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## ANNUAL REPORT

## KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Council presents its one hundred and thirty-first Report and Statement of Accounts for 1989.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at Maidstone on Saturday, 20th May, when Council's Annual Report and Accounts for 1988 were accepted. Messrs. Reeves and Neylan of Canterbury were accepted as Auditors of the Society. The Report of the Strategy Committee was fully discussed and accepted.

### OFFICERS

The following were elected as Officers of the Society:

The President	Mr K. W. E. Gravett, M.Sc.(Eng.), F.S.A.
The Hon. Editor	Dr A. P. Detsicas, B.A., M.A., D.Litt., F.S.A., F.S.A.Scot.
The Hon. Treasurer	Mr A. G. Webster, F.C.A.
The Hon. General Secretary	Mr A. C. Harrison, B.A., F.S.A.
The Hon. Membership Secretary	Mrs. M. Lawrence
The Hon. Excursions Secretary	Mr M. A. Crane, B.A.
The Hon. Curator	Mr D. B. Kelly, B.A., F.S.A., A.M.A.
The Hon. Librarian	Dr P. H. G. Draper, B.Sc., Ph.D.

### COUNCIL

The following were elected members of Council:

Mr H. G. B. Coast; Mr E. P. Connell;\* Mrs. M. Lovering;\* Mr J. Owen, B.A.\*; Mr R. J. Spain, C.Eng., M.I.Mech.E.; Mr P. J. Tester, F.S.A.\*

\* Retiring members of Council eligible for re-election.

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In addition, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr J. Bradshaw, Mr M. H. Peters, F.R.I.C.S., was elected for a period of three years.

### PUBLICATIONS

Volumes CV and CVI of *Archaeologia Cantiana* were published in 1989. The volumes maintain their high standard under the editorship of Dr A. P. Detsicas, B.A., M.A., D.Litt., F.S.A., F.S.A.Scot., and their contents cover a wide field of Archaeology and History. Council have agreed, should the amount of material available warrant it, to issue two volumes in the future.

The first text to be published in the Society's new series of Records, *Henry Haule's Notebook, 1590-95*, edited by Dr F. Hull, is now in the press. Members will be invited to subscribe to this new series in due course. Other texts under preparation include the *Kent Feet of Fines*, in the reign of Henry VIII, the Kent part of the *1846-47 Church School Enquiry*, a series of *Guides of Parish Records*, *Canterbury Cathedral MS E.24*, recording Archbishop Pecham's survey of his estates, the *Commonplace Book and Diary of Sir Edward Dering, 1656-62*, the *Rebuilding of Sheerness Dockyard, 1813-23* as well as other documents which will ensure, it is hoped, a regular issue of volumes in this series.

It is also hoped to issue Volume VI of the Society's Monograph Series, *Excavations at Highstead*, in 1990, if its text is revised in time.

### EXCURSIONS

1989 was another successful year with all excursions booked and even over-subscribed. The visit to Groombridge was cancelled because they were heavily booked and could not fit us in. The tour of Luxembourg and Germany, including Trier, went smoothly, even allowing for the enthusiastic voyager who extended her stay in Calais and had to return on a later crossing! Three churches and a strawberry tea with fine weather crowned the East Kent tour and the Bexley visit was crammed with minor excursions while all enjoyed the variety of historical associations found within a small area, although the central theme was William Morris.

This year the 5-day excursion abroad centres on the Amsterdam region. Thanks are due to all our members who support our ventures.

### FIELDWORK COMMITTEE

The Fieldwork Committee is actively considering a number of ways in which to extend the Society's work and has agreed to assist in the compilation of a panel of lecturers, to offer to member groups talks

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on particular techniques followed by field demonstrations and to revive the annual conferences, held in the past under the aegis of C.B.A. Group 11A, on a specific theme.

Dr J. H. Williams and Mr D. R. J. Perkins have now joined the membership of the Committee.

### MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

It has been a most encouraging year for the Society. At December 31st, the membership stood at 1,527, an increase of 57 over last year's total of 1,470. This gain was accounted for by the election of 86 new members. This figure was offset by the removal of 29 names, owing to the decease of 14 members (mostly of long standing), the resignation of 9 and the removal of 6 from the list on account of non-payment for two years.

There was an increase in the number of members who covenant their subscription, there now being 340, and in the current year £1,070 of tax was refunded to the Society. This was a lesser sum than last year which reflected the change in the rate of tax rather than a lessening of support. Enquiries about how to covenant the annual subscription should be made to the Membership Secretary whose address is at the front of the volume.

The newly formed Membership and Publicity Committee has had a very stimulating year. A new publicity leaflet has been produced outlining the work of the Society and combining an application for membership. This has been placed in public centres throughout the county, and it is believed that this has already contributed to the increase in membership. Any member who feels they have a location for display of the leaflets should ask the Membership Secretary for a supply.

After much thought a suitable light and portable display stand has been purchased, which is needed to help publicise the Society's activities and is available for use by the Society's Branches and Committees.

Some interest has been added to the Society's meetings through the efforts of Mrs Joy Saynor who has organised the new products of tote bags and tea-cloths bearing the K.A.S. badge. The sale of these together with ties, head-scarves and car stickers has been welcomed. Details of how they can be ordered by post have been published in the Newsletter.

Publication of the Society's Newsletter, vital for communication within the Society, was resumed in the Autumn under the Editorship of Mrs Nesta Caiger. It is proposed to publish three issues a year.

In response to requests for a more social aspect to the society, coffee and refreshments were served at the Annual General Meeting.

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A September afternoon cruise on the Medway between Maidstone and Watlingbury, with a buffet lunch, was attended by 68 members. This was followed by a Christmas Buffet lunch at St. George's Centre, Chatham Historic Dockyard, attended by 90 members. The most pleasing aspect of these two events was that both were attended by members who had never before attended a K.A.S. function.

### CHURCHES COMMITTEE

With the support of our Patron, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and of the Bishop of Rochester, the Society has introduced a scheme to encourage every church or chapel in Kent to have a printed guide. To this end, the Committee has introduced a loan scheme to help towards the cost of publication, and has offered a prize of £100 to the parish that publishes the best new guide.

On 11th March, 1989, the Society, in association with the Friends of Kent Churches, organised a Day School at Charing on the history and architecture of the Parish Churches of Kent as an aid to writing a guide. Papers read by our members, Nigel Yates, Tim Tatton-Brown, John Owen, Peter Tester and Duncan Harrington were well received by an audience of 97 people.

The Committee had vigorously opposed a scheme for the redundancy of St. Margaret's, Hucking, and it is pleasing to report that the diocesan authorities have granted a reprieve providing that repairs are carried out within eighteen months. Although discussions about the proposed demolition of Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells, have been held with the Church Commissioners, its future is still in the balance.

The Committee is disappointed that after five years of detailed negotiations towards the establishment of a Trust for the retention of St. Bartholomew, Goodnestone, the diocese decided to seek a different use at the very moment when it seemed that all outstanding difficulties had been overcome.

The Committee is concerned about the future of two churches in Maidstone both the work of a local architect, John Wichcord: Holy Trinity, for which a Trust was established some years ago, but which has run into serious financial difficulty and St. Stephen's, Tovil, for which plans for conversion into a Community Centre appear to be floundering.

### KENT DEFENCE RESEARCH GROUP

The Fortress Study Group, an International Group, held its 1989 conference looking at the defences in and around Dover. The University of Kent at Canterbury was used for accommodation and

lectures. This is the third time the Fortress Study Group have held their Conference in Kent and there are plans to hold a fourth one within the next few years. The Kent Defence Research Group have been involved in the organisation of all these conferences, the fact that a fourth conference is planned in Kent shows the importance of Kent's fortifications and defences.

