



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, March 2000

Dear Fellow Members

As there is a host of announcements, I will hold over the Editorial until the next Newsletter, due in May (sighs of relief all round).

David Carder

Subscriptions and Membership Cards

Subscriptions for the year beginning 1st April 2000 are now due.

Please use the renewal form enclosed with this Newsletter, and complete as much as of it as possible - that way we can establish what members' interests really are. Return the form with your cheque by post to **Jess Obee** (address at end), or hand it with cheque or cash to any Committee Member who will give you a receipt.

Renewing members will receive a handy Membership Card with the May Newsletter, giving details of indoor meetings, subscription rates, and contacts.

In order to comply with the data protection legislation, we have included on the form a consent that your details may be held on a computer database. This data is held purely for membership administration (e.g. printing of address labels and registration of subscription payments). **It will not be used for other purposes, or released to outside parties without your express consent.** If you have any queries or concerns over this, please write to the Chairman.

Notice of Annual General Meeting - Friday 28th April 2000

This year's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 28th April 2000 (**not** 21st as previously published) at the School Hall, The Street, Detling. The Agenda is as follows :

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 1999 AGM and matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Meetings Organiser's report
6. Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts
7. Subscription rates
8. Archaeological Director's report
9. Election of Officers
Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Hon. Secretary (or Hon. Joint Secretaries)
Hon. Treasurer
10. Election of Hon. Auditor
11. Reports and Election of Representatives
12. Future Activities (including annual and other outings)
13. Any other business

Spring Outing, Sunday 7th May - The Royal Military Canal

Members will recall the fascinating and beautifully illustrated talk on the Royal Military Canal given in 1998 by Fred Booth, now one of our members. Fred has kindly agreed to lead a visit to explore both the history and natural history of the Canal.

The Canal was started in 1803 as a defence against Napoleon and extends 23 miles from Shornecliffe (Hythe) to Cliff End in Sussex. Depending on the weather, we hope to explore the section from Appledore to Rye, including Iden lock (where it joins the Rother) and Rye itself.

Meet at Appledore at 10am, at the Canal just south of the church by the bridge (TQ958292).

2000 Provisional Programme

Josephine Sanders is currently finalising the programme for 2000/1. If you can suggest speakers, or would like to give a talk, please let her know. **Indoor meetings are held at the School Hall, The Street, Detling** (just down from the Cock Horse pub) on **Fridays** at **7.30 pm**.

Friday 28th April	Annual General Meeting followed by a short talk, if time permits.
Sunday 7th May	Spring Outing - The Royal Military Canal Led by Mr Fred Booth (see above for details)
Friday 19th May	A Panorama of Surnames Mr Philip Lawrence
Saturday in June/July	Annual Outing (details in May Newsletter)
July/August	No indoor meetings
2000/1 Diary Dates	16th June, 15th September, 17th November, 15th December (Christmas Social) 19th January, 16th February, 16th March, 20th April (AGM)
Friday 20th October	Members' Evening - Short talks or other activities (e.g. displays or demonstrations) welcome, but please advise Josephine, Richard, or me (David) at least a month in advance.

Remember- indoor meetings are free of charge for members, and **£1 for non-members**.

Announcements

The best way to find out what is going on is to come along to our indoor meetings, where announcements are made and the latest information laid out. Events include :

Digging : Albert Daniels can provide the latest information on current and future excavations, which often occur at short notice. If interested, contact Albert on (01622) 674494.

Saturday 1st April : KAS Lecture - Kent on Film by Frank Gray. 2pm at Ramsey Lecture Theatre, Christ Church College, Canterbury. Tickets £3 from Canterbury Information Centre, 34 St Margaret's Street (01227) 455600 until 11.30 am, thereafter at the door. Parking is available at Christ Church University College in the blue car park via gate 1 off North Holmes Road.

3rd April-30th May : Exhibition at the Medway Local Studies Centre, Strood : 1000 years of caring - Medway Hospitals & Almshouses, arranged by Bob Ratcliffe. Details (01634) 332714.

Saturday 8th April: CKA Spring Conference - 2000 Years of Archaeology in Kent. At Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Abbey Place, Faversham. Morning sessions on *Leading Archaeologists in Kent*, and *Roman Kent*; afternoon sessions on *Anglo-Saxon Kent*, *Fortifications in Kent*, and *Industrial Archaeology in Kent*, all by eminent speakers. Tickets £3 per session with SAE from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP.

Saturday 13th May : Kent History Federation One-Day Conference (hosted by The Faversham Society) at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Abbey Place, Faversham. 9.30-12.50am, then choice of 12 guided walks. Tickets £9-00. Contact Miss F Oxley (0181 300 1511).

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th May : National Mills Weekend : Most of Kent's windmills and some watermills will be open. Details (01795) 422415 or (01303) 268794.

Friday 23rd June : KAS Lecture - The Archbishop's Palace at Charing, by Sarah Pearson at 1pm, and *Rochester Cathedral; a Study in Transition*, by Alan Stevens at 3pm. **Both free** in the Lecture Theatre, County Hall, Maidstone. (Part of KentWeek).

Archaeological Surveying Course : Christ Church College are running two 6-week mixed-ability certificated classes surveying and recording the ruined Eastwell Church near Ashford, starting in April. Tutor Alan Ward (CAT). Details (01227) 782363 or (01227) 782805.

Kent Archaeological Field School, Faversham : The third year of courses on various topics. Details from Paul Wilkinson (0181 987 8827 or 0585 700 112). Full list in the May Newsletter.

The London String of Pearls Millennium Festival: 67 places along the Thames will be open to the public for this year only, including Lambeth Palace, Westminster Hall, Royal Courts of Justice, Royal Hospital Chelsea, Fishmongers' Company, Custom House, London Underground (disused stations), Horse Guards building, Guy's & St Thomas' Hospitals, Methodist Central Hall, and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. Details in a 72-page programme, price £1.50 (cheque to *String of Pearls*), from The London String of Pearls Millennium Festival, 1 Hobhouse Court, Suffolk Street, London SW1Y 4HH. (www.stringofpearls.org.uk).

Books on Aylesford : James Sephton, of the Lower Medway Group, has published three local books : *Around Aylesford* (220 photographs); *The Friars, Aylesford*; and *Preston Hall, Aylesford*, the latter being reviewed in the March 2000 *Journal of Kent History*. The last two are available from Ronald White Photographers, 24 Pudding Lane, Maidstone, or the author (01622) 710388.

If you know of any interesting events, please let me have the details.

Local Talks

Below is a list of indoor meetings in the Maidstone area. Since programmes may change after publication, it is advisable to contact the programme secretary on the telephone number given before travelling. Non-members may have to pay admission (typically £1-£2, but £3 at MLSC).

Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group (LMARG): 8pm, The Friends' Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester (01634 849477)

Bearsted & District LHS (BDLHS), 7.30pm, Memorial Hall, Bearsted (01622 737959)

City of Rochester Society (CRS): 8pm, Visitor Centre, High Street, Rochester (01634 721886)

Halling Historical Society (HHS), 7.30pm, Jubilee Hall, Upper Hailing (01634 716139)

Loose Area Historical Society (LAHS): 7.30pm, Loose Infants' School (01622 744401)

Maidstone Historical Society (MHS): 7.15pm, Harold Hardy Hall, Brewer Street, Maidstone (01622 728130).

Medway Local Studies Centre (MLSC), 7.30pm, Civic Centre, Strood. (01634) 332714 to book.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Title</i>
Wed 22nd Mar	MHS	<i>A Huguenot Family in Sevenoaks</i> , by Elspeth Home
Mon 27th Mar	LMARG	AGM & <i>The Shrines of Rochester Cathedral</i> , by David Carder
Fri 31st Mar	BDLHS	<i>The Thurnham Roman Villa</i> , by Helen Glass
Thurs 6th April	HHS	<i>Queen Victoria. & Women of the Royal Family</i> , by Dr Ray
Fri 7th April	MLSC	<i>Medway Hospitals & Almshouses</i> , by Bob Ratcliffe
Mon 10th April	LAHS	<i>West Malling</i> , by Barbara Gadd
Wed 12th April	CRS	<i>The Channel Tunnel Rail Link</i> , by Bernard Gambrill
Mon 17th April	LMARG	<i>17th Century Tokens</i> , by Ron Josland
Wed 26th April	MHS	AGM & <i>Iran</i> , by Barbara Quick
Mon 8th May	LAHS	<i>Bricks & Brickwork</i> , by Richard Filmer
Wed 10th May	CRS	<i>Geo. Bond, Victorian Architecture in Medway</i> , by Bob Ratcliffe
Mon 22nd May	LMARG	To be arranged
Mon 26th June	LMARG	To be arranged

Deadline for the Next Newsletter

Deadline for contributions to the May Newsletter is **30th April 2000**. Email preferred.

MAAG Contacts

Newsletter contributions to: David Carder, 91 Ballens Road, Chatham ME5 8PA (01634) 681896 (answering machine); email david.carder@fdn.co.uk

Chairman : Richard Weeks, 14 The Quarter, Cranbrook Road, Staplehurst TN12 0EP (01580) 890042 (answering machine)

Subscriptions : Jess Obee, 115 Old Tovil Road, Maidstone ME15 6QE

Meetings Organiser : Josephine Sanders, 302 The Tideway, Rochester ME1 3PS (01634) 849477 (answering service)



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, May 2000

Dear Fellow Members

Most of you will have heard of the untimely death of our member Mike Freeman on 18th March at the age of just 57 years. Until recently Mike was very active in Kentish archaeology, particularly during his chairmanship of the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group (LMARG), forming close links between LMARG and MAAG and other groups in Kent and south Essex. Elected Vice Chairman of the Council for Kentish Archaeology in 1992, Mike could reliably be found at their conferences providing technical support.

The loss of Mike, with the recent losses of Kenneth Gravett (past-President of the Kent Archaeological Society) and Alec Detsicas (Editor of *Archaeologia Cantiana* for 30 years) leaves Kentish Archaeology very much the poorer.

On a happier note, the Spring outing on 7th May was a great success, with around a dozen members visiting the Royal Military Canal under the expert guidance of Fred Booth, who has wide-ranging knowledge of the history, ecology, and natural history of the Canal and the Romney Marshes. The main section visited was at Appledore, where Fred covered everything from the number of navvies employed to build the Canal, to the identification of the creatures found during net-dipping! Short visits to the boundary stone with Sussex, Iden Lock, and Scot's Float Sluice completed a fascinating day which was enjoyed by all - many thanks Fred.

David Carder

Annual Summer Outing

At the AGM it was agreed that we would try to arrange a coach outing to Southwark, possibly including a visit to the Globe Theatre, but sadly this has proved to be impractical, partly because of the lateness of the AGM this year and partly because a number of regulars cannot attend on the agreed date, so there is a high risk of making a heavy loss.

We very much hope to continue to run coach outings in future years, but the lesson is clear - we must establish the venue and level of interest earlier, probably in time for the March Newsletter.

Many societies have abandoned coach outings because of dwindling numbers, but Bearsted & District LHS are running two, with pick-ups between Harrietsham and Maidstone, and may still have places. One is to West Stow Anglo-Saxon village (10th June, £13), the other to Hedingham Castle (29th July, £15). Details from Frank Alston (738104) or Marion Pring (880375)

Subscription Reminder

If this Newsletter is marked with a red cross, then your subscription for the year beginning 1st April 2000 is now overdue.

Remember that your membership entitles you to free admission to indoor meetings (non-member admission £1), regular newsletters, outings, the opportunity to partake in excavations and other activities, and the handy Membership Card (enclosed) with details of the programme.

Cheques, payable to *Maidstone Area Archaeological Group*, should be sent to Jess Obee (address at end) or payments made at one of the meetings. Annual subscription rates are :

Individual Membership £ 4

Family Membership £ 6

Junior Membership £ 2

Annual General Meeting - Subscriptions Unchanged

Our 2000 AGM was held on 28th April and involved discussions on a number of topics. It was followed by updates on current activities by Pat Brooks and Albert Daniels.

The current subscription level was considered to be adequate to finance the Group's activities for the time being, and no increases were proposed for 2001.

The existing committee members were re-elected so the committee still comprises **Richard Weeks** (Chairman), **Robin Cook** (Vice-Chairman), **Jess Obee** (Treasurer), **Josephine Sanders** (Meetings Organiser), and **David Carder** (Newsletter Editor). **Michael Clarke** was re-elected as Hon. Auditor, and the representatives remain **Pat Brooks** (Kent History Federation), **Roger Wallbridge** (Council for British Archaeology), and **Albert Daniels** (Kent Archaeological Society).

2000/1 Indoor Meetings Programme

Josephine Sanders has now finalised the indoor programme for 2000/1, and has maintained the high standard to which the Group has become accustomed. If you can suggest speakers, or would like to give a talk, please let her know. **Indoor meetings are held at the School Hall, The Street, Detling** (just down from the Cock Horse pub) on **Fridays** at **7.30 pm**.

Friday 16th June	The History & Influence of the English Bible <i>(the speaker will be exhibiting several rare and beautiful bibles dating from 1551)</i> Mr Norman Hopkins
July/August	No indoor meetings
Friday 15th September	Medieval Mass Redundancy & Enforced Retirement –the Demise of the Monasteries Mr Alan Long
Friday 20th October	Members' Evening Short talks or other activities (e.g. displays or demonstrations) welcome, but please advise Josephine, Richard, or David at least a month in advance.
Friday 17th November	A Guided Tour through Knole Mr Ron Halford
Friday 15th December	Christmas Social Please bring along a few refreshments.
Friday 19th January	The Churches in and around the Romney Marsh Mr David Carder
Friday 16th February	Richborough Castle Dr Frank Andrews
Friday 16th March	Ramsgate Then and Now Mr BR Fagg
Friday 20th April	Annual General Meeting followed by a short talk, if time permits.

Indoor Meetings of the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group

8pm at the Friends' Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester. £1 for non-members.

Monday 22nd May	Trinity House & the Lighthouse Service Mr Len Stoneham
Monday 26th June	The Peasants' Revolt Dr John Mercer
Monday 24th July	The Unusual 18th Dynasty of Ancient Egypt Miss Dana Adler
Monday 25th September	The Roman and Medieval Iron Industry in the Weald Mr Jeremy Hodgkinson
Monday 23rd October	The Local History Project in Luton and Lordswood Mr Jim Logan
Monday 27th November	Trade Routes - the Growth of Highways Mr John Elderton
December	No indoor meeting

Archaeologia Cantiana for Sale

I have some volumes of Arch. Cant, for sale, from 84 (1969) to date. £3 per volume plus 50p to MAAG funds; also "Evans Index", 1858-1968 (50p + 50p). **David Carder** (details at end).

Announcements

Further announcements are made at indoor meetings, and information laid out for members.

Kent Archaeological Field School, Faversham - 20th-29th May: *Excavation of a Medieval Archbishop's Palace at Teynham*; **3rd June:** *The Romans in Kent* (Paul Wilkinson); **10th-11th June:** *Place-names and the Landscape* (Margaret Gelling & Paul Cullen); **17th June:** *Coins and the Archaeologist* (David Rudling); **1st-2nd July:** *Saxon Boat-building and the Graveney Boat* (Damian Goodburn, Valerie Fenwick, & Edwin Clifford); **8th July:** *How to Identify Prehistoric Flints* (Chris Butler); **15th July:** *The Roman Villa* (Ernest Black); **22nd July - 6th August:** *Excavation of a Roman Villa*; **19th-20th August:** *Post-Excavation Analysis*; **26th August:** *Human Skeletal Remains* (Trevor Anderson); **2nd-3rd September:** *Gardens and their History*; **9th September:** *What is Archaeology?* (Paul Wilkinson); **16th September:** *How to Identify Roman Pottery* (Malcolm Lyne); **23rd-24th September:** *Field Survey & Geophysics*; **7th-8th October:** *Archaeological Drawing* (Jane Russell); **14th-15th October:** *Medieval Churches* (Tim Tatton-Brown); **21st-22nd October:** *Field-Walking & Historic Maps* (Paul Wilkinson); **28th-29th October:** *Study of Artifacts*; **4th-5th November:** *Study of Roman Roads* (Paul Wilkinson). Mostly £30 per day (10% discount for KAS or CBA members). Details from Paul Wilkinson (0181 987 8827 or 0585 700 112).

Kent Archaeological Society Churches Visit - Tuesday 30th May. Meet at Upchurch church at 6.45pm then to Lower Halstow. Led by Jonathan Fryer, £2 per head. Details (01622) 871945.

Exhibitions at the Medway Local Studies Centre. Strood : **Until 30th May :** *Medway Hospitals & Almshouses*; **5th June-25th July :** *Dickens & his Gardens at Gads Hill Place*; **31st July-28th August :** *The Jezreelites*; **5th September-24th October :** *1000 Years of Medway History*. Details and opening times on (01634) 332714.

Kent Archaeological Society Lecture - Saturday 3rd June : Rochester Cathedral; a Study in Transition, by Alan Stevens. 2pm at the Visitor Centre, Rochester High Street £2.50 (£2 for KAS members). Details from Denis Anstey (01634) 240015.

Kent Archaeological Society Kentweek Lectures - Friday 23rd June : The Archbishop's Palace at Charing, by Sarah Pearson at 1pm, and **Rochester Cathedral; a Study in Transition**, by Alan Stevens at 3pm. **Both free** in the Lecture Theatre, County Hall, Maidstone.

Faversham Society Open House Days - Saturdays 1st, 8th, and 15th July. Visit Faversham's historic properties, many of which are not normally open to the public. Admission by programme available from the Fleur De Lis Centre, Preston Street, Faversham (01795) 534542.

The Secret Gardens of Faversham - Weekends 3rd & 4th June and 22nd & 23rd July. Visit gardens which are not normally open to the public. Admission by programme (£4.50 or £5.25 by post) available from the Fleur De Lis Centre, Preston Street, Faversham (01795) 534542.

Civic Trust Heritage Open Days - 9th & 10th September (Kent and England generally), 16th & 17th September (London). Visit historic buildings not normally open to the public. Details from tourist offices nearer the time.

If you know of any interesting events or activities, please let me have the details.

Deadline for the Next Newsletter

Deadline for contributions to the September Newsletter is **31st August 2000**. Email preferred.

MAAG Contacts

Newsletter contributions to: David Carder, 91 Ballens Road, Chatham ME5 8PA
(01634) 681896 (answering machine); email-david.carder@fdn.co.uk

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Meetings Organiser: Josephine Sanders, 302 The Tideway, Rochester ME1 3PS
(01634) 849477 (answering service)

Stop Press - Visit to the Weald & Downland Museum

Sittingbourne WEA are arranging a coach outing to the Weald & Downland Museum, near Chichester in Sussex, on **Monday 16th October** with a pick-up in Maidstone. Price about £11-12 including admission. Further details in the September Newsletter, or telephone Elsie Straight on (01795) 476510.



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, September 2000

Dear Fellow Members

Now that summer is coming to an end (when did it start this year ?), we can now look forward again to our indoor meetings' programme. At the time of writing there are still opportunities for members to give short talks at the Members' Evening on 20th October, so please contact Josephine (details at end) by the end of September if you would like to contribute. **This is your opportunity to tell the Group what you've been doing, so please take it** - anything vaguely archaeological or historical will be of interest.

Our autumn outing this year is a guided tour of Gravesend, concentrating on the historic waterfront which is about to undergo a major regeneration. The town has a fascinating history, and we will be expertly guided by Mrs Sandra Soder, Secretary of the Gravesend Historical Society, so I hope for a good attendance - **the cost is just £1 and there is no need to book.**

Apart from running my annual summer school on medieval buildings, this year based at Guildford, most of my recent activities have been confined to "armchair archaeology" - in particular trying to keep up with the large number of excellent programmes on archaeology and history broadcast on radio and television. *The Roots of English* and *Mapping the Town* were my favourites on radio, whilst *Secrets of the Dead*, *Shock of the Old*, and *Romans Day* were my television highlights together with, of course, *Time Team Live* over the August Bank Holiday, this year at Canterbury. *Time Team* excavated at Tyler Hill, where they uncovered the best preserved medieval tile kilns in the country; the Greyfriars site, with fine tiled cloister floors and the foundations of the friary church; and a yard in Stour Street, where they hoped (but failed) to find the main Roman temple - oh well, two out of three isn't bad ! It was good to see Paul Bennett (CAT) and Tim Tatton-Brown (ex-CAT) heavily involved, and I hope that Paul will be presenting the *First Report* at Rochester on 14th October (see *Announcements*) where he can give more details of the excavations and background to the making of the programme.

Finally, and continuing the television theme, a major new BBC series on the *History of Britain* starts at the end of September.

David Carder

Group Activities

Albert Daniels reports as follows. For further information contact Albert on (01622) 674494.

Thurnham Castle : Volunteers are needed for tree clearing in late September.

Whitehorse Wood, Thurnham : Field walking, jointly with the Young Archaeologists Club.

Charing lime-kilns : During August, a site with four Victorian lime-kilns and outbuildings was cleared and one lime-kiln emptied. Sited by the Pilgrims' Way 1½ miles east of Charing, the lime-kilns were in use up to 1959 and are probably the best preserved in Kent, yet are not on the Sites and Monuments Record. A replica kiln for firing up is being built on the site.

Subscription Reminder

If this Newsletter is marked with a red cross at the top, then your subscription for the year beginning 1st April 2000 is now overdue. Sadly, if this is not paid by 31st December then this will be your last Newsletter and your membership will cease - as a small group we cannot afford to send out information to lapsed members.

Cheques (payable to **Maidstone Area Archaeological Group**) should be sent to Jess Obee, 115 Old Tovil Road, Maidstone ME15 6QE or handed in at one of the meetings. Annual rates are :

- **Individual Membership** **£ 4**
- **Family Membership** **£ 6**
- **Junior Membership** **£ 2**

Visit to Gravesend - Saturday 21st October. 2pm

This autumn's visit will be an afternoon guided tour of Gravesend, led by Mrs Sandra Soder, Secretary of the Gravesend Historical Society. She will relate some of the town's fascinating history, and tell us about the exciting (and funded) plans to re-generate the historic waterfront.

Meet at **2 pm** at the **Pocahontas Statue** in St George's Churchyard. **No booking is necessary - just turn up.** There is an agreed donation to the Gravesend Historical Society, thus:

Adult: £1

Junior (under 16): 50p.

