

Chatham House Archaeological Society carried out excavations on the site, under my supervision, during the early spring of 1971, on behalf of the Canterbury Archaeological Society and with the aid of a

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grant from the Department of the Environment; a full report will be published in due course.

Many of the pits were found to be of recent date, dug for tree-planting, others were natural solution pipes, but many were Early Iron Age storage- or refuse-pits, with pottery covering a period dating, perhaps, from the fourth to the second centuries B.C. Some of the post-holes proved to be natural origin, others have been found in groups of two and four, with some isolated ones; in particular, one four-post structure was identified, which had been reconstructed at least once, probably a second time. The road surface and two other cart-tracks which were located were of recent origin; they are unconnected with the Roman road to the north of the site which has now been totally destroyed. The finds have been deposited in the Royal Museum, Canterbury.

*Dover.* Mr. E. H. Bayly reports:

The construction of a new swimming bath under the Castle cliff (N.G.R. TR 323414) enabled the New Dover Group to prepare a section which showed six layers of medieval occupation separated by layers of chalk rubble. It is probable that this raising of the level was in some way connected with the medieval harbour which was in this area. Substantial foundations of blocks of chalk mortared together were uncovered during the construction of the swimming bath.

*Eynsford.* Lt.-Col. G. W. Meates, F.S.A., reports:

On 26th November, 1971, as a result of mechanical trenching round the exterior of the Eynsford Working Men's Club, a Roman building was revealed (N.G.R. TQ 540656).

The building lies only 120 ft. NNW of the bridge over the river Darent, with its long axis 20 degrees east of true north, and is situated in the lowest point in the flood-plain and in close proximity to the river. As far as trenching was taken, the building is 61 ft. long and 27 ft. wide, and the south exterior was found. The section here revealed a massive flint and mortar foundation, 3 ft. deep and sloping down in an outward direction, where it met a narrow zone of riverine gravel embedded in black silt. This suggests a diversion of water to the south side of the building, which may possibly have been a water-mill with an under-shot wheel, though this is only an inference.

The surface of the foundation bore traces of *opus signinum* rendering; and north of it was a level of this material, finely laid with a floor of small tiles. This was bounded 12 ft. further north by a well-made wall of flint and mortar, 2 ft. 2 in. wide, and two more walls parallel with it were found further north, the distances between them being 18 ft.

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and 15 ft. respectively. No recognizable floors lay between them, but large fragments of roof- and hypocaust-tiles were observed in the upcast from the trenches. No datable finds were recovered; but the poor baking of the tiles suggests a date later rather than earlier in the Roman period.

This is the first Roman building to have been discovered in Eynsford, though there is other evidence of Roman occupation. The foundations of the late Norman hall within Eynsford Castle show many Roman bricks; an inhumation with third-century pottery was found some years ago a short distance NE of the Church; and Roman coins have from time to time been reported from the village. This new discovery goes a long way to establishing a positive Roman occupation in the neighbourhood of the ford over the Darent at Eynsford.

A report, with plan, section and text, has been deposited in Dartford Museum.

*Faversham.* Lt.-Col. A. A. Johnson reports:

A Neolithic transept axe, measuring 135 by 30 mm. and badly worn, was found at the edge of the public footpath, near the Seasalter road, Graveney, at N.G.R. TR 05836216. The finder, Mr. S. Theobald, of Graveney, understands that other flint implements have previously been found in the area but do not appear to have been recorded. The axe will go into the Faversham Society's collection for display at the Fleur de Lis Centre.

*High Weald Area.* Mrs. M. C. Lebon, M.A., reports:

### CRANBROOK

Cranbrook Rural District Council has leased to Cranbrook and District Local History Society a portion of the Old Rectory, Cranbrook, which the Society is converting to a museum to house its existing collection of local antiquities and the Alexander collection of birds owned by Cranbrook school. Voluntary staffing will make it possible to arrange limited hours for opening to the public during the summer.

*Hundred of Hoo.* Mrs. P. P. Day reports:

### COOLING

Work has continued under the direction of Mr. A. Miles on the Romano-British site at Eastborough Farm, Cooling. Two hearths, one square, the other oblong, were discovered, probably used for distilling salt, and four bays, probably for the storage of sea-water, were associated with them. The edge of the mound has been exposed, and there

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was evidence for a small semi-circular feature of clay. Pottery of the third century A.D., including a possible votive burial, was recovered.