Victor Smith, with his experience of restoration at New Tavern Fort at Gravesend, has taken up a six-month post as General Manager of Brimstone Hill Fort in St. Kitt's to supervise restoration work there. The restoration work continues to go on at New Tavern Fort and several pieces of equipment have been added to the forts ever-growing collection; this includes a searchlight and a reproduction 9-inch rifled muzzle loading gun on its traversing platform. A start on the restoration of the magazine for this gun has also started and will eventually be fully re-equipped.

The new proposed A20 route between Folkestone and Dover will mean the loss of some more of Dover's defences, Hougham Battery the World War II 8-inch, 3 gun battery; some of the few remaining structures will go including the battery and fortress plotting room. South Lines Battery will go, part of Dover Western Heights, and a bit more of Archcliff Fort will go. Over the years Dover has lost many of its important defences some with outstanding histories.

The eastern end of the Royal Military Canal at Sandgate looks as though it will go in a proposed new development in that area. This part of the canal is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and is a very important and interesting part of the canal, but it looks as though planning permission will go through.

The Kent Defence Research Group Newsletter is about to print 'Ravelin' number 20 in January. Other articles and publications are in preparation.

#### KENT UNDERGROUND RESEARCH GROUP

Our Field Officers and active members have had a busy year investigating sites brought to our notice and gathering additional information for our computer data-bank on underground sites in the south-east. This data-bank covers all periods and types of structures from wells and cess-pits to mines and even air-raid shelters. This information is of use to our own researches and also, it seems, to civil engineers and property developers who are anxious to check whether their expensive projects are being built on the site of former mining operations.

The excavations at Archer Wood, East Sussex, mentioned in previous annual reports, have had to be discontinued because of flooding problems. The intention had been to re-open an original

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shaft to the limestone mine and thus gain access to the underground galleries. It is now clear that the whole mine is flooded and attempts to drain the workings have not proved successful. Archive research and surface surveys are continuing.

Our annual Research Report which is published each December is gaining popularity outside the membership and an increased print run is now needed. Last year it was felt that a small book/booklet on underground features, aimed at the layman, would generate general interest in the subject of mining history. Several senior members of the Group have contributed to this project and it is hoped that the results will be published in spring 1990.

## CONFERENCE OF BUILDING RECORDERS

The twenty-sixth annual Conference of Building Recorders was held on Saturday, October 7th, 1989, in the Barn at Charing, and was attended by some sixty members and visitors. It took the now familiar form of a series of short talks, each illustrated by slides.

The first speaker, Dr Derek Renn, gave an account of the development of the castle gatehouse and showed how that Tonbridge Castle was the earliest to have the actual passageway defended, in addition to the usual flanking towers. This design was soon to be copied at Caerphilly Castle, in a form so exact as to make the use of drawings or templates likely.

He was followed by Mr Tony Tomlin, an architect with Maidstone Borough Council, who described their recent work on the Archbishop's Palace at Maidstone. He had identified a large medieval first-floor hall and cross wing, and a number of fascinating details, including a medieval window and how after the reformation the archbishop's arms had been replaced by those of the new owner in the spandril of a fireplace.

Next, Mr Gravett described the plan of the high end of the Archbishop's Palace at Croydon, now a girl's school. This was re-arranged by Bouchier c. 1466, who converted the old upper hall into a guard chamber, leading to his private rooms. He also built a new chapel and a visiting cleric could go direct into a vestry beside this. There was a third route for visiting nobility; direct to the archbishop's privy chamber, through what must be the oldest long gallery in existence. (A similar arrangement at Knole was rebuilt by the first Earl of Dorset.)

The last speaker, Mrs Maureen Lovering, described how she had used infra-red photography to prove that an inscription existed under several layers of black paint on the screens-beam of a house in Charing. She also showed how she had removed the paint to display the inscription again.



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The chairman, Mr K. Gravett, thanked the speakers and also Miss Sarah Pearson for the loan of the projector and screen. The discussion continued over tea and home-made biscuits.

The next Conference will be held at Charing on Saturday, 20th October, 1990.

1st January, 1990

By Order of the Council

A.C. Harrison

*Hon. General Secretary*