There is a car park nearby (see map), and we are promised a leisurely stroll, so it is suitable for the less able. Open to both members and guests, the walk ends at about 4.30 pm, when we hope to have tea at a local cafe for those who want it.

There is a small museum at Milton Chantry (see map), open from 10-4 (£1.50/75p, English Heritage members free), and tourist information is at the St George's Centre (01474 337600).

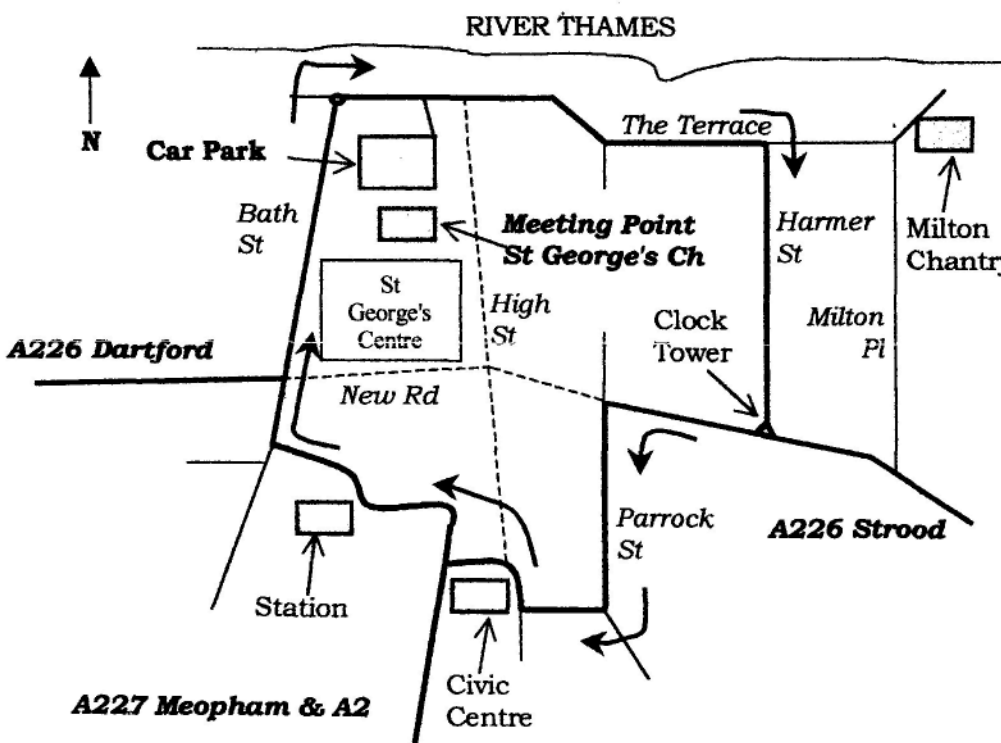
Gravesend ? What's there ? Perhaps today, Gravesend is an unremarkable industrial town.

In Tudor times it was a small port with a reputation for smuggling, the smugglers using waterside inns as their headquarters - the Three Daws, built around 1565, still survives. In 1539 Henry VIII built blockhouses at Gravesend (the foundations are exposed and visible) and at Milton (marked on the ground) with guns with ranges of over a mile. After disarming in 1553, the blockhouses were re-armed during the Spanish Armada crisis of 1588.

In the early 19th century, along with Margate, it was one of the first popular Kentish resorts, a creation of the steamboat era, with hoards of working-class day trippers coming down from London. By the 1840s there were numerous attractions, including; the Albion and Clifton Baths; the Terrace, Town, and Rosherville Piers; Tulley's Bazaar; numerous libraries; a theatre; and excursions to neighbouring beauty spots. River traffic peaked in the 1850s, but began to decline in the 1860s with the expansion of the railways, though the town remained popular with Cockney day trippers until the end of the century.

Shipbuilding was another major industry in the late 18th and the 19th centuries, with many ships built for the East India Company and the navy - around 2000 men were employed in the 1850s building ships for the Crimean War - but the industry, based on wooden ships, declined in the later 19th century with the advent of iron-hulled steamships.

Lime burning, using the chalk from the North Downs, was an important industry for many centuries. Roman cement and then Portland cement became major industries in Gravesend and Northfleet during the 19th century and remain so today. Other major industries in the late 19th and 20th centuries were paper mills, printing, and the manufacture of electric cables.



- Follow the **A226** from
- Strood or the **A227**
- from Meopham and
- the A2 into
- Gravesend town
- Centre. Join the
- clockwise one-way
- system, keeping right
- after the station.
- **Then go straight on**
- (not left for Dartford),
- descending Bath
- Street, right at the
- roundabout at the
- bottom, and the car
- park is on the right.
- **Meet at 2pm at the**
- **west end of the**
- **church by the**
- **Pocahontas statue.**

Announcements

Further announcements and information are given at indoor meetings. *If you know of any interesting events or activities, please let me have the details.*

Sunday 24th September. 10-5 : Roman Tombs Open Day, Warbank, Keston. A circular and a rectangular tomb, of c.200, forming part of a Roman cemetery. Details 020 8462 4737.

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th September : London Open House (including Bexley & Bromley). See buildings not normally open to the public . Details from Tourist Info. Centres.

Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th October : Loose Millennium Exhibition. Details (01622) 744401.

Kent Archaeological Society lectures. Details on (01634) 240015.

- **Saturday 14th October. 2pm : First Report** - updates from the Canterbury Archaeological Trust and Trust for Thanet Archaeology, at the Visitor Centre, High St, Rochester.
- **Saturday 11th November, 2pm : History on the Internet**, by Dr Stephen Hipkin, with live demonstration, at Christ Church University College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury.

Saturday 4th November, 2pm : CKA Autumn Conference - 2000 Years of Christian Heritage in Kent. At Canterbury, with talks by Tom Blagg, Brian Philp, Tim Tatton-Brown, and Roy Tricker. Tickets £3 with SAE from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP.

Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre. Strood. Open Mon, Thu, Fri 9-5, Tue 9-6, 1st & 3rd Sat 9-1, closed Wednesdays. (01634) 332714.

- **Now until Tuesday 24th October : 1000 Years of Medway History** (exhibition, free).
- **Wednesday 11th October. 10-4 : Information Technology for the Family and Local Historian.** £20 inc. lunch. Booking required.
- **Monday 13th November to Friday 7th January : Victorian Cemeteries of the Medway Towns** (exhibition, free). Also a talk on Friday 24th November at 7.30pm, £3. Booking reqd.
- **Wednesday. 6th December, 10-4 : Mince Pie Day.** An open day with refreshments. Free.

Kent Archaeological Field School. Faversham : Practical weekend courses. Details from Paul Wilkinson (0181 987 8827 or 0585 700 112). £30 per day (less 10% for KAS & CBA members).

- **23rd & 24th September : Field Survey and Geophysics. 7th & 8th October : Archaeological Drawing**, by Jane Russell (University College, London). **14th & 15th October : Medieval Churches**, by Tim Tatton-Brown. **21st & 22nd October : Field Walking and Historic Maps**, by Dr Paul Wilkinson. **28th & 29th October : Study of Artifacts. 4th & 5th November : The Study of Roman Roads**, by Dr Paul Wilkinson.

Friday 17th November. 12-6. & Saturday 18th. 10-5 : Book Fair at County Hall, Maidstone.

Adult Education Classes

The following classes begin in late September.

Maidstone (01622 752165) : Glorious Romanesque - Architecture of Normans (Monday pm); Aspects of Kent History (Tuesday eves); Life in Victorian Britain (Wednesday pm); Maidstone Area - Its History and Geography (Tuesday eves); Family History (Tuesday eves).

Maidstone WEA (01622 812129): Medieval England (Monday mornings).

Medway (01634 845359): Several archaeology and history courses available.

Medway WEA (01634 724135): Handling History - Life in Victorian Medway (Tuesday evenings, Guildhall Museum); The History of English Pleasure Resorts, 1500-1950 (Tuesday mornings).

Local Groups' Programmes

Below is a summary of indoor meetings in the Maidstone area. Since programmes may change after publication, it is advisable to contact the programme secretary, on the telephone number given, before travelling. Non-members normally have to pay admission (typically £1-£2).

MAAG: 7.30 pm, The School Hall, The Street, Detling (01634) 849477. **Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group (LMARG): 8 pm**, The Friends' Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester (01634) 849477. **Maidstone Historical Society (MHS): 7.15 pm**, Harold Hardy Hall, Brewer Street, Maidstone (01622) 728130. **Loose Area Historical Society (LAHS): 7.30 pm**, Loose Infants' School, Loose Road (01622) 744401.

Date	Group	Title and Speaker
Mon 25th Sep	LMARG	<i>Roman and Medieval Iron-Working in the Weald.</i> Jeremy Hodgkinson
Wed 27th Sep	MHS	<i>The Seal Chart Murder 1908.</i> Monty Parkin
Fri 20th Oct	MAAG	Members' Evening , Short talks or presentations
Mon 23rd Oct	LMARG	<i>The Local History Project in Luton and Lordswood.</i> Jim Logan
Wed 25th Oct	MHS	<i>The Coastline and Seashore of Kent.</i> Fred Booth
Mon 13th Nov	LAHS	<i>Ypres, its History and Importance.</i> Malcolm Moore
Fri 17th Nov	MAAG	A Guided Tour through Knole. Ron Halford
Wed 22nd Nov	MHS	<i>Leylines.</i> Douglas Chapman
Mon 27th Nov	LMARG	<i>Trade Routes - the Growth of Highways.</i> John Elderton
Mon 11th Dec	LAHS	<i>Some Kentish Ghosts.</i> Dennis Chambers.
Fri 15th Dec	MAAG	Christmas Social Please bring a few refreshments
Mon 8th Jan	LAHS	<i>From Sandgate to Rye - Napoleon's Gateway.</i> Julia Page
Fri 19th Jan	MAAG	The Churches in and around the Romney Marshes. David Carder
Wed 24th Jan	MHS	<i>The Advance into Maidstone.</i> Roger Thornburgh
Mon 12th Feb	LAHS	<i>The Great Exhibition of 1851.</i> Derek Mossman
Fri 16th Feb	MAAG	Richborough Castle. Dr Frank Andrews
Wed 28th Feb	MHS	<i>A Tram-Ride through Rochester.</i> Bob Ratcliffe
Mon 12th Mar	LAHS	<i>The Explosives Industry.</i> Arthur Percival
Fri 16th Mar	MAAG	Ramsgate Then and Now. BR Fagg
Wed 28th Mar	MHS	<i>Queen Victoria,</i> Anne Carter
Fri 20th Apr	MAAG	Annual General Meeting and a short talk if time permits.

If you can recommend any interesting talks or speakers - or if **you** would like to give a talk - please advise our Meetings Organiser, Josephine Sanders (see *Contacts*).

Kent History Federation

Pat Brooks reports from the KHF meetings in March and June 2000.

- Rev. Peter Rowe will continue as editor of the *Journal of Kent History*, assisted by Roger Thornburgh. (Note - The *Journal* is published each March and September and is available on subscription or at MAAG meetings).
- The young archaeologist's group in Maidstone now has 75 members.
- There are now 95 societies affiliated to the KHF.
- There is a new list of lecturers willing to give talks to local societies.
- The East Kent Archive building at Whitfield near Dover is now open, but only one day per week at present. There will eventually be four staff there.
- Kent Archives has received a grant of £697,000.
- Bexley archives have moved from Hall Place to Townley Road library.
- Ramon Higgs is new chairman of the Kent Historic Buildings Committee. Peter Lambert will endeavour to complete the Kent Historic Buildings Index following the death of Kenneth Gravett, the missing sections being Maidstone and Ashford districts.
- The one-day conference at Faversham was a great success. The conference in 2001 will be in Rye (not even in Kent!) and provisionally in 2002 Lydd.

Deadline for the Next Newsletter

Deadline for contributions to the March 2001 Newsletter is **28th February**.

Contacts

Newsletter contributions to: David Carder, 91 Ballens Road, Chatham ME5 5PA
(01634) 681896 (answering machine).

Meetings Organiser: Josephine Sanders, 302 The Tideway, Rochester ME1 3PS
(01634) 849477 (answering service).

General: Richard Weeks (Chairman), 14 The Quarter, Staplehurst, TN12 0EP
(01580) 890042 (answering machine).



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, March 2001

Dear Fellow Members

Most of you will know of the sad and sudden death last October of our member Michael Clark. Michael, who was 73, was an architect by profession, and lived all his life in Lenham, where he provided friendly and expert guidance to visiting groups including MAAG. A long-term member of MAAG, in recent years Michael had acted as our honorary auditor. Our condolences go to his family, and we are delighted to hear that Betty will continue to attend our meetings.

The untimely death of Tom Blagg last August, at the age of just 58, has robbed Kent of one of its most eminent archaeologists and scholars. Tom had many interests, ranging from classical and medieval archaeology and genealogy to the history of ballet, and at least one of our members was inspired by his adult education classes.

Happily Jess Obee is very much alive, but after many years as Honorary Treasurer he would like to stand down. I have offered to take over this position, subject to election at the AGM, and so will be Acting Treasurer for collection of subscriptions for 2001.

As a Registered Charity, we can reclaim the income tax that many of you will have paid on your subscription money. This scheme, known as Gift Aid, is simpler than Deeds of Covenant which were previously used by many charities (not MAAG), and further information is provided on the Membership Form. If you qualify please sign the Declaration to assist the Group's finances.

Whilst considering Gift Aid, the Chairman and I have looked to see if our Rules are satisfactory, both with regard to our charitable status and the way the Group operates in practice. We have identified some Rules which are unsatisfactory for us as a charity, and several others which could be altered to improve the general running of the Group. The proposed Rule changes will be discussed and voted on at the AGM, so please attend if you are able; failing that, please use your postal voting right. The amended Rules will be included with the May Newsletter.

Finally, Josephine has arranged a Spring Outing to Canterbury - details are enclosed, and we hope to see several members and friends there.

David Carder

Notice of Annual General Meeting - Friday 20th April 2001

This year's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 20th April 2001 at the School Hall, The Street, Detling. The Agenda is as follows :

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 2000 AGM and matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Meetings Organiser's report
6. Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts
7. Subscription rates
8. Archaeological Director's report
9. Election of Officers
 - Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman
 - Hon. Secretary (or Hon. Joint Secretaries)
 - Hon. Treasurer
10. Election of Hon. Auditor
11. Reports and Election of Representatives
12. Proposed changes to Rules
13. Future Activities (including outings)
14. Any other business

Membership Renewals

Subscriptions for the year beginning 1st April 2001 are now due, and are unchanged.

Please use the renewal form enclosed with this Newsletter, and complete as much as of it as possible - that way we can establish what members' interests really are. ***Please sign, the Gift Aid section, if you qualify.*** Return the form with your cheque to **David Carder** (address at end), or hand it with cheque or cash to any Committee Member who will give you a receipt.

Renewing members will receive a handy Membership Card with the May Newsletter, giving details of indoor meetings, subscription rates, and contacts.

2001/2 Programme

Josephine Sanders, with her usual efficiency, has almost finalised the programme for 2001/2. **Indoor meetings are held at the School Hall, The Street, Detling** (just down from the Cock Horse pub) on **Fridays at 7.30 pm.**

Friday 20th April	Annual General Meeting , followed by a short talk if time permits
Friday 18th May	Britain's Defence against the German Invasion, 1940 Mr David Ottway (MAAG Member)
Saturday 19th May	Spring Outing - The Hospitals and Almshouses of Canterbury Led by Marjorie Lyle (see separate announcement)
Friday 15th June	The History of Cob ham Hall Mr Gerry Harris
July and August	No indoor meetings
Friday 21st September	The Story of Sandwich Dr Frank Andrews
Early October	Autumn Outing - Richborough and Sandwich (Details will be announced in a future Newsletter)
Friday 19th October	Members' Evening - Short talks or other activities (e.g. displays or demonstrations) welcome, but please advise Josephine, Richard, or David at least a month in advance.
Friday 16th November	Ancient Egypt Mr Gerry Harris
Friday 14th December	Christmas Social - refreshments and short talks or quizzes
Friday 18th January	Priests, Parish, and People in 1400 Mr Philip Lawrence
Friday 15th February	Traditional Kentish Trades, Crafts, and Industries Mr Richard Filmer
Friday 15th March	To be arranged - we hope that a member will offer a talk.
Friday 19th April	Annual General Meeting

Remember - indoor meetings are free of charge for members, and **£1 for non-members.**

Announcements

The best way to find out what is going on is to come along to our indoor meetings, where announcements are made and the latest information laid out. Events include :

Digging : Albert Daniels can provide the latest information on current and future excavations, which often occur at short notice. If interested, contact Albert on (01622) 674494.

Saturday 7th April : KAS Lecture - *Excavations at Thurnham Villa, 1833-1999* by Steve Lawrence. 2.30pm at Medway Visitor Information Centre, 95 High Street, Rochester. Tickets £3 (KAS members £2) on the day from the ground-floor counter (tel. 01634 843666).

5th March to 24th April : Exhibition at the Medway Local Studies Centre, Strood : *Tramways of Rochester*, arranged by Bob Ratcliffe. Details (01634) 332714.

Saturday 12th May : KAS Conference - *Anglo-Saxon & Medieval Kingship*. 5 lectures by eminent speakers starting at 10am at the Powell Lecture Theatre, Christ Church College, Canterbury. Tickets £10 (£8 for KAS members) from Prof. S Greenwood, History Dept (Conference Tickets), Christ Church University College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury CT1 1QU. Enclose SAE and make cheques payable to Kent Archaeological Society.

Saturday 2nd June : KAS Lecture - *Henry VIII and Eltham Palace* by Jonathan Foyle. 2.30 pm at Ramsey Lecture Theatre, Christ Church College, Canterbury. Tickets £3 (£2 for KAS members) from Canterbury Information Centre, 34 St Margaret's Street (01227) 455600 until 11.30 am, thereafter at the door. Parking is available at Christ Church University College in the blue car park via gate 1 off North Holmes Road.

Courses at the Kent Archaeological Field School, Faversham : 7th & 8th April - Prehistoric Kent; 13th to 16th April - Excavation of a Medieval Palace; 21st & 22nd April - Archaeological & Geophysical Survey; 28th & 29th April - The Past from the Air (including balloon flight); 5th to 7th May - The Study of Roman Roads; 12th & 13th May - Bones & Burials; 19th & 20th May - The Saxon Shore; 26th to 28th May - Discovering Archaeological Sites; 9th & 10th June - Stone Tools. Mostly £30 per day, details 01795 532548. Remaining courses in the May Newsletter.

If you know of any interesting events, please let me have the details.

Local Medway Archaeological Research Group Programme

LMARG meet on Mondays at 8 pm at The Friends' Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester, and charge £1 for non-members. For further details contact Josephine Sanders (01634) 849477.

21 May	Heraldry - Mr Cyril Baldwin
25 June	Napoleon the Man - Miss Anne Carter
23 July	Ironworking in the Weald: Blast Furnaces - Mr Jeremy Hodgkinson
24 September	Rock Art - Miss Sophie Adams
29 October	Art as a Historical Resource - Mrs Julia Page
26 November	Medieval Faith and Brasses - Mr Philip Lawrence

Deadline for the Next Newsletter

Deadline for contributions to the May 2001 Newsletter is **30th April**.

Contacts

Newsletter contributions and subscriptions to: David Carder, 91 Ballens Road. Chatham ME5 8PA (01634) 681896 (answering machine).

Meetings Organiser: .Josephine Sanders. 302 The Tideway,, Rochester ME1 3PS (01634) 849477 (answering service).

General: **Richard Weeks** (Chairman), 14 The Quarter, Staplehurst, TN12 0EP (01580) 890042 (answering machine).

Visit to Canterbury's Hospitals and Almshouses. Saturday 19th May

This year's Spring outing, arranged by Josephine Sanders, will be a guided walk around Canterbury, visiting several of the city's ancient hospitals and almshouses. We are fortunate to have as our guide **Marjorie Lyle**, whose knowledge of Canterbury is unsurpassed. Marjorie, who gave a talk to MAAG last September, is a former lecturer and teacher, and was for many years Education Officer of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. She is the author of the Batsford/English Heritage book on Canterbury.

Final details are being arranged, but we hope to include internal visits to three almshouses **which are not open to the public** - St John (founded c. 1087), Jesus (1599), and Maynard and Cotton (late C12, refounded 1708) - as well as passing by Eastbridge and Poor Priests' (now the Heritage Centre), which can be visited separately.

The tour starts at **10.30am** in the **St Radigund's car park**, and will finish by 1pm. If late, go directly to St John's Hospital, Northgate.

St Radigund's car park offers long-stay parking, and is on the north side of the city off St Radigund's Street. There is another large long-stay car park nearby off Kingsmead Road. There are also park-and-ride services from Wincheap (A28 south, but NO ACCESS from the A2 bypass, use the ring road), the University, and Sturry Road (A28 north).

The charge is £4 (£2 under 16s), including a donation of £2 (£1) to the almshouses.

In the afternoon, why not visit the **Big Dig**, an exciting presentation by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust of the huge Whitefriars excavation- admission is £2 (£1 for children). Further information on this and other attractions will be available on the day.

We need a minimum of about 15, and have a limit of about 25, so booking is necessary.

Bookings should be made on the attached form and should be received by **Saturday 5 May** with the full payment, after which please telephone first to check availability of places. Friends and relatives of members are very welcome to attend.

If oversubscribed, a ballot will be held and unsuccessful applications returned.

Please send the booking form with a cheque (payable to **D Carder Only**) to :

Mr D Carder, 91 Ballens Road, Chatham, Kent ME5 8PA.

(For convenience, this is the same address as for MAAG Membership Renewals, which may be enclosed in the same envelope, but separate cheques please).

Please enclose an SAE if you would like a receipt, but these cannot be sent out until after 5 May, in case a ballot is needed.

If you have any general queries, please telephone David Carder on (01634) 681896 (answering machine). Canterbury Visitor Information Centre is on (01227) 455600.

----- **Detach here - please retain upper part for reference** -----

Visit to Canterbury. Saturday 19th May 2001

Name : **Phone No. :**

Address :

	<u>No.</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>ADULT</u>		places @ £ 4	£
<u>JUNIOR (under 16)</u>		places @ £ 2	£
<u>TOTAL DUE</u>			£

I enclose a cheque (payable to **D Carder Only**) **for £** I agree that if I fail to attend, full or partial refunds can only be made at the organisers' discretion.