*Maidstone Area Archaeological Group.* Miss G. S. Price, Hon. Secretary, reports:

During the year the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group has followed its objective of providing basic training. The regional survey programme is now well established, and the parish of Barming has been studied, resulting in the location of Roman and medieval buildings south of Barming church, which will be investigated further. The underground chamber in the garden of Old Hall, Barming, has been recorded. An archaeological survey of Maidstone is now under way; early maps have been studied and all possible open areas for excavation investigated. A grant from the Kent Archaeological Society has enabled the Group to buy basic digging equipment. A grant has also been given to the Group by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust for the training of members.

Members of the Group have helped with excavations at Snodland, Cooling and Boxley Abbey. The industrial archaeology section is engaged on a history of the brewing industry in Maidstone.

*Rochester.* Mr. A. C. Harrison, B.A., F.S.A., reports:

The Archaeological Society of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School excavated the area to the south of the medieval East Gate and obtained a further section across the Phase 1 Roman ditch. The filling of this had been cut into by medieval pits and also by the 1225 medieval ditch, the edge of which appeared to have been cut into steps, presumably for the use of the workmen who dug it.

On the north side of the High Street, a small excavation was made inside the wall opposite the point where the Phase 1 ditch was found to end last year (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxv (1970), 191). Rather surprisingly the Phase 1 rampart was continuous inside the wall at this point and, furthermore, it was possible to show that the medieval wall had been built upon an unbroken length of its Roman predecessor without any evidence of a gateway. It would seem, therefore, that the suggestion previously made that the Roman gate lay to the north of the present High Street must be abandoned.

A watch was kept upon the pipe-trench cut along Baker's Walk and St. Margaret Street. Both edges of the Castle ditch, filled in in the eighteenth century, were clearly visible and the trench cut through a mass of medieval masonry 9 ft. thick, constructed of ragstone and chalk at the point where the later South Gate is traditionally located and part of which it presumably was.

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*Romney Marsh.* Miss Anne Roper, J.P., M.B.E., F.S.A., reports:

### BROOKLAND

One headstone in Brookland churchyard is ornamented with an oval *terracotta* plaque inscribed 'Jo. HARMER FECIT'. Jonathan Harmer and his son were stone-masons at Heathfield in Sussex, and in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries adorned their tombstones with plaques made from the local clay in Heathfield Park (G. L. Remant, *Sx. Arch. Coll.*, c (1962). Their designs varied from draped urns, vases, cherubs' heads, to elaborate groups of figures. That at Brookland is of a basket of fruit and flowers, of which there are several examples in Sussex churchyards, but as far as is known, this is the first example to have strayed across the border into Kent.

During repairs to the south wall of Brookland church, some coloured fragments of a wall-painting were revealed. They depict the scene of the martyrdom of Archbishop St. Thomas à Becket. On the right stands the priest, Grim, the Archbishop's chaplain, and three of the four murderous knights, one with a sword raised, are clearly identifiable.

Mr. Clive Rouse, M.A., F.S.A., an authority on medieval wall-paintings, examined the painting in 1971, and declared it to be of considerable merit and interest. The details of costume and armour are of great value in dating the work from the early fourteenth century.

The detached wooden belfry has always been attributed to the fifteenth century, but a recent examination in detail by Mr. Kenneth Gravett, M.Sc.(Eng.), F.S.A., has revealed important evidence that it dates from the thirteenth century, c. 1250, and thus is contemporary with the building of the church. Mr. Gravett reported that 'Originally it was basically square, with four great canted posts, each 20 inches square, placed on a square frame of horizontal timbers. These corner posts are strengthened with a system of lattice braces which have halved joints where they cross, but notched lap-joints where fixed to the posts. The weathering indicates that the whole structure at one time stood in the open.' Above this framework was a bell-cage. The discovery of the notched lap-joints clearly confirms a thirteenth-century date, which is supported by Mr. George Elphick's tree-ring analysis of the end grain of a diagonal lattice brace, which proved to be of the early part of this century.

*Stone-next-Faversham.* Lt.-Col. G. W. Meates, F.S.A., reports:

Excavation at the ruined church was carried out this Summer (1971) by the Rt. Hon. Lord Fletcher, P.C., F.S.A., and the writer, during which, as forecast in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxiii (1968), 260-1, further investigation was made into the Anglo-Saxon problem, with the following results.

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The west wall-foundation of the Saxon nave was found underlying the medieval nave at 33 ft. west of the Roman mausoleum, which had been adapted as the chancel. The Saxon church was a two-cell structure, 54 ft. in total overall length, the interior widths being 20 ft. (nave) and 13 ft. (chancel), the monolithic chancel entrance being 4 ft. 6 in. wide.

A particularly interesting feature was discovered. The west wall-foundation of the Saxon nave was found largely to overlie a finely constructed Roman wall, which passed under the nave, continuing north and south at an angle of 84 degrees to the axis of the nave. It does not seem to be part of a *temenos* wall enclosing the Roman mausoleum, but it may be the east wall of a building, the level west of it consisting of packed clay containing many fragments of daub bearing wattle impressions. Investigations of this area has been deferred for a future season's work.