Proposed Changes to MAAG Rules

Introduction

The Group is constituted as a legal charity and was registered on 14th June 1978 with the Charity Commission (No. 275899). The Governing Document registered with the Charity Commission is the Rules adopted in April 1977 and amended on 26th April 1978. Since that time, the running of the Group has evolved considerably, and new legislation covering Charities has come into place, in particular the Charities Acts of 1992 and 1993. Amendments are (belatedly) required to some of the Rules in order to bring them into line with the legal framework, and at the same time it seems appropriate to amend other Rules to reflect the way that Group now operates.

The principal benefits of being a charity, as they affect the Group, are basically financial:

- exemption from income tax on investments; and
- the ability to recover tax paid on members' subscriptions under the Gift Aid scheme.

Proposed Changes

Where practicable, additions are indicated in ***bold italics*** and deletions as ~~crossings through~~.

No changes are proposed to Rules 1, 2, 4, 9, 11a, 15, or 16.

The amendments to Rule 5 avoid the need to re-register the Rules with the Charity Commission each time there is a subscription change.

The amendments to Rule 7 (and possibly 8) are necessary to clarify the rules under charity law.

The amendments to Rule 11 are necessary to avoid needing to employ a professional registered auditor.

Maidstone Area Archaeological Group Rules

TITLE

1. The title of the association shall be the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group.

OBJECTS

2. The Group, working in association with Maidstone Museum, shall promote the study of archaeology for the benefit of the public, co-ordinate archaeological research, and publish the results of such research.

MEMBERSHIP

3. Membership shall be open to ~~interested persons, nominated and seconded by members of the Group. Applications for membership will be submitted at any meeting of the Group.~~ ***any interested person, provided that the Chairman may submit any membership application to any meeting of the Group for confirmation.***

Explanation : *New members are normally accepted into the Group without being proposed and seconded, and without a vote. If the Chairman has reason to believe that the new member may be detrimental to the Group he may submit the application for confirmation.*

4. The membership of any member may be terminated by a two-thirds majority of those present at three consecutive monthly meetings, after members have been informed in writing and having afforded him/her the opportunity of a hearing at the latter two meetings.

SUBSCRIPTION

5. The annual subscription shall be ~~£ 6 00 per family, £ 4 00 per adult person and £ 2 00 per student and become due on election~~ ***Membership categories, voting rights, and subscription levels shall be decided from time to time at Annual or Special General Meetings. Membership subscriptions shall become due on confirmation of membership*** and subsequently on 1st April each year.

Explanation : *Defining the actual subscription levels within the Rules is cumbersome and lacking inflexibility, and the Rules would need to be re-registered with the Charity Commission each time there is a subscription change.*

The proposed change allows for full discussion and voting, and the expression "membership.subscription" (rather than "annual subscription") allows for a reduced subscription for members who join late in the year - at present members who join after November get a 50% reduction.

The new clause also seeks to clarify the voting rights attached to family and junior membership.

6. Members may not vote at meetings if their membership subscription is unpaid, ~~and~~ ~~a~~ Non-payment of **the membership** subscription for twelve months **or after two written reminders shall** terminates membership.

Explanation : After two reminders, members should no longer subsidise non-payers.

OFFICERS

7. The officers **Executive Officers and Trustees** of the Group shall be:

i) Chairman ii) Vice-chairman iii) Honorary Secretary iv) Honorary Treasurer

Explanation : It is legally necessary to define the charity's trustees. Since the management of the Group is vested in its members under Rule 10, all the members could be interpreted as being the trustees. This change clarifies that the four executive officers are the trustees.

8. The **Executive Officers** shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, **or at a Special General Meeting in the case of a vacancy. Annual and Special General Meetings may also elect other Non-Executive Officers from time to time.**

~~Nominations, which must be with the consent of the member concerned, must reach the Honorary Secretary by 1st April, for the following Annual General Meeting.~~

Explanation : The provision to fill vacancies is both useful and may be legally necessary, since as a charity the Group needs a minimum number of trustees.

What may be called "Non-executive officers" (i.e. officers other than trustees) currently include the Newsletter Editor, Programme Organiser, Excavation Director, and representatives to the CBA, KAS, and KHF; yet these are not mentioned within the present Rules.

The Rule on nominations has been relaxed, to allow nominations from the floor without prior notice.

9. Any officer shall be entitled to claim reimbursement for any out-of-pocket expenses, e.g. postage or telephone.

MANAGEMENT

10. The management of the Group shall be vested in the meeting of the Group, normally one a month **(except in summer)** and at such other occasions as the Honorary Secretary shall determine. All matters may be discussed and decided at such meetings, unless the Chairman or ten members or twenty five per cent of members present consider the business of such importance that every member shall be informed. In such cases, **a Special General Meeting shall be called.** ~~discussion shall be postponed to the next meeting and the Honorary Secretary shall advise all members of the business to be discussed.~~

Explanation : The Group does not normally meet in July and August. Discussion of important business is best included within the new provision for Special General Meetings (see below).

FINANCE

- 11a. The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial administration of the Group and prepare an annual financial statement made up to 31st March for presentation at the Annual General Meeting.
- 11b. ~~An auditor shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.~~ **An Honorary Examiner (who shall not be an Executive Officer) shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting (or in case of vacancy at a Special General Meeting) to examine the accounts for that year.**

Explanation - Charity law requires that an "Auditor" be a professional, registered auditor, and the Group would have to pay professional fees for an audit. Small charities, such as ours, do not need to have our accounts audited, but our Rules provide that they are. There are several options, including :

- (a) the accounts be examined (as proposed above)- examination is less onerous than an audit, and can be undertaken by anyone with a basic financial awareness;
- (b) that no audit or examination take place;
- (c) that the accounts be verified by the other three executive officers.

ANNUAL AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

12a. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in April. Notice of the meeting and the agenda shall be given in writing to all members at least ~~twenty-eight~~ **fourteen** days, beforehand.

Explanation : Compliance with the present 28-day notice period might require a special mailing. Current practice is for the date of the AGM to be notified to members well in advance, but for the Agenda to be included in the March Newsletter which may well not arrive within the 28 day notice period. A 14 day period should be both practicable and acceptable.

12b. **A Special General Meeting may be held at any time under the circumstances provided by these Rules, Notice of the meeting and the agenda shall be given in writing to all members at least fourteen days beforehand.**

Explanation : Special General Meetings (SGMs) are mentioned in Rule 16, and hinted at in Rule 10, but their arrangements are not defined. This new Rule provides specifically for SGMs, and the other proposed Rule changes define additional circumstances under which SGMs, are appropriate :

- Rule 5 - change of annual subscription;
- Rule 8 - election of Executive Officers to fill vacancies, or the election of non-executive officers as appropriate from time to time;
- Rule 11 - to elect an Honorary Examiner in case of vacancy.

RULES

13. Except as provided in Rules 4, 10, and 14, the resolution of the majority present and voting at a meeting of the Group shall be binding. **The Chairman shall not normally vote, but shall have the casting vote in the event of a tie.**

Explanation : This "tie-breaker" is a common mechanism in constitutions of similar societies.

14. These rules shall not be altered, or added to, except by a two-thirds majority of an **Annual or Special General Meeting**. Members may vote by post on proposals to change the rules.

Explanation : Although it is envisaged that most Rule changes would be discussed at AGMs, in the event of a proposed change which has a degree of support not being agreed, an amended proposal could be presented at a Special General Meeting; otherwise a year would elapse before the matter could be considered again.

15. A copy of these rules shall be presented to every member. No amendment or alteration or deletion may be made which would cause the Group at anytime to cease to be a charity at law.

WINDING UP OF THE GROUP

16. If at a Special General Meeting it is decided to wind up the affairs of the Group, the Honorary Treasurer shall realise so much of the assets as may be necessary to discharge the liabilities of the Group and shall give any of the assets remaining to one or more charitable societies or institutions as the members of the Group shall direct. In no circumstances whatever shall any of the assets of the Group at anytime be given or refunded to any member except by way of reimbursement of expenses.

Proposed Changes to MAAG Rules - Postal Voting Paper

Under Rule 14r, members may vote by post on proposals to change the Rules. One vote is allowed per membership (Adult, Family, or Junior/Student).

Members wishing to vote by post should complete and send this paper to the Chairman, Richard Weeks (address below) so as to arrive no later than **19th April 2001** (the day before the AGM). Papers arriving late or incorrectly completed may be considered or rejected at the Chairman's sole discretion.

Mr R Weeks, 14 The Quarter, Cranbrook Road, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0EP

Under Rule 6, only the votes of members who have paid the annual subscription, due on 1st April 2001, will be considered. Outstanding subscriptions (with renewal forms) may be enclosed with this voting paper.

Name and address must be completed - anonymous voting is not allowed.

Name :

Address :

.....

Boxes should be marked with a **tick** or **cross** to indicate voting intention.

Proposed Changes to Rule 3	<input type="checkbox"/> For	<input type="checkbox"/> Against	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Proposed Changes to Rule 5	<input type="checkbox"/> For	<input type="checkbox"/> Against	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Proposed Changes to Rule 6	<input type="checkbox"/> For	<input type="checkbox"/> Against	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Proposed Changes to Rule 7	<input type="checkbox"/> For	<input type="checkbox"/> Against	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Proposed Changes to Rule 8	<input type="checkbox"/> For	<input type="checkbox"/> Against	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Proposed Changes to Rule 10	<input type="checkbox"/> For	<input type="checkbox"/> Against	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Proposed Changes to Rule 11b	<input type="checkbox"/> For	<input type="checkbox"/> Against	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Proposed Changes to Rule 12	<input type="checkbox"/> For	<input type="checkbox"/> Against	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Proposed Changes to Rule 13	<input type="checkbox"/> For	<input type="checkbox"/> Against	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Proposed Changes to Rule 14	<input type="checkbox"/> For	<input type="checkbox"/> Against	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain

Comments written below and overleaf will be considered by the Chairman and announced at the AGM at his discretion.



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, May 2001

Dear Fellow Members

Our Honorary Treasurer, Jess Obee, stood down at the AGM after an amazing 25 years in the post, and I was elected as his successor in addition to my current role as Newsletter Editor.

On behalf of all the membership, I thank Jess for his stewardship of Group funds during this extended period. I would also like to thank him personally for handing over the books and papers to me in "apple-pie" order, and for agreeing to examine my first year's accounts.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the AGM this year, as I was away in Suffolk crawling over vernacular buildings, so my account below is based on information received.

David Carder

Outings

Sadly it seems unlikely that we will be able to run coach outings on an annual basis, due both to dwindling support and rising costs, although it may be possible to justify a coach for special events. However, we intend to organise visits to places in the Kent area using our own transport.

Depending on the level of support, we will try to organise three outings each year - in spring, summer, and autumn - and in many cases these will be linked to talks given at indoor meetings.

Thus, our spring meeting on 19th May to Canterbury is led by Marjorie Lyle, who spoke to us last September. Our summer outing (details below) to Ramsgate is led by Brian Fagg, who spoke to us about the town in March. And our autumn visit to Richborough and Sandwich (details in the September Newsletter) will follow Dr Andrews' two talks on these fascinating places.

Summer Outing to Margate and Ramsgate. Saturday 7th July

Dig beneath the candy-floss and rock to hear the fascinating histories of these two Thanet resorts with two guided tours - come to one or both. **There is no need to book** - just turn up and pay on the day. Guests are welcome. Both meet at prominent seaside clock-towers.

- **Margate** - led by David Carder. Meet at **10 am** at the Jubilee Clock Tower, Marine Drive. £ 1 per head (50p for under 16s) to Group funds. Finish around 12 noon.
- **Ramsgate** - led by Brian Fagg. Meet at 2 pm at the Clockhouse Maritime Museum, off Harbour Parade for museum tour (small extra charge) or at **2.30 pm** (same place) for town tour only. £ 2 per head (£ 1 for under 16s). Finish around 4.30 pm.

Although no expert on Margate, I have recently researched its history and buildings for my adult education classes, so I can lead a general interest walk backed up by old drawings and maps.

Brian Fagg is a retired surveyor with a lifetime knowledge of Ramsgate. He has worked on many of its historic buildings and gave a most interesting talk on its history to MAAG in March.

For tourist info, ring (01843) 220241 (Margate), 583333 (Ramsgate), or 862242 (Broadstairs).

Annual General Meeting - Subscriptions Unchanged, Rules Updated

Our 2001 AGM on 20th April involved discussions on a number of topics, but particularly on changes to the Rules. The proposed changes were circulated with the last Newsletter, and all were agreed by the necessary majority. A copy of the new Rules is enclosed.

Funds stand at £2222, no subscription increases were proposed (so still a bargain at four quid), and the membership is currently 74. The following were elected under the new Rules:

Executive Officers: **Richard Weeks** (Chairman), **Robin Cook** (Vice-Chairman), **Linda Weeks** (Hon. Secretary), and **David Carder** (Hon. Treasurer).

Non-executive Officers: **Josephine Sanders** (Meetings Organiser), **David Carder** (Newsletter Editor), **Pat Brooks** (Kent History Federation Rep.), **Roger Wallbridge** (Council for British Archaeology Rep.), and **Albert Daniels** (Kent Archaeological Society Rep.).

Honorary- Examiner: **Jess Obee**, following the sad death of Michael Clark.

Subscription Reminder

If this Newsletter is marked with a red cross, then your subscription for the year beginning 1st April 2001 is now overdue.

Remember that your membership entitles you to free admission to indoor meetings (non-member admission £1), regular newsletters, outings, the opportunity to partake in excavations and other activities, and the handy Membership Card (enclosed) with details of the programme. Cheques, payable to *Maidstone Area Archaeological Group*, should be sent to me, David Carder (address at end) or payments made at one of the meetings. Annual subscription rates are :

Individual Membership £ 4, family Membership £ 6, Junior Membership £ 2

Members Interests

Thank you to those of you who have completed the "Main Interests" section of the Membership Form. I really do read them, and just to prove it I have analysed the 19 received so far thus:

Forms Completed		19					
1	General Interest	18	95%	6	Standing Buildings	8	42%
2	Local History	17	89%	7	Industrial Archaeology	7	37%
3	Indoor Meetings	13	68%	8	Research	2	11%
4=	Excavation & Site Work	9	47%	9=	Technical Support	1	6%
4=	Outings	9	47%	9=	Other	1	6%

From this, one can perhaps conclude that indoor meetings either of general interest or on local history are going to be of most interest to members, and presumably that is why our indoor meetings are proving to be so well attended - we regularly have attendances of around 30, which represents around 40% of the total membership. Excavations and outings are also popular, ahead of standing buildings (my own preference) and industrial archaeology.

However, 19 from 74 is a relatively small sample, and is explained in part by several members who have paid subscriptions for future years and therefore have not sent in renewal forms this year. If they, or any other members, would like to let me know their main interests, either on a membership form or a separate sheet (including their name and using the above categories), I will include their interests in the survey in a future Newsletter.

This is really the only mechanism we have for tailoring our activities to members' interests, so, please let us know what your interests are.

Just one request - **please** include your name and, preferably, address on the Membership Renewal form. It only takes you a few moments, but it can take me ages to try to work out from whom an anonymous form has come. Remember that I have a pile of these forms, so if cheques become detached, or all I have is cash, then I have to try to match them up.

Announcements

Only room for a couple this time, but a long list was given in the March Newsletter.

Faversham Society Open House Days - Saturdays 7th, 14th, & 21st July. Visit Faversham's historic properties, many of which are not normally open to the public. Admission by programme available from the Fleur De Lis Centre, Preston Street, Faversham (01795) 534542.

Civic Trust Heritage Open Days - 8th & 9th September (Kent and England generally), 15th & 16th September (London). Details from tourist information centres nearer the time.

Deadline for the Next Newsletter

Deadline for contributions to the September Newsletter is **31st August 2001**. **Please** let me have some items, on any topics of interest - it gets a bit lonely doing this all on my own !

Contacts

Newsletter items and Subscriptions to: David Carder, 91 Ballens Road, Chatham ME5 8PA
(01634) 681896 (answering machine)

Chairman: Richard Weeks, 14 The Quarter, Cranbrook Road, Staplehurst TN12 0EP
(01580) 890042 (answering machine)

Meetings Organiser: Josephine Sanders, 302 The Tideway, Rochester ME1 3PS
(01634) 849477 (answering service)



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, September 2001

Dear Fellow Members

I hope you had a good summer and are looking forward to our indoor meetings' programme - don't forget the Members' Evening on 19th October, which is **your** chance to give a short talk to fellow members on any suitable topic of interest; note that a short SGM will precede this.

I hope members will support the visit Richborough and, particularly, Sandwich, linked to our February and September talks. Support for the visit in July to Margate and Ramsgate was disappointing, and it is embarrassing to arrange local guides if only a handful of people turn up.

You may have read about the *Valetta Convention* (formally, the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*) which came into force in the UK on 20 March 2001. For nine years Britain had refused to ratify the Convention due to conflicts with our archaeological traditions, but suddenly did so without consultation. Controlled in England by English Heritage, we hope that there will be little or no adverse impact on the activities of amateur groups such as ours, but we need to be prepared to put forward our opinions and objections as appropriate, and to that end would members please advise me if they hear of any significant developments ?

David Carder (note that I have email again - new address at end)

Autumn Visits to Richborough & Sandwich, Saturday 6th October

No booking is required for these visits - just turn up for one or both. Guests are welcome.

- **Richborough:** Meet in the car park at 1 lam - normal admission prices (EH members free).
- **Sandwich:** Meet in the Guildhall square at **2pm** for a tour by local guides, finishing about 4pm. £1.50 per head (£1 under-16s). We hope to include a visit to St Clement's church.

Programme Change - 15 March 2001

I was due to talk on *The Building Stones of Kent*, but that subject needs a full meeting so I may do that another time. Instead I will now talk on *The Shrines of Rochester Cathedral*.

Notice of Special General Meeting (SGM)

An SGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 19th October 2001 at the School Hall, The Street, Detling to confirm the membership categories, subscription levels, and voting rights in accordance with Rules 5 and 17. **Note that the proposals (with the exception of voting rights, which are at present unclear) merely confirm the current position.** They are :

Membership Category	Subscription 2001/2 & 2002/3	Voting Rights	Qualification
<i>Individual Adult</i>	£4	One vote	16 years of age or over
<i>Family</i>	£6	To be discussed	Up to 2 adults and any number of children at the same address receiving one mailing.
<i>Individual Junior</i>	£2	To be discussed	Under 16 years of age
<i>Honorary</i>	Nil	One vote	By election at an AGM or SGM.

Other provisions :

1. Subscriptions may be paid for up to 5 years membership (i.e. the present year (or part) or coming year and up to 4 years in advance), and will be frozen at the then current rate, provided that no increase or proposed increase in rates has already been announced.
2. Subscriptions paid in advance for whole years will be refunded if membership terminates.
3. Members joining after 30th November in any year may pay 50% of the full subscription for the remaining part of that year, provided that they pay in advance for the following year.

Subscription Reminder

If this Newsletter is marked with a red cross at the top, then your subscription for the year beginning 1st April 2001 is now overdue. Sadly, if this is not paid by 31st December then this will be your last Newsletter and your membership will cease.

Cheques (payable to **Maidstone Area Archaeological Group**) should be sent to David Carder (address at end) or cheques or cash handed in at one of the meetings. Annual rates are :

Individual Membership £ 4 *Family Membership* £ 6 *Junior Membership* £ 2

Subscription News

Members will be pleased to hear that, as Treasurer, I am not proposing any increases in subscription levels for the coming year (2002/3). It is clear, however, that our present level of income will not be sufficient to run the Group's activities for much longer, so inevitably we have to look at ways of increasing income to cover rising costs (and falling interest). Whilst the simple option is to increase subscriptions, more attractive alternatives exist, including:

- Increasing the membership
- Fundraising
- More talks by members, rather than outside speakers
- Increased take-up of Gift Aid

On the last point, I thank members who have completed Gift Aid declarations, which will allow the Group to reclaim **over £86** for the last two years - that alone will pay for three speakers ! So if you pay income tax, please complete a Gift Aid declaration if you have not yet done so (available from me or Richard) - this applies even if you paid your subscription in advance some time ago, since Gift Aid can be backdated. If in doubt, contact me and I will advise. If you have any thoughts on raising additional income, please let me know.

Members' Interests

Thank you to those who stated your main interests on the Membership Renewal Form, now summarised. This helps us plan our activities to better reflect members' preferences.

Returned: 25. Local History: 92%; General Interest: 88%; Indoor Meetings: 60%; Excavation & Site Work: 56%; Outings: 44%; Standing Buildings: 44%; Industrial Archaeology: 32%; Research: 20%; Other: 12%; Technical Support: 4%.

Announcements

Room for just a few. Further announcements and information are given at indoor meetings.

Kent Archaeological Society lectures. All start at 2.30pm. Details on (01634) 240015.

- **#Saturday 13th October : *The Story of a Kentish Market* (Sevenoaks),** by Monty Parkin
- **\$Saturday 10th November : *Kent's Railways - Past & Present*,** by Doug Lindsay
- **#Saturday 2nd February : *Kent Archaeological Soc. - Past & Present*,** by Paul Oldham
- **\$Saturday 2nd March : *Archaeology of the Landscape*,** by Michael O'Cock

Visitor Centre, High St, Rochester. \$ Ramsey Theatre, Christ Church College, Canterbury

Saturday 3rd November, 2pm : CKA Conference - Archaeological Discoveries in the South-East. At Canterbury. Tickets £3 with SAE from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP.

Deadline for the Next Newsletter

Deadline for contributions to the March 2002 Newsletter is **28th February**.

Contacts

Newsletter items and subscriptions to: *David Carder*, 91 Ballens Road, Chatham ME5 8PA
(01634) 681896 (answering machine) email david carder@talk21.com

Chairman: *Richard Weeks*, 14 The Quarter, Cranbrook Road, Staplehurst TN12 0EP
(01580) 890042 (answering machine)

Meetings Organiser: *Josephine Sanders*, 302 The Tideway, Rochester ME1 3PS
(01634) 849477 (answering service)



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, March 2002

Dear Fellow Members

Firstly please note my new address, telephone number, and email address (at end).

With moving house and other demands on my time I have had a very busy few months so only a short Newsletter this time - remember I have also to produce the Annual Accounts for the AGM and to prepare a talk for the March meeting !

I often seem to have to report sad news in March, and this time is no exception. Peter Reynolds, surely Britain's leading experimental archaeologist, died suddenly in Turkey last September at just 61. Many of you will remember Peter's outstanding tour of Butser Ancient Farm when we visited in 1996, and his unique style and approach to archaeology will be sorely missed.

David Carder

Notice of Annual General Meeting - Friday 19th April 2002

This year's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 19th April 2002 at the School Hall, The Street, Detling. The Agenda is as follows :

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 2001 AGM and matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Meetings Organiser's report
6. Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts
7. Subscription rates
8. Archaeological Director's report
9. Election of Officers
 - Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman
 - Hon. Secretary
 - Hon. Treasurer
10. Election of Hon. Examiner
11. Reports and Election of Representatives
12. Future Activities (including outings)
13. Any other business

Membership Renewals

Subscriptions for the year beginning 1st April 2002 are now due, and are unchanged. Please use the renewal form enclosed with this Newsletter, and complete as much as of it as possible - that way we can establish what members' interests really are.

Return the form with your cheque to **David Carder** (address at end), or hand it with cheque or cash to any Committee Member who will give you a receipt on request.

Richard and David have details of members who have paid in advance, so if you are not sure please contact either of us.

Please sign the Gift Aid section if you qualify, as it provides valuable extra income to MAAG at no cost to you.. If you can't remember whether you've signed it previously, sign it again and David will sort it out. He will also try to answer any queries on Gift Aid. As usual, renewing members will receive a handy Membership Card with the May Newsletter, giving details of indoor meetings, subscription rates, and contacts.

2002/3 Programme

With her usual efficiency, Josephine has now arranged the following indoor meetings for 2002/3. The full programme will be published in the May Newsletter and the Membership Card.

Indoor meetings are held at the School Hall, The Street, Detling on Fridays at 7.30 pm.

Friday 19th April	Annual General Meeting , followed by a short talk if time permits
Friday 17th May	Crossing the Medway - History in Action Mr Paul Oldham (KAS President and MAAG Member)
Friday 21st June	Local Place Names Mr Karl Wittwer
July and August	No indoor meetings
Friday 20th September	The Maidstone Paper Industry Mr Jim Preston (Industrial Officer, Council for Kentish Archaeology)
Friday 18th October	Members' Evening
Friday 15th November	Kent Villages and Maidstone Then and Now Mr C Coe - audio-visual presentations
Friday 13th December	Christmas Social
Friday 17th January	The History of the Kent and East Sussex Railway Mr Doug Lindsay
Friday 21st February	To be arranged
Friday 21st March	To be arranged
Friday 25th April	2003 AGM

Remember- indoor meetings are free of charge for members, and **£1 for non-members**.

Announcements

The best way to find out what is going on is to come along to our indoor meetings, where announcements are made and the latest information laid out. Events include :

Digging : Albert Daniels can provide the latest information on current and future excavations, which often occur at short notice. If interested, contact Albert on (01622) 674494.

Saturday 27th April : CKA Conference - 50 Years of Kent Rescue Archaeology. 2.30-5 pm at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Faversham. Tickets £3 (+SAE) from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP

The Big Dig at Canterbury continues. This season the entrance is in St George's Lane where the Park & Ride bus stops. Open daily 1000 to 1600 from mid-March to 31st July 2002. Admission: (may be subject to change) Adults: £2.00; Children: £1.00; Senior Citizens: £1.00. To check the current situation telephone (01227) 462062.

If you know of any interesting events, please let me have the details.

Deadline for the Next Newsletter

Deadline for contributions to the May 2001 Newsletter is **30th April**.

Contacts

Newsletter contributions & subs, to: David Carder, 53 The Ridgeway, Chatham ME4 6PB
(01634) 849085 (answering service); email david_carder@talk21.com.

Meetings Organiser: Josephine Sanders, 302 The Tideway, Rochester ME1 3PS
(01634) 849477 (answering service).

General: Richard Weeks (Chairman), 14 The Quarter, Staplehurst, TN12 0EP
(01580) 890042 (answering machine).



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, May 2002

Dear Fellow Members

Firstly a special welcome to our new members who have joined recently - Mrs J Allen, Mrs J Bayford, Mrs S Beacher, Mr A Fairman, Ms C Frost, Ms G Knight, and Mr & Mrs E Stally. It is very encouraging to have such interest in our Group, and we hope you enjoy our activities. You, and all members, are always welcome to make any comments or suggestions to the Chairman.

Lots of archaeology on TV recently, and the *Time Team Special* in Canterbury was particularly interesting. After filming, however, some fragments of medieval parchment with Latin text were discovered, a very rare survival which missed the TV coverage.

With this Newsletter is your new Membership Card listing the indoor meetings for the coming year. October is our Members' Evening, which is **your** chance to give a short talk or presentation to the group about your interests, which needn't be archaeological. Please let me, Josephine, or Richard know if you would like to take part - we will provide help and advice if needed.

Rather a short Newsletter, since I have only just come back from Devon. Staggering archaeology on Dartmoor, with the remains of settlements lying on the surface in full view. In 1998 I saw Merrivale (Bronze-Age avenue and ritual site), Grimspound (Bronze-Age round-houses), and this time Hound Tor (medieval long-houses). Go there if you can !

Two good local conferences in April, spanning 50 years - *Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Kent* and, by way of contrast, *50 Years of Kent Rescue Archaeology*, the latter with the usual embarrassing photos of now senior archaeologists with long hair and flared jeans !

David Carder

Summer Outing

Although there will be no coach outing this year, we are hoping to arrange a visit using private cars. If so, details will be enclosed with this Newsletter.

Subscription Reminder

If this Newsletter is marked with a red cross, then your subscription for the year beginning 1st April 2002 is now overdue.

Remember that your membership entitles you to free admission to indoor meetings (non-member admission £1), regular newsletters, outings, the opportunity to partake in excavations and other activities, and the handy Membership Card (enclosed) with details of the programme.

Cheques, payable to *Maidstone Area Archaeological Group*, should be sent to me, David Carder (address at end) or payments made at one of the meetings. Annual subscription rates are :

Individual Membership £ 4 Family Membership £ 6 Junior Membership £ 2

Annual General Meeting - Subscriptions Still Unchanged

Our 2001 AGM on 20th April discussed a number of topics, but was relatively uneventful.

Funds stand at £2275, with a surplus this year of £109, so no subscription increases are proposed for 2003 (so still a bargain at just £4 per year - much lower than most groups).

The membership is currently 65, and is stable. The following were elected, with just one change:

Executive Officers: **Richard Weeks** (Chairman), **Robin Cook** (Vice-Chairman), **Linda Weeks** (Hon. Secretary), and **David Carder** (Hon. Treasurer).

Non-executive Officers: **Josephine Sanders** (Meetings Organiser), **David Carder** (Newsletter Editor), **Pat Brooks** (Kent History Federation Rep.), **Roger Wallbridge** (Council for British Archaeology Rep.). **Lesley Feakes** replaced Albert Daniels (Kent Archaeological Society Rep.)

Honorary Examiner: **Jess Obee.**

Several reports were given, the Archaeological Director's summarising our excavation activities:

- *Thurnham*: The Group helped to clear weeds and undergrowth inside the Castle and identified the thickness of the west side wall, prior to a fence being erected. Several clasping buttresses, towers, and a courtyard inside the walls were found. The site had been offered to *Time Team*, but nothing has been heard yet. It is hoped this year to do some geophysics, excavation, and conservation of the tops of the walls to keep the weather out. There will be an open day in June, and a visitor centre and car park are planned.
- *Marden*: The pottery thought to be Iron Age was in fact from the 12th Century.
- *West Farleigh*: Trial pits were dug in January prior to the Parish Council erecting a WC and putting a drain across the churchyard, a length of over 150 yards. There was minimum disturbance to burials, and the Parish Council gave a donation to the Group.
- *Watching Briefs*: 16 Lower Fant Road, extension planned, nothing found.
- Maidstone Museum's Archaeological Curator has left, with no immediate replacement.
- Robin Cook holds the report on All Saints' Church.

Magazines and Journals

Having moved house, I now have more shelving than books, at least for the moment. Hence I can offer storage for surplus magazines and journals. I already have runs of several journals, but some are incomplete. Anything considered, as long as its vaguely archaeological or historical - I am particularly keen to complete the run of *Kent Archaeological Review*. What I can then do is let members have copies of any articles they may want. Contact me if interested.

Incidentally, I have some spare copies of *Archaeologia Cantiana* - just £2 each (£1 to MAAG).

LMARG Transactions

Our neighbours at the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group have just published their 2000 Transactions - if you would like a copy telephone Derek Butler on (01634) 684854. Perhaps we should also produce an annual publication giving details of our activities, particularly since our Rules say we should "*co-ordinate archaeological research, and publish the results of such research*". Any thoughts on this to the Officers please.

Announcements

As always, contact Albert Daniels (Maidstone 674494) for details of any excavations.

Canterbury's Big Dig continues until 2nd August, daily 10am-4pm - details on (01227) 452943.

National Archaeology Days - 20th & 21st July. Contact Albert for details of any Group events.

Kent Archaeological Society's website is gradually being improved, with a new *Research* section and the addition of visual records - www.kentarchaeology.org.uk.

Kent History Federation (KHF) News

Pat Brooks has produced a full report of the meeting on 1 March, which included:

1. The KHF Conferences will be in Cranbrook on 3 May 2003 and Sandwich in 2004.
2. Mrs Julia Page is continuing the Kent Portrait Survey, and welcomes lists of public-domain portraits. (If you would like to do this for our area, I can put you in touch with Julia - Ed.)
3. Administrative work for the new Victoria County History project is progressing.

Deadline for the Next Newsletter

Deadline for contributions to the September Newsletter is **31st August 2002**.

Contacts

Newsletter contributions & subs, to: David Carder, 53 The Ridgeway, Chatham ME4 6PB
(01634) 849085 (answering service); email david_carder@talk21.com.

Meetings Organiser: Josephine Sanders, 302 The Tideway, Rochester ME1 3PS
(01634) 849477 (answering service).

General: Richard Weeks (Chairman), 14 The Quarter, Staplehurst, TN12 0EP
(01580) 890042 (answering machine).

MAAG Summer Outing - Newhaven Fort, Sussex - 6th July

Our member, David Ottway, has kindly agreed to arrange an outing to Newhaven Fort, Sussex on **Saturday 6th July**, meeting at the Fort at **11am**. We hope to be able to get a group rate of £3.75 for adults (normally £4.75). Light lunches and refreshments are available, or bring a picnic. After lunch we will look at some other interesting sites in the area.

The Fort is situated off the A259 (westbound) on the west side of Newhaven Harbour (TQ 446002), and there is a free car park. David knows the fort well, and says that on a good day, the views are spectacular.

If you want to come, please confirm with David on (01732) 871027 (evenings) so that we can get an idea of numbers. David will also try to answer any queries, arrange car sharing, and may be able to offer some lifts from the Larkfield area.



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, September 2002

Dear Fellow Members

I hope you had a good summer and found some interesting places to visit. This year my Summer School on medieval buildings was held in Devon and was blessed with fine weather while most of the rest of the country was getting soaked.

Our indoor meetings' programme starts again, with the usual varied topics, of which I mention two in particular:

- **18th October: Members' Evening.** We have run these for the last two years and they have proved very popular, with short talks from members who perhaps would be reluctant to give a full-length talk. Anything vaguely archaeological or historical is acceptable, ranging from holiday photos (slides if possible) to personal research, so why not have a go? Contact me, Richard, or Josephine if you'd like to.
- **15th November: Kent Villages and Maidstone Then and Now.** Having seen Mr Coe's talks before, this should be an enjoyable if undemanding evening,. He is an excellent photographer who has captured Kentish scenes over the years and uses two projectors synchronised to a commentary and musical background.

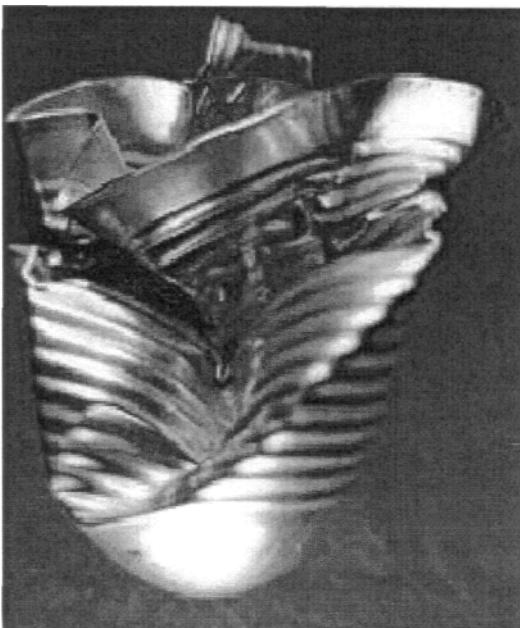
Our planned visit to Newhaven Fort did not take place due to lack of numbers - a shame since David Ottway had gone to some trouble to make the arrangements. We know that some people were away on the planned date, so perhaps we'll try again next year. First, though, we'll try somewhere closer, and I am hoping to arrange a guided tour of Cranbrook, including the newly restored Union Mill, for next Spring - now you can't get much closer than that!

This September Newsletter is always published too late to mention the Heritage Open Days, which are normally held on the second full weekend of September. Maidstone's participation has previously been patchy (particularly when compared with neighbouring Tonbridge and Malling, who always pull out all the stops), but this year they did a good job with several buildings opened and a full-colour guide. I was pleased to meet two other members also enjoying the visits - Gwen Oakley and Geoff Vine. Incidentally London buildings are open on the following weekend.

Finally, it is pleasing to find a new regional archaeology programme on TV - *Past Finders* is on Meridian at 7.30pm on Thursdays.

David Carder

The Ringlemere Cup



I'm sure that most of you will have read about the Bronze Age gold cup found by a metal detectorist at Ringlemere Farm, Woodnesborough near Sandwich earlier this year.

The cup (left) dates to about 1700-1500 BC and is similar to the Rillaton cup, found in Cornwall in 1837 and now on display in the British Museum. It has a conical body, flared rim, and a riveted strap handle which links the rim and upper body. The rim bears a row of dots punched from the outer surface but is otherwise plain.

Four and a half inches high and weighing 3.5oz, the cup was beaten out of a solid lump of 20-carat gold, embossed, and buried in a round barrow close to the grave of an important chieftain.

It has been described as one of the most important Bronze Age finds in Britain and should also end up in the British Museum.

Subscription Reminder

If this Newsletter is marked with a red cross at the top, then your subscription for the year beginning 1st April 2002 is now overdue. Sadly, if this is not paid by 31st December then this will be your last Newsletter and your membership will cease.

Cheques (payable to **Maidstone Area Archaeological Group**) should be sent to David Carder (address at end) or cheques or cash handed in at one of the meetings. Annual rates are :

Individual Membership £4 *Family Membership* £6 *Junior Membership* £2

News from the Kent History Federation

Many thanks to Pat Brooks for attending the quarterly meetings and sending me minutes.

- The one-day conference in 2003 will be at Cranbrook on 10th May, with three morning lectures and nine tours in the afternoon.
- The Kent Tithe Map project is almost completed, with 450 maps repaired, re-boxed, re-filmed, and stored on digital film and compact disc for computerised access.
- The portrait survey has discovered 30 more paintings and two busts, mostly in Sandwich Guildhall!

Announcements

Further announcements and information are given at indoor meetings.

Kent Archaeological Society lectures. All start at 2.30pm. Details from Denis Anstey on (01634) 240015, email d@degian.demon.co.uk.

- **#Saturday 12th October** : *Wealden Iron Research*, by Jeremy Hodgkinson
- **\$Saturday 9th November** : *Britain's Decision to Fight in Korea, 1950*, by S Greenwood
- **#Saturday 1st February** : *Kentish Place-Names*, by Paul Cullen
- **\$Saturday 1st March** : *The Geology and Landscape of Kent*, by Peter Golding
- **#Saturday 5th April** : *Thomas Waghorn and the Overland Routes*, by Andrew Ashbee

Visitor Centre, High St, Rochester

\$ Ramsey Theatre, Christ Church College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury

Saturday 2nd November, 2-5.30 pm : **CKA Conference - Kent Archaeology Along the Thames Foreshore**, with talks by Gustav Milne, Sophie Seel, Victor Smith, and Brian Philp. At Christ Church College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury. Tickets £3 with SAE from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP.

Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group : Our very own **Albert Daniels** is speaking on *Excavations at Northgate* at 8pm on Monday 28th October at the Friend's Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester.

Kent Archaeological Society Visit. Wrotham and Mereworth Churches on Saturday 12th October (clashing with the KAS lecture!). Details from Philip Lawrence on (01622) 871945.

Deadline for the Next Newsletter

Deadline for contributions to the March 2003 Newsletter is **28th February**.

Contacts

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General: **Richard Weeks (Chairman)**, 14 The Quarter, Staplehurst, TN12 0EP
(01580) 890042 (answering machine).



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, March 2003

Dear Fellow Members

Bronze Age Hoard found at Hollingbourne - see the attached notes which show how MAAG and other local groups can play their part in discovering and recovering important finds.

Lots of "digging" opportunities available, so please get involved and get your hands dirty !

Not much room for editorial this time - some items have been held over until May - but we send our best wishes to our members Ron & Ann Neath who are moving away to Derbyshire.

David Carder

Notice of Annual General Meeting - Friday 25th April 2003

This year's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 25th April 2003 at the School Hall, The Street, Detling. The Agenda is as follows :

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 2002 AGM and matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Meetings Organiser's report
6. Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts
7. Subscription rates
8. Archaeological Director's report
9. Election of Officers
 - Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman
 - Hon. Secretary
 - Hon. Treasurer
10. Election of Hon. Examiner
11. Reports and Election of Representatives
12. Future Activities (including outings)
13. Any other business

Membership Renewals

Subscriptions for the year beginning 1st April 2002 are now due, and are unchanged.

Please use the renewal form enclosed with this Newsletter, and complete as much as of it as possible - that way we can establish what members' interests really are.

Return the form with your cheque to **David Carder** (address at end), or hand it with cheque or cash to any Committee Member who will give you a receipt on request.

Richard and David have details of members who have paid in advance, so if you are not sure please contact either of us.

Please sign the Gift Aid section if you qualify, as it provides valuable extra income to MAAG at no cost to you.. If you can't remember whether you've signed it previously, sign it again and David will sort it out. He will also try to answer any queries on Gift Aid.

Spring Visits

Jim Preston, who recently talked to the Group, has kindly invited us on two visits. No booking needed. For queries contact Jim on (01634) 403106.

- 1. Wednesday 21st May - Industrial History of Canterbury.** Meet at 7.30pm at Canterbury East station for a guided walk. No charge.

2. Saturday 24th May - Brattle Farm Museum. Meet at the museum, in Five Oak Lane Staplehurst (TQ775423) at 2.30pm. Fascinating (and rambling !) agricultural museum only open for group visits. Admission charge.

2003 Programme

Josephine has now arranged the following indoor meetings for 2003. The full programme for 2003/4 will be published in May. Indoor meetings are held at the School Hall, The Street, Detling on Fridays at 7.30 pm. They are free of charge for members, and £1 for non-members.

Friday 25th April	Annual General Meeting
Friday 16th May	Gavelkind - Medieval Land Tenure in Kent Mr Karl Wittwer
Friday 20th June	The Archaeology of the Globe Theatre Re-creation Mr Peter Ross
July and August	No indoor meetings
Friday 19th September	The Excavation of Oldbury Hill Mr Ian Gerrard
Friday 17th October	To be arranged
Friday 21st November	Members' Evening
Friday 12th December	Christmas Social

Announcements

The best way to find out what is going on is to come along to our indoor meetings, where announcements are made and the latest information laid out. Events include :

Get on TV ! - BBC2's *Two Men in a Trench*. This programme will investigate the battle of the cross channel guns near Dover, from 22nd April to 2nd May. The producers need enthusiastic volunteers to assist the professional archaeologists with excavation and recording. Volunteers will be paid for lunch and travel, but must be able to attend for most of the nine weekdays.

If interested please contact Richard Weeks by **28th March**.

Digging: Albert Daniels can provide the latest information on excavations, which often occur at short notice. If interested, contact Albert on (01622) 674494. Those notified include:

- Recording and excavation at Otham church during March.
- Excavations at Ringlesmere Farm, Eastry during March & April.
- 15 Knightrider Street, Maidstone during March.
- Recording and excavation at Fremlins Centre, Maidstone starting soon.

Sunday 27th April : Bradbourne House - off New Road, East Malling. Open for the only time this year from 2 to 5pm, adult admission £2.75. House with Tudor core and gardens.

Metal Detector Survey, Brook Field. Loose - Nick Moon's survey report of work carried out between April and June 2002 is available at indoor meetings. Finds dated from the C16 to C20.

Kent History Federation - Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2002 are available at indoor meetings - thanks to Pat Brooks.

Contacts

Newsletter contributions & subs. to: David Carder, 53 The Ridgeway, Chatham ME4 6PB
(01634) 849085 (answering service); email david_carder@talk21.com.

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(01634) 849477 (answering service).

General: Richard Weeks (Chairman), 14 The Quarter, Staplehurst, TN12 0EP
(01580) 890042 (answering machine).



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, May 2003

Dear Fellow Members

Firstly, Gill Knight is leaving the Group as she is moving away. Gill only joined a year ago, but frequently attended our indoor meetings. As mentioned in March, Ron and Ann Neath should by now have moved away to Derbyshire. They lived at Kit's Coty Farm and frequently attended our events as well as letting Group members field-walk their land. Our best wishes to all.

With this Newsletter is your new Membership Card listing the indoor meetings for the coming year. Our Members' Evening has been moved to November (previously October) to allow more time for preparation after the summer break, so we look forward to hearing about what **you** have been doing.

As for me, I gave a lecture on *The Construction of Medieval Churches* at April's KAS conference in Canterbury - a bit daunting in front of over 200 people, and with fellow speakers including doctors and professors, but the audience seemed to enjoy it (or were too polite to complain!).