The Saxon wall-foundations on north, west, and south vary from 17 in. to 24 in. in depth, the west foundation being 3 ft. wide, and the foundations consist throughout of alternate levels of chalk and flint rubble; these foundations may have carried horizontal wooden sleepers into which were morticed the vertical uprights of the Saxon nave walls—but this point is at present obscure.

Among the finds within the Saxon nave were Roman and Saxon sherds, with two Roman coins of the period A.D. 336–358, and an Anglo-Saxon *sceatta*. The latter is a very rare coin, inscribed in runic characters, 'ETHILIRAED' (*B.M.C.*, Anglo-Saxon Coins, i, 24, no. 4). The name is presumably that of a moneyer—it is not likely to be attributable to Ethelred of Mercia (A.D. 675–704). It has been dated by Dr. John Kent, of the British Museum, to c. A.D. 730, and agrees closely in date with the *sceatta* found in the chancel in 1968, which is also very rare and is dated by Mr. Michael Dolley to c. A.D. 730–735. Both coins are in the British Museum.

The two *sceattas* suggest that a church existed at Stone c. A.D. 730, and further work on this problem is scheduled for the 1972 season. Meanwhile, the Ancient Monuments Department of the Department of the Environment is engaged in consolidating the eastern (Roman/Saxon) part of the building as an open Ancient Monument. The First Report on the excavations may be found in the *Antiquaries Journal*, xlix (1969), 273–94.

*Thanet.* Mr. D. G. Scurell reports:

Following the restoration of the smock and cap of Drapers Mill, Margate, two years ago, the internal machinery has been repaired, and, where necessary, replaced, and it is expected that the mill will be working on two sweeps early in 1972.



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Excavations for rebuilding the Royal School for the Deaf, Margate, have revealed the levelling and infill of a chalk quarry and a lime kiln, and several sherds of late-eighteenth to early-nineteenth century have been found.

As a result of gas-pipe laying, thirty sites have been investigated between Monkton and Ramsgate. These include an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Monkton with twenty-two graves; five other graves west of Minster Hill; three Romano-British burials near the Prospect Inn on Minster Hill; seven hollows, of late-first to second-century date and probably associated with iron working at Thorne Farm; two cremation burials north of Thorne; and an Iron Age settlement at Cliffsend Farm.

The Chatham House Archæological Society has completed the excavation of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at St. Peter's.

An Iron Age settlement has been found in the grounds of Northdown Primary School by Mr. J. Villette. Several inhumations (first and second century A.D.) have been discovered on the site of the Foreland Hotel, Broadstairs, and Belgic and early Romano-British sites at Lanthorne Road and Lanthorne Hospital.

*Tunbridge Wells.* Mrs. M. E. Davies, B.A., reports:

The 'branch' suffered a sad loss during the year in the death of its founder, Mrs. V. M. F. Desborough, and a tribute to her appears elsewhere in this volume.

Many enquiries were received about the Society and several young people were recruited for work at local excavations. Many members were among an audience of over 250 at a lecture given by Mr. K. W. E. Gravett, F.S.A., on the history of the smaller Kentish farmhouse.

Mr. D. H. Bennett continues his work in local history and accompanied Mr. D. Crossley on a tour of various sites connected with iron-working in the valley between Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, and it is hoped that further investigation may be possible next summer.

*Wealden Archæological Research Group.* Mr. A. B. Cardwell reports:

Work has continued on the site of the iron-works at Hammermill Farm, Biddenden. In addition to the wheel-race found last year, a hearth has been uncovered. It is hoped to continue more extensive work next year.

*Council for Kentish Archæology.* Mrs. J. M. Lock reports:

The Council for Kentish Archæology continues in its aim to promote archæology and co-ordinate local Groups actively engaged in excavation.

In March, the seventh annual conference was held in Bromley. Representatives from various Groups reported on recent work, and

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these were followed by a programme of lectures. The half-yearly meeting, held in June, featured demonstrations on a site at New Ash Green on the use of surveying and measuring equipment, which is available on loan to member Groups.

The county-wide emergency organization is working well, with Dover as the main priority under the direction of Mr. B. J. Philp. Training for sixth formers was undertaken during the excavation. The Young Archæologist Award Scheme, intended to encourage young people in archæology, continues.

*The Kent Archæological Review*, now in its twenty-fifth issue, continues to flourish. It is published quarterly, obtainable by subscription, and includes reports on excavations, news from the Groups and articles of archæological interest.