I have just returned from County Durham with, of course, the famous cathedral and castle in Durham itself, and some very early Anglo-Saxon churches including Escomb, Monkwearmouth, and Jarrow. Two modern highlights were the *Angel of the North* and the tilting *Millenium Bridge* over the Tyne. On the journey up I visited the famous Lincolnshire churches of Heckington and Barton-upon-Humber, crossed the Humber Bridge, saw Hull's great parish church and early brickwork, and got to Beverly Minster just before it closed - a busy day!

Then on 10th May I attended my first Kent History Federation One-Day Conference at Cranbrook - good talks in the morning, particularly one on the Wealden Cloth Industry, with visits in the afternoon and a lavish tea to finish. Next year's is at Sandwich, and recommended.

Finally, *Hidden Treasure* on BBC TV in September has coverage of the Hollingbourne dig.

David Carder

Annual General Meeting - Subscriptions Still Unchanged

Our AGM on 25th April was fairly straightforward, with time at the end for Lesley Feakes to show some slides of the excavations at Hollingbourne, which revealed the Bronze-Age hoard.

Funds stand at £2252, with a small loss of £22 for the year. Although present subscription levels are about right, small increases may be needed from 2004 to meet rising costs.

Book-sales have helped considerably with funds, raising £79. Although they have been held on an *ad hoc* basis and only announced at indoor meetings, it would be better to publicise them through the Newsletter to allow the whole membership to participate; more in September.

The Officers elected were unchanged from last year, namely:

Executive Officers and Trustees: **Richard Weeks** (Chairman), **Robin Cook** (Vice-Chairman), **Linda Weeks** (Hon. Secretary), and **David Carder** (Hon. Treasurer).

Non-executive Officers: **Josephine Sanders** (Meetings Organiser), **David Carder** (Newsletter Editor), **Pat Brooks** (Kent History Federation Rep.), **Roger Wallbridge** (Council for British Archaeology Rep.), **Lesley Feakes** (Kent Archaeological Society Rep.).

Honorary Examiner: **Jess Obee.**

Subscription Reminder

David and Richard have now sorted out the subscription records, so this Newsletter should be marked with a reminder of when your present subscription expires. **If it is marked with a red cross, then your subscription for the year beginning 1st April 2003 is now overdue.**

Cheques, payable to *Maidstone Area Archaeological Group*, should be sent to David Carder (address at end) or payments made at one of the meetings, preferably with a completed renewal form (sent out in March). Annual subscription rates are :

Individual Membership: £ 4, Family Membership: £ 6, Junior Membership: £ 2

National Archaeology Days - 19th and 20th July

A weekend of events to fire the imagination of children - and their parents! Organised by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) and Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC), this is a national scheme for which the Group hope to organise some events this year. This is a good way to raise the Group's profile, so if you would like to help please contact Richard or Albert.

One event (not ours), on 20th, is at the Museum of Kent Life at Sandling, with lots of dressing up and "hands-on" activities.

NAD 2002 was a huge success with over 90,000 visitors turning out to take part in hundreds of activities taking place across the UK, so let's try to do even better this year !

Lenham Archaeological Society

This newly formed Society has an interesting programme of walks and talks on the last Wednesday of the month. For details contact MAAG member Lesley Feakes (01622 850275).

Announcements

As always, contact **Albert Daniels** (Maidstone 674494) for details of Group excavations.

Time Team Big Dig - 28th-29th June. There are still opportunities to get involved in this national event, so if interested contact Albert. The organisers hope that up to 10,000 'test pits' will be dug by an army of eager but hitherto untrained archaeologists. Most devotees of Time Team will know a test pit is a small trench, about one metre square and less than a metre deep.

It's a bold scheme that has already raised concerns among some archaeologists worried about untrained diggers excavating trenches in back gardens without professional supervision. Dr Mike Heyworth, Deputy Director of the CBA said, "We are seeking to ensure the event is carried out with due regard both for the personal health and safety of those involved, and for the care and protection of the archaeological resource." Let's hope it is !

KAS Lecture - 7th June. *Problems in Archaeology*, by Alan Ward. 2.30pm at the Ramsey Lecture Theatre, Christ Church University College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury.

Faversham Society Open House Days - Saturdays 5th, 12th, & 19th July. Visit Faversham's historic properties, many of which are not normally open to the public. Admission by programme available from the Fleur De Lis Centre, Preston Street, Faversham (01795) 534542.

Excavations at Minster-in-Thanel - 24th August to 5th September. The seventh season of digging at this large Romano-British site - for details contact David Bacchus (01634 843495).

National Archives Awareness Month - September. A new series of national and local events.

Civic Trust Heritage Open Days - 12th-15th September (Kent and England generally), **20th & 21st September** (London). Details from tourist information centres nearer the time.

Kent History Federation (KHF) News

Pat Brooks reports on the meeting on 7th March, which included:

1. KHF One-Day Conferences will be in Sandwich in 2004 and Edenbridge in 2005.
2. Articles for the Journal (next one due in September) would be welcomed by the Editor.
3. The KAS library catalogue can now be searched on the internet - www.kentarchaeology.ac.

Contacts

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General: Richard Weeks (Chairman), 14 The Quarter, Staplehurst, TN12 0EP
(01580) 890042 (answering machine).



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, September 2003

Dear Fellow Members

Firstly, please note that Richard and Linda Weeks have moved house (details at end), and I'm sure we all wish them every happiness in their new home.

I am very pleased to welcome three new members: Miss Pauline Rough, of Higham, and Mr & Mrs Mike & Carole King, of Aylesford. We hope to see them at our indoor meetings and other events, and hope that they enjoy their membership. They joined at the Young Archaeologist's Day in July at the Museum of Rural Life at Cobtree, where Richard and Linda manned a display.

Albert Daniels has been maintaining a watching brief during trenching work to install a WC at Otham Church. Some foundations and the rather insubstantial foundations of the buttresses were exposed. Richard took some photographs which we hope to see at the indoor meetings.

Robert and Betty Earl of Mereworth have reported some interesting Roman sites in a local field. They found two substantial areas of Roman scatter, including Samian ware, flue tiles, opus signinum and tegulae. They are reasonably close to each other, but have never been excavated or studied. The field has now been harvested and although there isn't much that one can find in rape stubble, it might be a good time to do an intrusive investigation or geophysical survey. If interested in this or other archaeological work, contact Richard or Albert.

Our indoor meetings' programme starts again this month. Note in particular:

- **21st November: Members' Evening.** This year we have moved this from October to allow more time for preparation. Members can give short talks on anything vaguely archaeological or historical which interests them (and hence is almost certain to interest others). Contact me, Richard, or Josephine if you'd like take part.

We seem to be in a golden age for broadcast programmes on history and archaeology, but I have reservations about **Hidden Treasure** (BBC2, Tuesdays). Metal detecting has its place, but this programme is as much concerned with the monetary value of finds as with their archaeological importance, and hence could encourage the "wrong type" of detectorists. Keep watching, though, as one of the programmes covers the Hollingbourne bronze hoard (see March Newsletter).

David Carder

Indoor Meetings Programme

Please note the following change: The January and February meetings have been swapped, so Richard Filmer's talk will now be on 16th January and David Carder's on 20th February.

The meeting on 19th March will be **Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Kent**, by Paul Cuming of KCC's archaeological service. From past experience, this will be one not to miss !

Membership Details

This Newsletter has been personalised with your membership details (bottom of page 2) - please check that they are correct, and let Richard or David know of any errors. A few members (highlighted) have still not paid their current subscription, so would they please do so soon.

Gift Aid - still time to sign up and help our funds

I will soon be submitting our first claim, and am pleased to report that this will be for around **£200. There is still time to sign up and add to this claim** (which can be backdated to 2000), so if you qualify (i.e. pay any income tax) and have not signed a declaration (check your membership details), we would be very grateful if you would do so. Forms are available, or simply send a signed and dated note to the Treasurer with your name and address stating:

I wish the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group to reclaim tax on all donations and subscriptions I have made since 6th April 2000 and will make in the future until I notify the Group otherwise.

I pay income or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount of tax reclaimed.

Insurance

The Group maintains liability insurance through the Kent History Federation's group policy with Zurich, and members involved in excavation should be aware of the basic conditions:

- No excavation is to take place below a depth of 1.5 metres.
- Hard hats are to be worn on site, though personnel on a green-field site not working in trenches are excepted.

In addition, the insurance cover only applies to **official** Group events. Ideally these should be discussed, agreed and minuted at indoor meetings, but if this is not feasible (e.g. due to short notice) the agreement of the Chairman (Richard Weeks), Vice-Chairman (Robin Cook), and/or Excavation Director (Albert Daniels) **must** be obtained in advance.

News from the Kent History Federation (5th September meeting)

As always, thanks to Pat Brooks for attending the quarterly meetings and sending me notes.

- The CKS (Centre for Kentish Studies) hopes to have a catalogue of its books on the web-site by the end of the year. A new centre is opening in Dover on 30th September.
- One-day conferences will be held in Sandwich in 2004 and Edenbridge in 2005.

Announcements

Further announcements and information are given at indoor meetings.

Kent Archaeological Society Lectures: In the KAS library at Maidstone Museum. Tickets £2 each. To book, state which lecture(s) you wish to attend and send a cheque payable to *Kent Archaeological Society* and an SAE to Kent Archaeological Society Lectures, The Museum, St Faith's Street, Maidstone, ME14 1LH. Note Albert's talk on 27th September.

27th Sept 2003	The Leeds Priory Dig 1973-76	Albert Daniels
11th Oct 2003	Investigation of a Potential Site: Fieldwork Methodology	Simon Miles B.A.
25th Oct 2003	Researching the History of a Parish	Dr. Jacqueline Bower
8th Nov 2003	Using Outlook Express for Email	Miranda Rix
22nd Nov 2003	Using Internet Explorer to Browse the Internet	Miranda Rix
24th Jan 2004	History and Archaeology Research on the Internet	Dr. Jacqueline Bower
14th Feb 2004	Writing Up Your Research	Dr. Jacqueline Bower
13th Mar 2004	Tonbridge People in the Seventeenth Century	Dr. C. W. Chalklin

Overview of Maidstone: A display of 200 aerial photographs of Maidstone before demolition work began at the Fremlin Walk site. Maidstone Library foyer until 4th October (tel. 701943).

Lenham Archaeological Society: This new group has an interesting programme of talks and walks, including: Oct 29th - **Bronze Axes at Hollingbourne**; Nov 26th - **The Ringlemere Gold Cup** (Keith Parfitt). Details from Lesley Feakes (01622 850275), email lesley.feakes@virgin.net.

Saturday 1st November, 2-5.30 pm : CKA Conference - Discovering our Saxon Past; talks on Sutton Hoo, Saxon Dover, and Dark Age London. At Christ Church College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury. Tickets £3 with SAE from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP

Local History Talks: 6.30 pm at the Centre for Kentish Studies - 1st October **The Caged Lady** (Victorian costume) by Lee Ault; 12th November **A History of Maidstone** by Liz Finn; 18th December **Kent Characters: Wacky, Weird and Wonderful!** by Chris McCooley. Tickets £3. To book, state which talk(s) you wish to attend and send a cheque payable to *Kent County Council* and SAE to Centre for Kentish Studies, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1QX.

Contacts

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Meetings Organiser: Josephine Sanders, 302 The Tideway, Rochester ME1 3PS (01634) 849477 (answering service).

General: .Richard Weeks (Chairman), 40 Bell Meadow, Maidstone ME15 9ND (01622) 762422 (**note new address and telephone number**).



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, March 2004

Jess Obee

Jess died suddenly at home in October 2003 aged 76. He and his wife Kay (Kate to some) joined MAAG in January 1973, and he was elected Treasurer in 1974, a post which he held for 27 years until retiring in 2001. His reports at the AGMs give an insight into MAAG's early years.

Christmas cards were a good early fund-raiser, made from pictures drawn by a member, Mr. Spain. In 1974 the picture was a mill, with over 700 being sold at £14 profit; and in 1976 the card was of Boxley Church making a profit of £20. In the later 1970s funds were boosted by the sale of historic maps of Maidstone.

In 1976, £35 was spent on materials to 'do up' Barming Village Centre as a meeting place; some members will remember helping with the clearing and redecoration of this. In 1977 Mr. Michael Clark joined him as the Auditor for the Group's accounts.

A natural gentlemen, Jess never sought the limelight, but simply got on with things quietly and competently in the background. He and Kay were stalwarts of our indoor meetings and outings.

Jess spent most of his working life with a firm of electrical contractors in Maidstone, moving to the family home in Old Tovil Road in the 1950s. He and Kay were volunteer prison visitors, and worshippers at St Philip's Church in Waterloo Street, where Jess was a sides-person, welcoming people to services. Well known as Father Christmas at the church's annual Christmas Fair, he made wooden toys for use in the church toy bags and by the various playgroups.

Our thoughts are with Kay and his daughter, Julie, who very kindly donated some of Jess's books to the Group. Funds raised will be shared with the NSPCC, which Jess supported.

David Carder, Linda Weeks, and Diane Daniels

Notice of Annual General Meeting - Friday 16th April 2004

This year's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 16th April 2004 at the School Hall, The Street, Detling. The Agenda is as follows :

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 2003 AGM and matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts
6. Subscription rates
7. Reports of Non-Executive Officers: *Programme Organiser; Excavation Director; and representatives to the CBA, KAS, and KHF.*
8. Election of Executive Officers: *Chairman; Vice-Chairman; Hon. Secretary; Hon. Treasurer*
9. Election of Non-Executive Officers: *Newsletter Editor, Programme Organiser, Excavation Director, and representatives to the CBA, KAS, and KHF.*
10. Election of Hon. Examiner
11. Future activities (including outings)
12. Any other business

Book Sale

After the AGM, we will be holding a book sale, with proceeds towards our funds. Please bring along as donations any saleable books (on any subject, but archaeology or history preferred).

Bygone Kent: Jess Obee left a set of Volumes 1 to 19, all in matching red binders. They are all in good condition, except that Volumes 1-3 lack covers. **They will be brought for sale at the May meeting**, with postal offers (sent to Richard in advance) accepted if you can't attend. **There will be a reserve of £100**, and we are very grateful to Julie, Jess's daughter, for this donation.

Membership Renewals

If a renewal form is enclosed with this Newsletter, then your subscription for the year beginning 1st April 2004 is now due. Please complete and send the form with your cheque to **David Carder** (address at end), or hand it with a cheque or cash to any Committee Member. In case of query, last September's Newsletter has your subscription expiry date at the bottom.

Please sign the Gift Aid section if you qualify, as it provides valuable extra income to MAAG at no cost to you. If you can't remember whether you've signed it previously, sign it again and we will sort it out. **Gift Aid has raised £186 in the last three years.**

Membership Information on Newsletters

On last September's Newsletters, I printed individual membership details comprising: (1) name, (2) membership class, (3) subscription expiry date, and (4) whether a Gift Aid declaration was in place. Newsletters are now distributed at indoor meetings, with any uncollected ones posted. One member is concerned that this would allow membership information to be seen by others.

I considered this issue carefully, and decided not to print addresses, telephone numbers, or email addresses, which I do regard as confidential. However, if you are concerned about others potentially seeing the above membership details, please contact me so that your copy can be posted directly and not brought along to meetings.

I will probably only print this information annually. Its purpose is to minimise the queries I get regarding membership renewal dates and Gift Aid declarations.

Indoor Meetings for May and June 2004

The full programme for 2004/5 will be published in May. Indoor meetings are held at the School Hall, The Street, Detling on Fridays at 7.30 pm; members free, non-members £1.

Friday 21st May	The National Trust in Kent and Bast Sussex Mr Roger Smith
Friday 18th June	York Minster - The New South Transept Roof Mr Peter Ross (who rebuilt the roof after the 1984 fire)

Remaining 2004 meetings: No meetings in July or August, **17th September, 19th November, 17th December.**

Announcements

Held over until May due to shortage of space. Current announcements and information are given at indoor meetings.

Contacts

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(01634) 849477 (answering service).

General: Richard Weeks (Chairman), 40 Bell Meadow, Maidstone ME15 9ND
(01622) 762422 (*note new address and telephone number*).



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, May 2004

Dear Fellow Members

I am very pleased to report that our member Paul Oldham was elected as an Honorary Member at the AGM. He joins our other two Honorary Members, Peter Dawson and Dr RJ Spain.

Paul was a founder member of the Group in 1969, and was its first Honorary Secretary. He was Vice-Chairman during 1979/80 and Chairman during 1980/81. He has given talks to the Group on a number of occasions, most recently in May 2002 when he spoke of the history of the Rochester Bridgewardens (of which he was one).

Paul holds a number of charitable and public positions, including being the local councillor for Barming, and during his mayoralty of Maidstone in 1993/4 he invited local groups, including MAAG, for guided tours of the historic Town Hall.

Paul has always encouraged and supported local groups, and spends a great deal of time and effort promoting archaeology both locally and nationally. Since May 1998 he has been President of the Kent Archaeological Society. He has also been Honorary Treasurer, and is now an Honorary Vice-President, of the Council for British Archaeology.

David Carder

Group Visit to Cranbrook - Saturday 10th July

Cranbrook is a fascinating small town with rich history of cloth-working and religious non-conformity. Cranbrook School was founded in 1576, and the newly restored Union Mill, built in 1814, is 72 ft high, the tallest in Kent. The church of St Dunstan, dating from the late 13th century but mainly Perpendicular, has interesting monuments and a rare baptismal pool.

Meet at 2 pm. in the car park off the south side of the High Street (by the Co-op supermarket) for a 1½-hour guided walk, then visit the mill. Suggested donation £1-2. **No booking needed.**

Annual General Meeting - Subscriptions Still Unchanged

Membership stands at 61, an overall loss of 4 during the year. Albert Daniels completed the survey of Otham church and reported on three watching briefs. A walk along the foreshore and tow-path of the Medway, and visit to the Roman site at Mereworth, are being planned

The Group made the considerable surplus of £296 during the year (£22 loss last year), largely due to the Gift Aid claim for the past three years, which averaged over £60 per year, and the large number of subscription renewals. The Gift Aid claim for 2003/4 will be for around £65.

Since subscriptions are paid for up to 5 years, subscription income varies significantly from one year to another. However, overall the Group is more than breaking even, and so no increases in subscription rates are proposed for the year beginning 1st April 2005.

In summary, the Group is in a good financial position, with reserves of over £2500, but we must not take our eye off the ball. There are three ways in which members can help:

1. Recruit new members, which are the lifeblood of any society - at just £4 adult annual subscription, we must be one of the best value societies in Kent.
2. Sign a Gift Aid declaration if you are eligible - I know that most of you have.
3. Ensure that all donations to the Group, including those for magazines and books, are noted to the Treasurer, since these are also eligible for Gift Aid.

The AGM was followed by a book sale, which raised £30.40.

The Officers elected were unchanged from last year, namely:

Executive Officers and Trustees: **Richard Weeks** (Chairman), **Robin Cook** (Vice-Chairman), **Linda Weeks** (Hon. Secretary), and **David Carder** (Hon. Treasurer).

Non-executive Officers: **Josephine Sanders** (Indoor Meetings Organiser), **David Carder** (Newsletter Editor), **Pat Brooks** (Kent History Federation), **Roger Wallbridge** (Council for British Archaeology), **Lesley Feakes** (Kent Archaeological Society), **Albert Daniels** (Excavation Director).
Honorary Examiner: **Josephine Sanders**, replacing Jess Obee.

Subscription Reminder

If this Newsletter was posted to you, and is marked with a red cross, then your subscription for the year beginning 1st April 2004 is now overdue.

Cheques, payable to *Maidstone Area Archaeological Group*, should be sent to David Carder (address at end) or payments made at one of the meetings, preferably with a completed renewal form (included with the March Newsletter). Annual subscription rates are :

Individual Membership £ 4, Family Membership £ 6, Junior Membership £ 2

KAS History and Archaeology Show - Saturday 5th June

A new event with over 40 exhibitors (including MAAG). 10am-5pm at Maidstone Museum.

National Archaeology Day - Sunday 18th July

At the Museum of Kent Life, Sandling. MAAG will have a display, and the Young Archaeologists' Group will be staging *Life and Death in Saxon Kent*.

If you could help at either of the above events, please contact Richard or Linda Weeks.

Battle of the Medway AD43 Study Day - Saturday 19th June

Organised by the Battlefields Trust. Meet at 10am. at Maidstone East station, for 2-hour drive looking at possible sites; and/or 1.30 pm. at Maidstone Museum for talks and re-enactments. No charge, but donations appreciated. **Book via Linda and Richard Weeks by 16th June.**

Other Events

Faversham Open House Days - Saturdays 3rd, 10th, & 17th July. Visit Faversham's historic properties, many of which are not normally open to the public. Admission by programme from the Fleur De Lis Centre, Preston Street, Faversham (01795) 534542.

Faversham's Secret Gardens - Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th July. Visit private gardens not normally open to the public. Details from the Fleur De Lis Centre (see above).

Heritage Open Days - 10th to 13th September (England generally), 18th & 19th September (London Open House). Details from tourist information centres or the web nearer the time.

News from the Kent History Federation (KHF)

Pat Brooks reports on the meeting on 5th March - thanks to Pat, as always, for providing notes.

- There are now 99 member societies.
- The next One-Day Conferences will be at Edenbridge (14th May 2005) and Darenth (2006).
- There is a good new national archives website – www.A2A.org.uk.
- The new editor of the Journal of Kent History is Mrs Jackie Grebby (replacing Peter Rowe).
Note: The Journal, published in March and September, contains historical articles, book reviews, and member societies' events. Copies can be purchased at MAAG indoor meetings.

British Archaeology Magazine

The (very good) magazine of the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) is available for loan at indoor meetings, but if you would like your own copy a subscription form is enclosed.

Contacts

Newsletter items and subscriptions to: *David Carder*, 53 The Ridgeway, Chatham ME4 6PB (01634) 849085 (answering service).

General: *Richard and Linda Weeks*, 40 Bell Meadow, Maidstone ME 15 9ND (01622) 762422 (note new address and telephone number).

Indoor Meetings Organiser: *Josephine Sanders*, 302 The Tideway, Rochester ME1 3PS (01634) 849477 (answering service).

Excavation news: *Albert Daniels* 07966 172807



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, September 2004

Dear Fellow Members

Firstly we welcome a new member: Mr Peter Hyland, of Staplehurst, who joined us in June.

It was a busy summer for MAAG, particularly in June and July.

On 5th June MAAG were represented at the first History and Archaeology Show, organised by the Kent Archaeological Society. Over 40 societies were represented and, for me, the most impressive displays were by various metal-detecting groups. It doesn't seem that many of the general public attended (although total attendance was claimed to be over 500), but it was a good opportunity to meet people with similar interests. It is hoped to repeat the Show in 2006.

On 19th June, several members attended the Battlefields Trust's study day on the *Battle of the Medway, AD43*. Starting on Bluebell Hill to view the lie of the land, we then walked to the commemorative monument at Burham. After lunch, we discussed various theories about the site of the battle, and finished an interesting day with a demonstration of military equipment by a re-enactment group. Details of the Battlefields Trust can be found at www.battlefieldstrust.com.

Sadly our guided walk of Cranbrook on 10th July was abandoned after just a few minutes because of torrential rain. After seeking refuge in the church (where there was a wedding), most of us ended up in the museum, who kindly made us cups of tea ! Eventually the sun came out and we were able to visit the fine windmill, open again after major restoration.

The local event for National Archaeology Day was held at the Museum of Kent Life, Sandling on 18th July. Linda and Richard Weeks manned our table, which proved very popular. The bones and teeth provided by Albert Daniels were a great favourite with all the children, and the other exhibits and photographs were looked at closely. Julian Richards' talks were very popular - he did some additional talks due to the high demand - and afterwards he spoke to the various groups, including Linda and Richard, and had a good look at our table.

Other activities included investigations at Little Buckland Lane, Maidstone, and at a field at Thurnham, where some metal detectorists had found Anglo Saxon jewellery which they thought had been part of a collection of grave goods - the latter excavation took a week and, as far as we know, revealed just two bones ! Such is archaeology.

The **Restoration** television series again raised public awareness of the plight of many of our historic buildings - those featured are all on the English Heritage *Buildings at Risk Register*. Charing Palace got to the final and, although it did not win, has been offered restoration funds from other bodies. Last year's local entry, Cobham Mausoleum, which did not get past the first round, is being fully restored and will be opened to the public.

A few years ago, Maidstone was Kent's "party pooper" on the popular Heritage Open Days. Recently, however, it has participated with gusto, and this year's booklet advertised some 20 free events in the town centre between 10th and 13th September. I went on an enjoyable walk entitled *Maidstone in Victorian Times*, and had hoped to visit the *Finds Day with Kent Search & Recovery Group* and an exhibition on *The History of The River Festival*, but these and some of the advertised talks were cancelled at short notice. Next year I shall check before travelling.

Finally, please note my new email address (at end).

David Carder, with contributions from Linda Weeks

25 Celtic Gold Coins found by MAAG Member

Our member Nick Moon's exciting find can now be made public. This is a short summary of his report and that of the British Museum, which are available at indoor meetings.

In November 2001, while metal detecting in a field in the Westerham area, Nick discovered 25 Celtic gold coins scattered over an area of about 80 square metres. The coins, all *Uniface Gold Quarter Staters*, probably date from 50-25 BC. They have no inscription, and 24 have an abstract horse-design - reverses are blank. Around 1 cm diameter, each coin weighs just over 1g.

Nick reported the find in accordance the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and in January 2004 the British Museum purchased five of the coins; they are now on display there. The remaining 20 were shared between Nick and the landowner.

Nick plans to continue his investigations, and our congratulations go to him.

145 Iron Age Coins found at Thurnham

Last November, a hoard of 145 complete coins and 80 fragments was found on farmland near Thurnham. Subsequent excavation uncovered a further 59 complete coins and 78 fragments. Dating from the first century BC, they are known as *potins*, and are amongst the earliest coins to have been manufactured in the British Isles. Potins were cast in moulds, rather than being struck between dies, and are made from tin alloy. They depict a highly stylised human head on the obverse and butting bull on the reverse. (*Acknowledgements to Andrew Richardson*).

Membership Details

This Newsletter has been personalised with your membership details (bottom of page) - please check that they are correct, and let Richard or David know of any errors. A few members (highlighted) have still not paid their current subscription, so would they please do so soon.

As previously stated, this information is limited to membership details, and does not include addresses or telephone numbers, but if you have any concerns please let David know.

News from the Kent History Federation (KHF)

As always, thanks to Pat Brooks for attending the quarterly meetings and sending me notes.

- Membership now stands at 99 societies.
- The 2005 one-day conference at Edenbridge will be on 14th May. The 2006 conference will be in the Darent Valley.
- KCC is planning a **History Centre for Kent** - a new archives and local history centre due to open in 2008. For current information see www.kenthistorycentre.org.uk.
- The Access to Archives (A2A) web-site allow searching of over 7 million archive catalogue entries from over 350 repositories: www.a2a.org.uk.

Announcements

Further announcements and information are given at indoor meetings.

Saturday 16th October. 10.30am. Kent Archaeological Society Event - New Perspectives on Four Kent Towns. Early Dover, by Keith Parfitt; Faversham and Sandwich, by Sarah Pearson; The History and Industrial Archaeology of Northfleet, by Ken McGovern; and An Outline History of Maidstone, by Liz Finn. At Charing Barn (NE of Charing Church). £5 per person. Details from Joy Saynor (01959 522713), email: saynor.shoreham@amserv.com.

Saturday 6th November, 2-5.30pm: CKA Conference - Celebrating 40 Years of Archaeological Discoveries in Kent. Talks on the Roman religious town at Springhead, by Victor Smith; and the Roman forts at Dover and Reculver, by Brian Philp; and workshops with six local groups (Orpington, Springhead, Lower Medway, Upchurch, Dover, and Bromley). At Christ Church College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury. Tickets £4 with SAE from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP.

Local History Talks: 6.30 pm at the Lecture Theatre, Sessions House, Maidstone. 23 Sept, ***The North Downs***, Dr Peter Brandon; 27 Oct, ***Rationed Fashion***, Lee Ault; 11 Nov, ***The Medieval Charters of Canterbury Cathedral***, Liz Finn; 24 Nov, ***D Day Fortitude South***, John Reymond; 15 Dec, ***Historic Kent on Film***, Frank Gray. Tickets £3 per talk. To book, state which talk(s) you wish to attend and send a cheque payable to *Kent County Council* and SAE to Centre for Kentish Studies, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1QX.

Contacts

Newsletter contributions & subs. to: **David Carder**, 53 The Ridgeway, Chatham ME4 6PB (01634) 849085 (answering service); **new email: david.carder@baesystems.com**

Meetings Organiser: **Josephine Sanders**, 302 The Tideway, Rochester ME1 3PS (01634) 849477 (answering service).

General: **Richard Weeks (Chairman)**, 40 Bell Meadow, Maidstone ME15 9ND (01622) 762422



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, March 2005

Dear Fellow Members

Firstly, we welcome a new member: Mr Simon Leonard of Bearsted.

New Indoor Meetings Venue. With effect from 20th May, our indoor meetings will take place at the Kent Police College, off the Sutton Road (A274), Maidstone. Directions are enclosed.

We have enjoyed several years at Detling School, but now have the opportunity to move to more central, modern, purpose-designed premises. The College is close to a bus route, and has well-appointed meeting rooms, secure parking, and inside loos !

We are moving in May to allow members to find their way to the first few meetings in daylight. Please try to arrive a few minutes early, as there may be a few teething troubles with security - Richard and Linda (who live close by) will be on hand to help.

Our first meeting at the new venue is, appropriately, on *The History of Policing Kent*. The full programme up to the AGM in April 2006 is enclosed.

David Carder

Notice of Annual General Meeting - Friday 22nd April 2005

This year's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 22nd April 2005 at the **School Hall, The Street, Detling**. The Agenda is as follows :

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 2004 AGM and matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Meetings Organiser's report
6. Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts
7. Subscription rates
8. Archaeological Director's report
9. Election of Officers
 - Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman
 - Hon. Secretary
 - Hon. Treasurer
10. Election of Hon. Examiner
11. Reports and Election of Representatives
12. Future Activities (including outings)
13. Any other business

Visit to Snodland - Saturday May 7th

Our member **Andrew Ashbee** has kindly arranged a visit to the church and the Millenium Museum (of which he is curator). Nearby Paddlesworth church will also be open afterwards.

Meet at Snodland church at 2.30pm for a guided tour - Andrew has a good knowledge of the stained glass, and there are several brasses; then there is a short walk to Snodland Millenium Museum (old fire station) in Waghorn Road, where refreshments should be available.

There is no need to book, and no admission charges, but please make reasonable donations.

From Maidstone (A20/M20), take the A228 by-pass and come off at the first exit. The town car-park is straight ahead - entrance about 100 yards on the right. Walk through to High Street and turn right for the church, which is on the other side of the by-pass, near the station.

The Museum is owned and maintained by Snodland Town Council and manned by volunteers from Snodland Historical Society. It displays the history of Snodland and serves as a research centre, providing information about the place and its people.

Many finds from Snodland's early history are in other museums, but MAAG's material from Snodland Roman Villa can be seen, together with illustrations of other important discoveries concerning the prehistoric ring ditch, Roman tumulus, and Saxon cemetery. Aspects of the history of Snodland are mostly shown in pictures and photographs, and audio-visual presentations are being developed. There is a file of material relating to Thomas Waghorn (1800-1850), a famous parishioner who established the Overland Route to India via Egypt.

A computer database of Snodland's parishioners, 1800-1950, is in progress and currently has about 17,000 entries. Snodland Historical Society pamphlets and other books and videos are available for sale.

Membership Renewals

Subscriptions for the year beginning 1st April 2005 are now due, and are unchanged. If you are due for renewal, a form will be enclosed with this Newsletter. Renewal dates were printed on last September's Newsletter. If renewing, please use the renewal form, and complete as much of it as possible - that way we can establish what members' interests really are.

Return the form with your cheque to **David Carder** (address at end), or hand it with your cheque or cash to any Committee Member who will give you a receipt on request.

Richard and David have details of members who have paid in advance, so if you are not sure please contact either of us.

Please sign the Gift Aid section if you qualify, as it provides valuable extra income to MAAG at no cost to you. If you can't remember whether you've signed it previously, sign it again and David will sort it out. He will also try to answer any queries on Gift Aid.

Time Team's Big Roman Dig

This summer, Time Team are inviting local groups to join them in the most ambitious exploration of Roman Britain ever - not just one fort, villa or even city, but the whole country. They plan to excavate or examine a wide range of sites from the 1st century BC to the 5th century AD, in locations all over the UK, and covering all aspects of the Roman occupation.

There will be one "mega-dig", up to 8 other excavations, and a host of other activities going on all over the country which will take place over three weeks **from 26th June to 16th July**. The programmes will be broadcast between 2nd and 9th July.

MAAG have registered to take part, but need your ideas and support to organise an event. Suggestions include: Field Walking; Excavation; Desktop Research; Reconstruction; Open Day.

Announcements

The best way to find out what is going on is to come along to our indoor meetings.

Saturday 9th April, 2.00-5.30 pm; CKA Conference - Historic Houses in Kent. *Heuer Castle 100 Years Ago*, by Robert Pullin; *The Archaeology of Ightham Mote*, by Peter Rumley; and *Roman Villas in the Darent Valley*, by Brian Philp. At Sevenoaks Community Centre, Cramptons Rd, Sevenoaks. Tickets £4 with SAE from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP.

Saturday 23 April 2005. 1.45 pm: at Stone church (nr. Dartford), then Southfleet church. Tour £2, with tea £1 extra. Cheques (payable to Kent Archaeological Society) to Mr Philip Lawrence, Barnfield, Church Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge TN12 5JJ, phone 01622 871945.

Kent History Federation: *Journal of Kent History* available at MAAG indoor meetings.

Contacts

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General: Richard Weeks (Chairman) and Linda Weeks (Secretary), 40 Bell Meadow, Maidstone ME15 9ND (01622)762422



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, May 2005

Dear Fellow Members

The visit to Snodland on 7th May was very successful, with 29 attending, several from the Lower Medway Group. Our thanks to Andrew Ashbee, for making the arrangements and guiding us, and to Brenda Ashbee and others from the Snodland Historical Society for the delicious tea.

If you missed out, the museum in Waghorn Road is open on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons and is well worth a visit - telephone 01634 243001 for details.

The Hollingbourne hoard, comprising 32 pieces of Bronze Age metal work, including axes, parts of swords, a spearhead and bronze ingots, is now on temporary display at Maidstone Museum.

For those who like "hands-on" archaeology, we have an interesting new site at East Farleigh, and, probably later this year, some pottery and other artefacts to sort - see below.

Don't forget that indoor meetings are now at Kent Police College not Detling.

David Carder

Annual General Meeting - Subscriptions Still Unchanged

15 members attended the 36th AGM on 22nd April, the last meeting at Detling School Hall. Membership now stands at 56, including 2 new members. Although recently we've done no active recruiting, we will start to do so once established in the new venue.

Financially, we made a surplus of £339, partly due to Josie Sanders' powers of persuasion with our speakers. Sales of donated books from Jess Obee's estate and others brought in around £100, Albert Daniels' watching briefs £180, David Carder's talks £133, and Gift Aid £84.

Subscriptions can therefore be held at current levels for at least the coming year.

Excavation Director Albert Daniels is writing a report on Otham Church for *Archaeologia Cantiana*. He also reported on three watching briefs:

- Rose Cottage, Yalding: only geology.
- Monckton Drive: 1930s foundations.
- Heath Road, Boughton Monchelsea: ongoing for 4 months.

MAAG has purchased 25 museum boxes for repackaging the pottery and other finds from the 1980s excavation at Northgate, Rochester. These must be sorted and labelled by MAAG volunteers, and then the County Archaeologist will put them into proper storage.

Albert is writing up reports on watching briefs covering our last 12 years' work; they will include the transcriptions of the All Saints' Church ledger slabs. It is hoped to publish the reports, perhaps on CD-ROM or in the KAS Journal.

Field at Mereworth: nothing has come of this yet, as it is only available for a short time at the end of harvest. Perhaps we can try this year after the dig at East Farleigh.

Robin Cook stood down as Vice-Chairman, otherwise the elected Officers were unchanged:

Executive Officers and Trustees: **Richard Weeks** (Chairman), **David Ottway** (new Vice-Chairman), **Linda Weeks** (Hon. Secretary), and **David Carder** (Hon. Treasurer).

Non-executive Officers: **Josephine Sanders** (Indoor Meetings Organiser), **David Carder** (Newsletter Editor), **Pat Brooks** (Kent History Federation), **Roger Wallbridge** (Council for British Archaeology), **Lesley Feakes** (Kent Archaeological Society), **Albert Daniels** (Excavation Director).
Honorary Examiner: **Josephine Sanders**.

Maidstone 1648 Battlefield Walk - Sunday 5th June

Organised by the Battlefields Trust. Meet at **1.15 pm** at East Farleigh station car park, for discussion, then drive to Tovil; and/or **2.30 pm** at All Saints' Church for a one-hour walk ending at St Faith's church. No charge, but donations appreciated. **Please book via Linda Weeks by 2nd June**, as we need an idea of numbers.

Subscription Reminder

If this Newsletter was posted to you and is marked with a red cross, then your subscription for the year beginning 1st April 2005 is now overdue.

Please send your cheque, payable to *Maidstone Area Archaeological Group*, to David Carder (address at end) or pay at one of the meetings, preferably with a completed renewal form (included with the March Newsletter, and which has the subscription rates).

Diggers (and other helpers) WANTED !!!

At long last the Group has a "proper" excavation, at Lower Gallants Farm, East Farleigh (off the B2010 at TQ728536) on a grassed terrace (formerly a hop garden) overlooking the Medway. The owners are very keen for us to try to locate the Roman building (villa?) that was originally discovered in March 1838, for which a sketch plan was published in Smith's *Topography of Maidstone and its Environs* (1839). It was re-discovered in 1938 (see *Arch Cant* vol. 51 p. 204).

We have now resistivity surveyed 2400 square metres of the site using the KAS's RM4 meter, but the survey may be extended westwards. Based on survey anomalies, two small trenches are underway: one has revealed a spread of large stones, possibly a fallen wall; the other appears to have located building rubble. Both have uncovered Roman tile, brick and pottery.

Work will continue for the next few months. We hope to link up with Time Team's *Big Roman Dig* (26th June to 16th July - see March Newsletter), and perhaps have an open day. **However, we need more volunteers (training given if unskilled) - see the enclosed sheet.** This is a large, level, open, accessible site offering an ideal opportunity to learn (or brush up on) archaeological skills, including excavation, finds identification, geophysics and surveying.

Richard Weeks and David Carder

White Cliffs Countryside Project Guided Walks and Visits

Sunday, 5th June. 11.00 am - 4 pm: The 5th Annual Western Heights Open Day. See the Drop Redoubt Fort (1808) and Grand Shaft (c.1807), 140 ft high with unique triple staircase. Living encampment and drill displays by 1st Foot Guards re-enactment group. At Grand Shaft Barracks (TR317409). Contact Paul Hadaway, White Cliffs Countryside Project, 01304 241806.

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September, 11.00 am - 4 pm: Grand Shaft Open Weekend. Small admission charge. Contact Paul Hadaway, as above.

Sunday, 24th July and Sunday, 4th September. 2 pm: "Echoes From The Skies". Guided walk (3 miles over shingle) led by Dr Scarth, author of two books on the 1930s Listening Devices. Meet at Lade car park on Coast Drive (between the Pilot Pub and Romney Sands) at TR085208. Donations appreciated. Contact Romney Marsh Countryside Project, 01797 367934.

National Archaeology Week - Saturday 16th to Sunday 24th July

24th July. 11am - 4.30 pm: Prehistory Event at the Museum of Kent Life, Sandling, with Living History groups, demonstrations, exhibitions, and a talk by Time Team's Carenza Lewis. **If you can help with MAAG's stand you get free admission - please contact Richard Weeks.**

Other Events

Faversham Open House Days - Saturdays 2nd, 9th, & 16th July. Now in its 36th year. Details from the Fleur De Lis Centre, Preston Street, Faversham (01795) 534542.

Faversham Open Church Scheme - Saturday 10th September. A new scheme, with at least 10 historic churches open. Handbook available. Details from the Fleur De Lis Centre, as above.

Heritage Open Days - 8th to 11th September (England generally), 17th & 18th September (London Open House). Details from tourist information centres or the web nearer the time.

Contacts

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Membership and General: Richard Weeks (Chairman) and Linda Weeks (Secretary), 40 Bell Meadow, Maidstone ME15 9ND (01622) 762422



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, September 2005

Dear Fellow Members

Firstly we are pleased to welcome several new members: Mr S Fisher, Mr S Clifton, Mr and Mrs Spencer, Mr T Simmons and Mrs J Hasemore, Mrs J Davidson, Mr S Elliott; and Mr and Mrs Guise (Sarah, our former Secretary) and son Antony, who have re-joined. You should all have received an Indoor Meetings Programme for 2005/6 - if not please contact Richard Weeks.

It was another busy summer for MAAG, particularly in July.

The Group held an Open Day on Saturday 9th July at East Farleigh Roman Villa, to coincide with Time Team's *Big Roman Dig*. Time Team provided space on their web-site for information about the site, but at first their map located the site in my garden - I had hopes of having it dug over for free, but the map was corrected in time !

On the day we set up a portaloo, refreshments, and various exhibits and activities. We thought we might get 50-100 visitors, but, amazingly, had 244 and were rushed off our feet guiding them around the site, with people still arriving after we had closed. Particularly popular with the youngsters were the metal detector, the resistivity meter, and the various artefacts.

We had a photographer from the Kent Messenger, with good coverage in the Maidstone edition.

The local event for National Archaeology Day was held at the Museum of Kent Life, Sandling on Sunday 24th July (in the rain). We displayed some of our finds, and there was great interest in our exhibits. Carenza Lewis from *Time Team* visited the stand and discussed our excavations.

Thanks to all our volunteers (including diggers) for two very successful events, particularly Richard and Linda Weeks and Albert Daniels for all the time and effort spent on organisation.

David Carder

East Farleigh Update and Future Excavation

We have uncovered a building consisting of at least three rooms and a possible corridor. The plan looks remarkably like that published in 1839. Only the foundations of the walls remain; about 1-2 feet (30-60cm) deep. There appear to be two different phases of wall construction, one with mortar-bound and the other with clay-bound ragstone foundations.

No floors have yet been discovered, but some pilae and bonding tiles have been found, in addition to roofing and flue tiles, possibly indicating under-floor heating. Polychromatic plaster (5 colours) and plaster mouldings have also been uncovered. Small finds include 6 copper alloy coins (4th Century) and a pair of bronze tweezers. The pottery is mostly 4th Century with some residual 2nd Century.

There will be an informal open day on Sunday 25th September between 10am and 4pm, and work will continue on Sundays until 2nd October. The trenches will then be backfilled, but the owners of the site have invited us back next year.

Future Excavation; We have been asked to dig some trial pits on land adjacent to The Mount Roman Villa in advance of the construction of a new clubhouse for Maidstone Rowing Club. This will be in about 3 months' time - contact Richard nearer the time if you would like to help.

News from the Kent History Federation (KHF)

As always, thanks to Pat Brooks for attending the quarterly meetings and sending me notes.

- One-day conferences are planned for: 2006 Darenth Valley (at Sevenoaks); 2007 Bridge; and 2009 Sheppey (to celebrate 100 years of flying).
- The on-line catalogue of Kent Archive collections now contains over 400,000 entries. See www.kent.gov.uk/archivesonline.

The KHF's *Journal of Kent History* is now a much improved publication, with more articles, better typesetting, extensive book reviews, and a glossy cover. Published every March and September, the new edition (No. 61) is now available at indoor meetings.

Members' Evening

Our Members' Evenings in November are very popular, with around four members giving short talks about their interests. We are particularly keen to hear members who have not spoken before, so if you would like to, please contact Josephine or any committee member beforehand.

Membership Details

I hope to personalise this Newsletter with your membership details, so that you can check that they are correct - please let Richard or David know of any errors. A few members (highlighted) have still not paid their current subscription, so would they please do so soon.

Announcements

Further announcements and information are given at indoor meetings.

Saturday 15th October. 10.30am-4.30pm: Kent Archaeological Society Conference - Visualising Four Kentish Villages. East Peckham, Kemsing, Loose, and Charing. At Charing Barn (NE of Charing Church). £5 per person. Details from Joy Saynor (01959 522713).

Saturday 29th October. 10-4.30pm; Kent Archaeological Society. History and Archaeology Show. Exhibits by 26 societies, including MAAG, at Maidstone Museum and Art Gallery.

Saturday 5th November. 2-5.30pm; CKA Conference - Nelson and Trafalgar. *Victory and the Road to Trafalgar*, by Richard Holdsworth (Chatham Historic Dockyard); *Nelson and the Trafalgar Campaign*, by Prof. Richard Harding (University of Westminster) ; and *What if Nelson had lost at Trafalgar?*, by Andrew Saunders. At Christ Church University College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury. Tickets £4 with SAE from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP.

Oare Gunpowder Works, near Faversham; The second most important gunpowder site in Britain is now open to the public after extensive conservation. Open 9am-5pm weekdays, 10am-4pm at weekends. Details on (01795) 534542, or www.faversham.org/history/oareworks.asp.

Local History Talks; 6.30 pm at the Lecture Theatre, Sessions House, Maidstone. 19 Oct, ***Kent and the Second World War***, Bob Ogle; 17 Nov, ***Bridging Two Worlds***, Peter Ewart; 15 Dec, ***The Perfect Lady***, Lee Ault, 19 Jan, ***Chatham Historic Dockyard: 400 Years of Naval History***, Alison Marsh. £3 per talk. Details on (01622) 694363, email archives@kent.gov.uk.

Exhibitions at the Medway Local Studies Centre. Strood. Until 1st November, *Medway Ships and Shipping. 21st November to 31st January. Beyond the Green Baize Door - social and domestic life at Cobham Hall over two centuries.* Details (01634) 332714.

Local Medway Archaeological Research Group Programme

Our friends at LMARG meet on Tuesdays at 8 pm at The Friends' Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester. £1 for non-members. For further details contact Peter Dawson (01634) 232460.

27 Sep 2005	Archaeologists: What Are They? - Sophie Adams
25 Oct 2005	4,000 Years Along the Medway Shores - John Lambert
29 Nov 2005	The Chatham Gunwharf - John Homer
31 Jan 2006	To be arranged
28 Feb 2006	Constructing a Medieval Cathedral - David Carder
28 Mar 2006	Tracing the History of a House - Helen Alison
30 May 2006	Surveys and Excavations at Gore Manor Farm - Tony Clifford
27 Jun 2006	Observation is the Key - Alan Ward
26 Sep 2006	The National Trust in the South-East - Jan Hendy
31 Oct 2006	The Home Guard Auxilliary - Vic Chidgey

Contacts

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General: Richard Weeks (Chairman), 40 Bell Meadow, Maidstone ME15 9ND (01622) 762422



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, March 2006

Dear Fellow Members

Firstly we are very pleased to welcome yet more new members, many of whom joined after our Open Day at East Farleigh: Mrs A Muthana, Mr and Mrs MJ Collins, Mr KS Law, Mr and Mrs P Edwards, Mr D Richford, Mr P and Mrs D Goacher, Mr J Boakes, and Mrs A Grimbley.

Last year was very busy but rewarding, particularly with the East Farleigh site - we plan to continue this year, possibly starting on Sunday, 23rd April - volunteers are always welcome !

It was good to see two *Time Team* programmes from Kent - at Eastry and Queenborough - though, as is often the case, they didn't add much to our knowledge. Future programmes are: *Sussex ups and downs* (19 March, Blackpatch, Sussex); *Birthplace of the Confessor* (26 March, Islip, Oxfordshire); *Early bath* (2 April, Ffrith, North Wales); *Scotch broch* (9 April, Iron-Age life at Applecross near Skye); and *The taxman's tavern* (16 April, a Roman mansio at Alfoldean, Sussex). Sunday evening (Channel 4), repeated the following Saturday evening (More4).

David Carder and Richard and Linda Weeks

Notice of Annual General Meeting - Friday 28th April 2006

Note change of date. This year's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 28th April 2006 at the Kent Police College, off the Sutton Road (A274), Maidstone. The Agenda is as follows :

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 2005 AGM and matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Meetings Organiser's report
6. Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts
7. Subscription rates
8. Archaeological Director's report
9. Election of Officers
 - Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman
 - Hon. Secretary
 - Hon. Treasurer
10. Election of Hon. Examiner
11. Reports and Election of Representatives
12. Future Activities (including outings)
13. Any other business

Membership Renewals

Subscriptions for the year beginning 1st April 2006 are now due, and are unchanged. If you are due for renewal, a form will be enclosed with this Newsletter. Renewal dates were printed on last September's Newsletter. If renewing, please use the renewal form, and complete as much of it as possible - that way we can establish what members' interests really are.

Return the form with your cheque to **David Carder** (address at end), or hand it with your cheque or cash to any Committee Member who will give you a receipt on request.

Richard and David have details of members who have paid in advance, so if you are not sure please contact either of us.

Please sign the Gift Aid section if you qualify, as it provides valuable extra income to MAAG at no cost to you. If you can't remember whether you've signed it previously, sign it again and David will sort it out. He will also try to answer any queries on Gift Aid.

2006 Indoor Meetings Programme

Josephine has now arranged the following indoor meetings - the full programme for 2006/7 will be published in May. Meetings are held at the Kent Police College, off the Sutton Road, Maidstone on Fridays at 7.30 pm., and are free of charge for members, and £1 for non-members.

Friday 28th April	Annual General Meeting
Friday 19th May	Resistivity Surveying & Investigations at Gore Farm, Upchurch Mr Tony Clifford (Council for Independent Archaeology)
Friday 16th June	Not Just Bling! The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Kent Mr Andrew Richardson (KCC Finds Liaison Officer)
July and August	No indoor meetings
Friday 15th September	Cement Production along the Medway Valley Mr Jim Preston (CKA Industrial Officer)
Friday 20th October	Bringing History to Life Cantiaci Iron-Age re-enactment group
Friday 17th November	Members' Evening - three or four short presentations
Friday 15th December	Christmas Social - festive fare, quizzes and a chance to swap news

Announcements

Further announcements are made at our indoor meetings.

Saturday 1st April: KAS Churches Committee Outing - Tenterden and Rolvenden churches. Tour £2, with tea £1 extra. Meet at Tenterden at 1.45pm. Cheques (payable to "Kent Archaeological Society") to Mr Philip Lawrence, Barnfield, Church Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge TN12 5JJ (by 24th March, otherwise phone him on 01622 871945 to check places).

Thursday 6th April: Friends of the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre. Launch of this new group at the Civic Centre, Strood. Details from Cindy O'Halloran, 01634 332714.

Saturday 8th April, 2.00 - 5.30 pm: Burial Sites in SE England - Council for Kentish Archaeology (CKA) Conference. *Iron Age Warrior Burials at Ashford*, Caspar Johnson (KCC); *Discovery of the Burial Chamber of a Saxon King at Prittlewell*, David Lakin (MOLAS); *Anglo-Saxon Sites at Rookery Hill, Bishopstone, Sussex*, Gabor Thomas (Univ. of Kent); and *Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries in Kent*, Andrew Richardson (KCC). At Queen Elizabeth's School, Abbey Place, Faversham. Tickets £4 with SAE from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP.

Saturday 29th April, 10.45 am: Manuscript Treasures of Lindisfarne and Canterbury - One-day conference, organised by Kent Archaeological Society's (KAS) Churches Committee. At Canterbury Cathedral's International Study Centre with speakers Dr Michelle Brown and Dr Richard Gameson. Linked exhibition at Canterbury Cathedral's Archives and Library. Cost £8 (coffee provided but not lunch). Tickets from Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh, 11 Caledon Terrace, Canterbury CT1 3JS (with SAE and cheque payable to "Kent Archaeological Society").

Saturday 13th May, 10 am: Kent History Federation One-Day Conference - Darenth Valley (at Sevenoaks). Jointly hosted by the Farningham & Eynsford, Shoreham, and Otford Local History Societies. 3 lectures followed by guided visits. Places still available - booking form from Richard Weeks. £11, lunch available at small extra cost.

The March 2006 *Journal of Kent History* is now available at indoor meetings.

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Meetings Organiser: Josephine Sanders, 302 The Tideway, Rochester ME1 3PS
(01634) 849477 (answering service).

General: Richard Weeks (Chairman) and Linda Weeks (Secretary), 40 Bell Meadow,
Maidstone ME15 9ND (01622) 762422; **email:** maag.info@tesco.net



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, May 2006

Dear Fellow Members

No room for editorial this time, but we welcome another new member: Mr Neil Webb of Cuxton.

David Carder

Annual General Meeting - Subscriptions Still Unchanged

16 members attended the 37th AGM on 28 April, the first at the Police College. Membership now stands at 67 (41 Adult, 22 Family, 4 Honorary), an increase of 8 from last year.

Financially, we made a surplus of £439, so subscriptions will be held at current levels for at least the coming year. Some of this surplus will be spent on tools and equipment, including a metal detector (see below), and the Treasurer welcomes ideas for other expenditure.

The Group had a busy year, particularly with the East Farleigh excavation and Open Day. We also attended the National Archaeology Week event at Sandling and the History and Archaeology Show at Maidstone. There was an outing to Snodland and a "Battle of Maidstone" walk. Several suggestions were made for future Group outings, and we will follow up some of those.

On a sadder note, Kay Obee (Jess's widow) had recently died.

Albert Daniels reported watching briefs at Ripple Manor, Maidstone Rowing Club (near Mount Roman Villa, but nothing of that found), Staplehurst, and South View Bungalow. Excavations (not run by MAAG) were due to continue at Ringlemere (the final season) and there will be a new excavation at Shorne Wood Country Park (co-ordinated by Lynn Palmer).

The Officers were unchanged, thus:

Executive Officers and Trustees: **Richard Weeks** (Chairman), **David Ottway** (Vice-Chairman), **Linda Weeks** (Hon. Secretary), and **David Carder** (Hon. Treasurer).

Non-executive Officers: **Josephine Sanders** (Indoor Meetings Organiser), **David Carder** (Newsletter Editor), **Pat Brooks** (Kent History Federation rep.), **Roger Wallbridge** (Council for British Archaeology rep.), **Lesley Feakes** (Kent Archaeological Society rep.), **Albert Daniels** (Excavation Director). Honorary Examiner: **Josephine Sanders**.

East Farleigh - Diggers (and other helpers) WANTED !!!

The Group's second season of excavations at Lower Gallants Farm, East Farleigh (off the B2010 at TQ728536) is now under way. We are currently trying to make sense of a stone pit (possibly a well), and are extending the excavation southwards. We hope then to extend northwards in the area where we found painted plaster. We are finding plenty of pottery, **so come along and help us find more**. No experience is necessary, as "on the job" training will be given, and tools can be provided (though "garden tools", such as spades and shovels, are always useful). If you can, please contact Richard in advance so that we can get a rough idea of numbers.

East Farleigh Open Day

Following last year's great success (nearly 250 attended), we are planning another open day, provisionally on Sunday 27 August (the Bank Holiday weekend). We would like to offer some new attractions this year, so **your** ideas (and/or support on the day) would be very welcome.

Group Metal Detector

At the AGM, the Group agreed to buy a metal detector costing around £200 to £250. Clearly we want to ensure that we buy a versatile machine that will be useful for several years to come, so if you have any expertise on this, or know of a good supplier, please let Richard know.

Portable Gazebo for Hire !

The Group bought a gazebo for last year's open day, and it will probably spend most of its life stored away. Members are welcome to borrow it, for garden parties or whatever, in return for a small donation to Group funds (say around £5). If interested, please contact Linda or Richard.

NEW: MAAG Email News Service

Newsletters are usually published in March, May and September and we try to provide information of interest to Members, but a lot can happen in between those dates, particularly during the "digging season". Members are updated at indoor and other Group meetings, but inevitably not everyone is able to attend. So, now that Richard has set up a Group email address, we are launching the MAAG Email News Service. It works like this:

- You send an email to **maag.info@tesco.net**, subject "Email News Service", with just your name (no other content, please).
- You will be added to the emailing list and receive a confirmatory email.
- You will then receive updated news "as it happens" (well, more or less).
- We will also welcome contributions from you, subject "Email News Item"; or, if you don't have email, by "old-fashioned" methods (to Linda or Richard).

Note that, although we have the email addresses of many Members, **you have to request this service specifically. So - get emailing !** Just a couple more points:

1. We may soon offer emailed Newsletters, for quicker distribution and to save postage costs.
2. If you have email and know someone who does not, please keep them updated.

Subscription Reminder

If this Newsletter was posted to you and is marked with a red cross, then your subscription for the year beginning 1st April 2006 is now overdue.

Please send your cheque, payable to *Maidstone Area Archaeological Group*, to David Carder (address at end) or pay at one of the meetings, preferably with a completed renewal form (included with the March Newsletter, and which has the subscription rates).

KAS Historic Buildings Committee

This new committee of the Kent Archaeological Society has the aim of studying and recording the county's historic buildings, perhaps in conjunction with local groups, such as MAAG. So if you know any suitable buildings (preferably with amenable owners) please contact David Carder.

National Ice Age Network

A new national scheme, supported by English Heritage and English Nature, to help ensure that finds (particularly from quarries) are properly recorded, and to promote interest in the British Ice Ages - there have been at least 21 in the last 2.5 million years ! Details at www.iceage.org.uk.

Other Events

Saturday and Sunday, 3rd and 4th June: The 6th Dover Western Heights Open Weekend.

See the Drop Redoubt Fort (1808, admission charge) and Grand Shaft (c.1807, free), 140 ft high with unique triple staircase. Contact Melanie Wrigley, 01304 241806.

Saturdays 1st, 8th. and 15th July: Faversham Open House Days. Now in its 37th year. Details from the Fleur De Lis Centre, Preston Street, Faversham: (01795) 534542.

Saturday 15th July: Milton Regis Walk. Meet at the Court Hall (open) at 10 am.

Saturday 15th July: 150th anniversary of the Strood-Maidstone line. Events at local stations.

Saturday 15th to Sunday 23rd July: National Archaeology Week. Nothing planned by MAAG at present, but there will be an excavation of Randall Manor, at Shorne Woods Country Park during the week, with guided tours and other activities on 22nd. Details 01424 823800.

Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th September: Heritage Open Days. Details of local events from tourist information centres or the Civic Trust website nearer the time.

Saturday 9th September: Many churches will be open for the sponsored cycle ride.

Contacts

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Maidstone ME15 9ND (01622) 762422; **email:** maag.info@tesco.net.



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, October 2006

Dear Fellow Members

Better late than never ! I returned from holiday in mid-September to find that my house had been broken into. The burglars were tidy and took very little, but smashed two doors and a glass pane, so the Newsletter due in September had to take a back seat whilst I sorted things out.

We are pleased to welcome several more new members, whom we look forward to seeing at our various activities: Mr Ullman, Mr Baker, Mr Cronin, Mrs Munday and family, Mrs Clark, Mrs Cottee, and Mr and Mrs Danvers-Wright - apologies if we've missed anyone. You should all have received an Indoor Meetings Programme - if not please contact Richard Weeks.

I had two enjoyable holidays, firstly in Denmark (my first time there), also visiting southern Sweden and northern Germany, and saw many parish and town churches - it was amazing how fixtures and fittings which just do not survive in England, such as rood figures, are almost commonplace there. Many Danish parish churches have vaults covered in frescoes, again very rare in England. Another highlight was the Viking Ship Museum at Roskilde - stunning.

I had been to Germany before, but not the former GDR - quite an eye-opener, with many historic buildings neglected and tumbling down, and the universal application of grim grey concrete render as weatherproofing. Huge restoration projects are now underway, particularly on the major town churches, many of which were abandoned in ruins after the War, but there is still an enormous amount to do with limited funds.

I also spent a week in Cumbria, with its fantastic Roman remains and dramatic scenery. I hope you had a good summer too, and we can now look forward to the Indoor Meetings programme.

MAAG has been busy again this year, particularly at the East Farleigh site.

The complete ground plan of the Roman building at Lower Gallants Farm, East Farleigh has now been revealed. It consists of three central rooms surrounded by a corridor, with at least two corner rooms. Gullies or ditches relating to an earlier phase were also discovered. It does not, however, tally with the measured plan of the building published in the 1830s, so it seems another building awaits discovery. A number of test pits were dug in an attempt to locate other buildings, but without success.

Following the completion of the recording and photographing of the site, excavations for this year have now ceased. The smaller trenches have been completely backfilled and the larger ones have been partly backfilled to protect the remains.

Albert Daniels' plans for Spring 2007 include obtaining a JCB to complete the backfilling, carrying out further resistivity surveying, and excavating trial trenches elsewhere on the site.

Open Day: On Sunday, 27th August, over a hundred visitors attended our Open Day and were given guided tours of the East Farleigh site. We displayed Roman life, including herbs and plants used in cooking and medicine, some of the finds, and produced information boards about the excavation and some of the other work that MAAG has undertaken. Children were able to wash finds and to use a metal detector to find old pennies.

Lesley Feakes painted an impression of what the building might have looked like, and made copies for sale. At the end of the day the landowner, Mr. Bryan Baughan, was presented with the original painting by Albert Daniels as a thank-you gift.

I rushed back from Denmark for the Open Day, arriving about half an hour before it finished - it was a lovely warm day and everyone seemed to have had an enjoyable time. I was particularly impressed by some of the painted wall plaster. A big thank you to everyone who participated on the dig throughout the summer, and to all those who worked so hard (in one case, travelling back from Scotland) to make the Open Day such a success.

David Carder, with contributions from Richard and Linda Weeks

Finds Processing - Volunteers Wanted !

Albert Daniels will shortly be asking for volunteers to help sort our accumulated finds for storage in museum boxes. This will probably be on one or two Saturdays, hopefully at the Police College. If you can volunteer to help, please contact Linda Weeks for details.

Members' Evening

Our Members' Evening in November is very popular, with four or so members giving short talks about their interests. We are particularly keen to hear members who have not spoken before, so if **you** would like to, please contact any committee member beforehand.

Membership Renewals

A few members have still not paid their current subscription, due last April, so would they please do so soon. **If this Newsletter is marked with a red cross, you are one of them !**

England's Past for Everyone (Victoria County History) in Kent

At September's indoor meeting, Dr Andrew Harm spoke about this new project, which will focus on eight parishes straddling the river Medway near Rochester. In 1800 most people in this area were farmers, but industrialisation altered the character of places like Strood, Aylesford, Snodland and Halling, so that by 1900 the valley was heavily industrialised with paper-making, cement, brick-making, brewing, ship- and barge-building, seed crushing and engineering.

The project will examine this transformation of the landscape, economy and culture of the area, and also the link between older maritime activities and the emerging industries, and the external links with London, the Medway towns and other parts of Kent.

If you would like to assist with research for this project please contact David Carder for details.

News from the Kent History Federation (KHF1)

The KHF has a new Secretary: Shiela Broomfield, who is well known in local archaeological circles. Shiela (that is the correct spelling) is prominent in the KAS and CBA and many other societies, and I'm sure will do an excellent job for the KHF. But where does she find the time ?

The KHF's *Journal of Kent History* is well produced publication, with good articles, book reviews, and details of local groups' activities. The new edition (No. 63) is available at indoor meetings.

Announcements

Further announcements and information are given at indoor meetings.

Saturday 4th November. 2-5.30pm; CKA Conference - The Battle Against the Sea: the impact of the sea over 2,000 years on the coastal settlements of SE England. *How past sea level changes have affected the coast from Suffolk to Sussex*, by Basil Cracknell (Author of *Outrageous Waves*); *From settlement to abandonment - the drowned Bronze Age landscape of Shinewater, Eastbourne*, by Christopher Greatorex (C.G. Archaeology); *The Lost Coastline of Kent*, by David Plummer and Brian Philp (CKA Chairman); and *Dover Harbour*, by William Fawcus (Dover Harbour Board). At Christ Church University College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury. Tickets £4 with SAE from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP.

Free Exhibitions at the Medway Local Studies Centre. Strood. 7 September - 3 November: *Jewish Presence in Medway*; 20 November - 30 January 2007: *Edwin Harris: man of many parts* by Pat Salter; Wednesday 6 December 10am - 12 noon: *Mince Pie Day*, open morning - meet the staff, seasonal refreshments, book sale. Details (01634) 332714.

Local Medway Archaeological Research Group (LMARG)

LMARG have just published their Transactions for 2005, with several interesting articles by members. For further details contact David Carder.

Contacts

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General: Richard and Linda Weeks, 40 Bell Meadow, Maidstone ME 15 9ND (01622) 762422; email maag.info@tesco.net.



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, March 2007

Dear Fellow Members

No room for editorial, but we are very pleased to welcome several more new members – I'll try to include a list in the May Newsletter. We look forward to seeing them and all our members at the various events listed below.

David Carder

Notice of Annual General Meeting - Friday 27th April 2007

This year's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 27th April 2007 at the Kent Police College, off the Sutton Road (A274), Maidstone. The Agenda is as follows:

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 2006 AGM and matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Indoor Meetings Organiser's report
6. Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts
7. Subscription rates
8. Archaeological Director's report
9. Election of Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer
10. Election of Hon. Examiner
11. Reports and Election of Representatives
12. Future Activities
13. Any other business

Book Sale: The AGM will be followed by a book sale, with proceeds towards Group funds. Please bring along book donations, particularly those of archaeological or historical interest, or contact Richard or Linda if you want to donate books but cannot attend the AGM.

Saturday 31 March - Finds Processing

A chance to get your hands on some real archaeological artefacts ! Help us to sort and box finds from various MAAG digs for permanent storage. 10am to 3pm at St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone (on the west side near Rock Road). Parking for up to 16 cars. No experience necessary - come along all day or for an hour or two. Further details from Richard and Linda.

Sunday 22 April - East Farleigh; the dig continues !

We are planning to re-start work, probably with a resistivity survey to try to locate another Roman building. 10am to 4pm weekly on Sundays. All are welcome, but if you want to come along on the first week, please contact Richard or Linda beforehand to confirm arrangements.

Saturday 5 May - Visit to the Medway Megaliths

Our member, Angela Muthana, will lead a walk to Kit's Coty, the Countless Stones (Little Kit's Coty) and perhaps other local Neolithic sites. Angela, who specialises in the Prehistoric period, also hopes to bring along some artefacts from Maidstone Museum, where she is a volunteer.

Meet at **10.30am** at the lay-by north of the Lower Bell pub (TQ 747 606). From Maidstone, take the Burham exit off the A229 and the lay-by is opposite the end of the slip road. The walk should finish by about 12.30, but Angela is willing to go somewhere else after lunch if there is enough interest. Wear sensible clothing and shoes, as some walking along footpaths is involved.

A small donation to Maidstone Museum would be appreciated.

Visit to Centre for Kentish Studies, Monday 4 June, 2-4 pm. Details in May Newsletter.

Membership Renewals

Subscriptions for the year beginning 1 April 2007 are now due, and are unchanged. If you are due to renew, a form will be enclosed with this Newsletter. If renewing, please complete as much of the form as possible - that way we can establish what members' interests really are.

Return the form with your cheque to **David Carder** (address at end), or hand it with your cheque or cash to any Committee Member who will give you a receipt on request.

Please sign the Gift Aid section if you qualify, as it provides valuable income to MAAG at no cost to you. Contact David with any queries on Gift Aid or subscriptions generally.

2007/8 Indoor Meetings Programme

Josephine is now compiling the indoor meetings programme for 2007/8, which will be published in full in May - dates for your diaries are given below. Meetings are held at the Kent Police College, Maidstone on **Fridays** at **7.30 pm**, and are free of charge for members, or £1 for non-members.

- 15 June 2007** **The Lower and Middle Palaeolithic of Kent**
Mrs Angela Muthana (MAAG Member)
- July and August** **No indoor meetings**
- 21 September** **The Evolution of the Industrial Village: the contrasting stories of Aylesford, Eccles and Snodland**
Mr Andrew Hann (Victoria County History Project)
- 19 October** **The Heritage Project at Shorne County Park**
Ms Lyn Palmer and Mr David Britchfield (Kent County Council)
- 2007: 16 November (Members' Evening), 14 December (Christmas Social).**
2008: 18 January, 15 February, 14 March, 18 April (AGM), 16 May, 20 June.

Local Medway Archaeological Research Group Programme

Our friends at LMARG meet on Tuesdays at 8 pm at The Friends' Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester. £1 admission for non-members.

- 27 Mar 2007 **Kent - An Unusual View** - Graham Johnson
29 May 2007 **Kentish Village Life in Victorian Times** - Helen Allison
25 Sep 2007 **Industrial Archaeology** - Jim Preston
30 Oct 2007 **Excavations at Grange Farm, Gillingham** - Guy Seddon
27 Nov 2007 Talk by David Britchfield (KCC Archaeological Officer)

Announcements

Saturday 12 May: Kent History Federation One-Day Conference at Bridge (SE of Canterbury). Lectures and guided visits. Booking form from Richard Weeks.

Events at Maidstone Museum. Saturday 31 March - One-hour behind-the-scenes tours at 11 am, 12 noon, 2 pm and 3 pm. 28 April to 20 May - a small exhibition of artefacts found in and around the River Medway. **12 May to 19 September - The Hidden Treasures of Kent:** a major exhibition to celebrate 150 years of the Kent Archaeological Society, with important artefacts discovered in Kent but now housed in other museums - **a unique opportunity to see these exhibited together.** Thursday 17 May. 6.30 pm - Metal Detecting & Archaeology in Kent: talk by Andrew Richardson (Finds Liaison Officer).

Saturday 14 April. 2.00 - 5.30 pm: The Lost Valley - 2,000 years in the Upper Darent Valley. CKA Conference. At Sevenoaks Community Centre, Crampton Road (off Otford Road), Sevenoaks. Tickets £4 with SAE from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP.

Contacts

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Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, May 2007

Dear Fellow Members

Several new members have joined during the last year or so - welcome to you all: Mr R Cronin, Mrs J Clark, Mrs M Munday & family, Mrs S Cottee & family, Mr & Mrs A & V Danvers-Wright & family, Mr N Webb, Mr L Ullman, Mr L Baker, Miss L Mallard, Ms A Spendlove, Mr T & Mrs L Hughes & family, Ms K Moss, Ms J Karis, & Mrs P Weeks (Richard's mum).

The Finds Processing day was very successful, with all finds being labelled, bagged and boxed. These finds were discovered many years ago, and included large numbers from Northgate, Rochester (see notes from the 1987 AGM below), some being wrapped in an *Independent* newspaper which was exactly 20 years old that day - 31 March 1987 !

On 5 May, 11 members and friends joined Angela Muthana for a walk to Kit's Coty, the Countless Stones (Little Kit's Coty), the Upper White Horse Stone and through Westfield Wood, where Angela pointed out a sarsen stone which may have been used for sharpening flint axes. Angela discussed the possible uses of the monuments and their relationship to those on the Continent and other parts of Britain. This enjoyable walk finished with Angela showing us various stone artefacts from Maidstone Museum, including two mace heads, and the participants generously donated a total of £32 to Museum funds.

David Carder

Visit to Centre for Kentish Studies, Monday 4 June

A repeat visit to the CKS on a non-public day. Meet at the entrance to County Hall at 2pm for an introductory talk, a look at various books and documents of interest, and tours behind the scenes. Finish at 4pm. Cost £2. Although advance booking is not required, please let Richard, Linda or David know if you are coming so that we can get an idea of numbers.

Annual General Meeting - Subscriptions Still Unchanged

Richard Weeks chaired the AGM held on 27 April. Membership now stands at 80.

Financially, we made a surplus of £366, so subscriptions will be held at current levels for at least the coming year. The Treasurer would welcome ideas for spending at least some of our accumulating funds, which now stand at £3694.

The Group had another busy year, particularly with the continuing East Farleigh excavation and the second Open Day. The Centre for Kentish Studies had now bound the ledger slab survey of All Saint's Church, and the Group agreed to have another copy bound for its own records.

After 20 years as Secretary and Chairman (since 1996), Richard Weeks wishes to stand down as Chairman at the next AGM. This year, however, the Officers were unchanged, thus:

Executive Officers and Trustees: **Richard Weeks** (Chairman), **David Ottway** (Vice-Chairman), **Linda Weeks** (Hon. Secretary), and **David Carder** (Hon. Treasurer).

Non-executive Officers: **Josephine Sanders** (Indoor Meetings Organiser), **David Carder** (Newsletter Editor), **Pat Brooks** (Kent History Federation rep.), **Roger Wallbridge** (Council for British Archaeology rep.), **Lesley Feakes** (Kent Archaeological Society rep.), **Albert Daniels** (Excavation Director). Honorary Examiner: **Josephine Sanders**.

The AGM was followed by a book sale which raised £47.20 for Group funds - many thanks to those who donated and purchased books.

Looking Back - notes from our AGMs 10 and 20 years ago

My thanks to Linda and Richard for digging into the archives.

The 1987 AGM was held in the annex of the Adult Education Centre in St Faith's Street, chaired by Albert Daniels. Richard Weeks, somewhat reluctantly, agreed to become Secretary.

In 1986/7 there were outings to Maidstone Town Hall, the Amberley Museum and Arundel, and Cranbrook; and excavations at North gate, Rochester.

The 1997 AGM was held at Brookes Cafe Bar chaired by Richard Weeks. Membership then stood at 83. Josephine had produced a Meetings Programme in advance, the first time the Group had had one !

Activities in 1996/7 included a Resistivity Survey Study Day; outings to Butser and Boxgrove, and Gardholm's Edge, Derbyshire; excavations at the Cutbush Almshouses and Len Valley footpath; and a watching brief at Postley Road.

Digging News

Further details from Richard and Linda Weeks.

East Farleigh: 10am to 4pm Sundays. Further resistivity surveying has failed to reveal any features due to the deep soil overburden, so the hunt for the "second building" continues.

Leigh Gunpowder Mills Heritage Project: Leigh gunpowder mills closed in the 1920s, though gunpowder production had long ceased by then. A large section remains as foundations of buildings and sites of water driven mill-wheels and gears, and there is a complex of waterways. The project will uncover specific sites, locate and assess as much of the others as possible, and produce a written and visual record. The work is mainly clearance of scrub and vegetation to provide access, then uncovering and cleaning the relevant brickwork.

MAAG Email News Service

After a delayed start, the Email News Service is now up and running and is a useful way to communicate the latest information to members in between Newsletters and indoor meetings. To subscribe, simply send an email to **maag.info@tesco.net** and ask to be included.

We also welcome contributions from you, such as details of events which may be of interest to members, either by email or "old-fashioned" methods (to Linda or Richard Weeks).

Subscription Reminder

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Please send your cheque, payable to *Maidstone Area Archaeological Group*, to David Carder (address at end) or pay at one of the meetings, preferably with a completed renewal form (included with the March Newsletter, and which has the subscription rates).

Other Events

To Sunday 9 September - The Hidden Treasures of Kent: this major exhibition at Maidstone Museum is now open and brings together artefacts from the Palaeolithic to the Anglo-Saxon periods discovered in Kent but now housed in other museums or private collections. It includes a set of Iron Age slave chains from Bigbury, and a fantastic selection of Anglo-Saxon broaches showing the typological development. Free of charge. **Do not miss !**

Saturday and Sunday, 9th and 10th June: Dover Western Heights Open Weekend. See the Drop Redoubt Fort (1808, admission charge) and Grand Shaft (c.1807, free), 140 ft high with unique triple staircase. Contact Dover Tourist Information on 01304 205108.

Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd July: National Archaeology Week. Though details are not finalised, there will be another event at Shorne Country Park. Further details from Richard and Linda Weeks nearer the time.

Thursday 6th to Sunday 9th September: Heritage Open Days. Details of local events from tourist information centres or the Civic Trust website nearer the time.

Saturday 15 September 2007: Local & Family History Open Day. Exhibits by local societies from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm at the Civic Suite, Civic Centre, Strood.

Saturday 20th October: KAS Historic Buildings Conference. At Lenham, with 3 lectures and a visit to the barn. Lunch available. Further details in the next Newsletter or from David Carder.

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Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, September 2007

Dear Fellow Members

Firstly, a warm welcome to several new members who have joined during the summer, bringing our membership up to around 90 - let's try for 100 during the coming year. As I don't yet have all your names, I will put together a full list for the next Newsletter in March. All new members should receive an Indoor Meetings Programme Card and are welcome to join our "e-Newsletter" for up-to-date news by email - just ask to join by emailing maag.info@tesco.net.

Excavations at the East Farleigh Roman site continued throughout the summer, with only one Sunday lost to the weather. Investigations centred on the terrace to the south of Building 1, found in 2005. About 50 metres south-east of Building 1 (behind the pile of hop poles) we discovered two further buildings, one on top of the other. The later building is more or less on the same alignment as Building 1, and appears to be a long, rectangular structure about 8 metres wide and over 12 metres long, although the total length is as yet unknown. The earlier building is aligned at about 15 degrees to the later one. One section shows one of the walls of the later building standing about 3 or 4 feet high and cutting through the earlier wall.

No Roman coins have been found, but we have discovered pottery, various iron objects, mainly nails, and many roofing and flooring tiles. It seems that these two new buildings were probably agricultural rather than domestic, and there is some evidence of burning.

Digging will continue over the next few Sundays, probably until mid-October.

Open Day: Sunday, 30th September, 2-4 pm for Group Members and their guests. Displays of finds and guided tours - just turn up. Further details and directions from Linda and Richard.

The Hidden Treasures of Kent exhibition at Maidstone Museum had many superb artefacts, but one that sticks in my memory is the set of Iron Age slave chains from Bigbury - horrifying!

Fishbourne re-opened this year with a new cover building, finds store and re-vamped museum - there's much more to see now, so it's well worth another visit if you haven't been for a while.

David Carder, with contributions from Richard and Linda Weeks

Kent Historic Environment Record

At our June meeting, Edward Salter, KCC's Exploring Kent's Past Project Officer, explained how the Group could be involved in checking and enhancing the Historic Environment Record (HER) for the Maidstone area in preparation for its publication on the internet in March 2008.

They will supply large-scale maps showing the HER points and printouts from the HER of the various sites. They would need us to work through the maps, check the information and make notes of any errors or omissions in order that the database can be updated.

They are offering a workshop, probably on a Saturday morning in October, to show us how to use the information provided and to explain the kind of information they need. Volunteers can choose to work on particular parishes or particular topics, such as Iron Age, Roman or WW II. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Linda and Richard for up-to-date details.

Members' Evening

Our popular Members' Evening in November enables around four members to give short talks about their interests. We are keen to hear people who have not spoken before (particularly new members), so if **you** would like to give a talk, please contact any committee member.

Membership Renewals

A few members have still not paid their current subscription, due last April, so would they please do so soon. **If your Newsletter is marked with a red cross, you are one of them!**

Announcements

Saturday 20 October. 9.30 for 10.00 am to 4.00 pm; KAS Historic Buildings Conference. At Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way (off Old Ashford Road), Lenham. Illustrated talks by Andrew Linklater (Canterbury Archaeological Trust): *Hip to Hearth: an Examination of the Complexities of Buildings Archaeology*; Charles Brooking (creator of the Brooking Collection of architectural features): *The Window of Time: Dating by Detail*; and Elizabeth Finn (Centre for Kentish Studies): *Tracing the History of Buildings at the Centre for Kentish Studies*. Followed by an introduction to Kentish barns and a visit to Lenham Barn. Admission £8, pay on the day.

Local History Talks: 6.30 pm at the Lecture Theatre, Sessions House, Maidstone. 11 Oct, **William. Lambarde and his Perambulation of Kent**, Marion O'Connor; 12 Nov, **Hadlow Manorial Survey**, Joan Thirsk; 14 Jan, **Historic Kent Films**, Frank Gray; 18 Feb, **What I am I want you to tell me: the "telling" relationship of Vita Sackville-West and Virginia Woolf**, Lyndall Gordon. £3 per talk. Details on (01622) 694363, email archives@kent.gov.uk.

Saturday 17th November: Open Day at the Centre for Kentish Studies (01622 694363).

Saturday 3rd November. 2.00 to 5.30 pm: CKA Conference - Kent in the Front Line: The role of Kent in conflicts through the ages from the time of the Romans to the World Wars. *Caesar and Claudius*, by Gerald Grange; *Kent in the Civil Wars*, by a speaker from the National Army Museum; *Threats, Responses and Residues*, by Major Guy Taylor; and *The Beleaguered Years of the Second World War*, by Victor Smith. At Christ Church University College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury. Tickets £4 with SAE from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green TN15 8HP.

Saturday 10th November. 9.30 am to 5 pm; CBA SE Conference - Under the Plough - the Archaeology of Topsoil. Nine lectures at the University of Kent at Medway, Chatham Maritime, Chatham ME4 4AG. Tickets £17.50 (£15 for CBA members), from Mr & Mrs Corbett, 4 Ditchling Close, Eastbourne, E Sussex BN23 8LS, tel. 01323 743889, email cbase@scorbett.co.uk.

Exhibitions at the Medway Local Studies Centre. Strood. Until 3rd November, *Naval Catastrophes: 1707, Sir Cloudesley Shovell and the Wreck of HMS Association*. 19th November to 29th January. *Thomas Hellyer Foord*. Details (01634) 332714.

News from the Kent History Federation (KHF)

As always, thanks to Pat Brooks for attending the quarterly meetings and sending me notes.

- Arrangements for 2008 are still undecided, but the 2009 one-day conference will be at Eastchurch or Queenborough, to celebrate 100 years of flying.
- A new edition of Kent Archive Service's Guide to Parish Registers is now available, either as a paper copy (£7) or on-line at www.kent.gov.uk/archives.

September's *Journal of Kent History* should now be available at modest cost at indoor meetings.

The Local Medway Archaeological Research Group

Our friends at LMARG meet on Tuesdays at 8 pm at The Friends' Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester - admission £1 for non-members, 2007 programme below (www.lmarg.ik.com).

LMARG publish annual *Transactions*, and their recently published 2006 edition, with 52 pages and clear illustrations, is a good example of what local groups can produce at a modest cost.

25 Sep 2007 **Industrial Archaeology** - Jim Preston

30 Oct 2007 **Excavation at Grange Farm, Gillingham** - Guy Seddon

27 Nov 2007 **Talk by David Britchfield** (KCC Archaeological Field Officer)

British Archaeology Magazine

As members of the CBA (Council for British Archaeology), the Group receives their excellent magazine, *British Archaeology*, which is available for loan by members at indoor meetings.

Contacts

Newsletter contributions & subs. to: David Carder, 53 The Ridgeway, Chatham ME4 6PB (01634) 849085 (answering service); email: david.carder@baesystems.com.

General: Richard Weeks (Chairman) and Linda Weeks (Secretary), 40 Bell Meadow, Maidstone ME15 9ND (01622) 762422; email: maag.info@tesco.net.



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, March 2008

Dear Fellow Members

A warm welcome to our many new members who have joined in the last few months: Mr. T. & Mrs B. Bent, Mr. P. Bishenden, Mr. J. Boakes, Mr. J. Gretton, Mr. J. Hatherly, Mrs. L. Hope, Mr Mrs & Ms Lewing, Mrs. T. Page, Mr. A. Palmer, Miss R. Pottinger and Ms. R. Riley.

David Carder, with contributions from Richard and Linda Weeks

Annual General Meeting - Friday 18th April 2008. 7.30 pm

The 2008 AGM will be held at the Kent Police College, Maidstone. The Agenda is as follows:

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 2007 AGM and matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Indoor Meetings Organiser's report
6. Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts
7. Subscription rates
8. Archaeological Director's report
9. Election of Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer
10. Election of Hon. Examiner
11. Reports and Election of Representatives
12. Future Activities
13. Any other business

New Chairman Needed

After being Chairman since April 1997, Richard Weeks will be standing down at this coming AGM; he had also served as Hon. Secretary since April 1988, making this his 20th year as a Committee Member. As from this year he will be helping Linda with some of the Secretarial duties as she is expecting a baby in June ! (*Warmest Congratulations to you both - Ed.*)

Sunday 27 April - East Farleigh: the dig continues !

It is planned to re-start work on Sunday, April 27th. Access arrangements to the site have changed (there is now an electric gate), so please contact Albert or Linda/Richard in advance.

Membership Renewals

Subscriptions for the year beginning 1st April 2008 are now due, and are unchanged. If you are due to renew, a form will be enclosed with this Newsletter. Return the form with your cheque to David Carder (address at end), or hand it with your cheque or cash to any Committee Member who will give you a receipt on request. Please sign the Gift Aid section if you qualify.

Visit to Hastings and Bulverhythe - Saturday. 23rd February

Ten members toured the Old Town with guide Paul Reed, who showed us various medieval hall houses and part of the old Town wall. Then on to Bulverhythe to see the remains of the Dutch East Indiaman *The Amsterdam* which sank in 1749. Unfortunately the tide was not out far enough to see anything, but Albert showed us photographs of the timbers from a previous visit and told us about the ship's history, voyage and grounding. Part of the cargo was salvaged including two cannon and 29 crates of silver bullion - the 30th crate mysteriously disappeared !

News from the Kent History Federation

The 2008 Annual Conference is likely to be at the Centre for Kentish Studies in Maidstone on 10 May. The 2009 Conference will be at Sheppey, provisionally on 9 May.

Victoria County History Project: Dr Harm's project, *Life and Work in the Lower Medway Valley, 1750-1914*, is due for publication in the second half of 2008. The next project under Dr Sandra Dunster, due for completion in February 2010, will focus on the history of the Medway Towns.

2008/9 Indoor Meetings Programme

Josephine is now compiling the indoor meetings programme for 2008/9, which will be published in full in May - dates for your diaries are given below. Meetings are held at the Kent Police College, Maidstone on Fridays at 7.30 pm, and are free of charge for members, or £1 for non-members.

16 May 2008 **The Lower and Middle Palaeolithic in Kent** Mrs Angela Muthana (MAAG)

20 June 2008 **Rochester Cathedral - Kent's Best Kept Secret** Mrs Lyndall Hacker
(Cathedral Guide)

July & August **No indoor meetings**

2008 19 Sept, 17 Oct, 21 Nov (Members' Evening), 19 Dec (Christmas Social).

2009 16 Jan, 20 Feb, 20 Mar, 17 or 24 Apr (AGM), 15 May, 19 June.

Local Medway Archaeological Research Group Programme for 2008

Tuesdays at 8 pm at The Friends' Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester. Non-members £1.

27 May **Growing up in Chatham** Peter Dawson

30 September **The Bridge Wardens of Rochester** Sue Threader

28 October To be arranged

25 November **Ben Harrison and C19 Amateur Archaeologists** Angela Muthana (MAAG)

Announcements, including Battle of Maidstone(1648) Festival

At Maidstone Museum (01622-602838) **5th April to 6th July: Battle of Maidstone Exhibition.** Artefacts relating to this period of religious and political turmoil with pamphlets, arms, armour and art from the Museum's own collections and around the country to chart the origins of the Civil War, the reactions of local people and the Battle itself. **25th March. 6.30pm: Andrew Hopper,** talks about his new book on the Parliamentary Commander Lord Fairfax and the Civil War period. **3rd April. 6.30pm: Jackie Bales** talks about the local hot Protestant Thomas Wilson and Parliament during the Civil War. **24th April. 6.30pm: Jason Percy** talks about print and propaganda during the Civil War. (All talks £3). **1 June. 11am-4pm; Living History** event (free).

At the Hazlitt Theatre. 30th May. 7.30pm: Professor Richard Holmes, leading expert on the English Civil War, talks about the events leading up to, during and after the Battle of Maidstone. Tickets £15 from the Box Office (01622 758611).

In Gabriels Hill and Week Street. 1 June. 11am: Battle Re-enactment.

Saturday 19 April. 2.00 - 5.15pm; Rescue Archaeology. CKA and Rescue Joint Conference. *Verulamium: Roman City*, Rosalind Niblett; *Londinium: Roman Forum*, Brian Philp; *Stonehenge: an uncertain future*, Kate Fielden; *Durrington Walls: a Neolithic Spectacular*, Prof. Mike Parker-Pearson. At Sevenoaks Community Centre, Crampton Road (off Otford Road), Sevenoaks. Tickets £4 with SAE from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP.

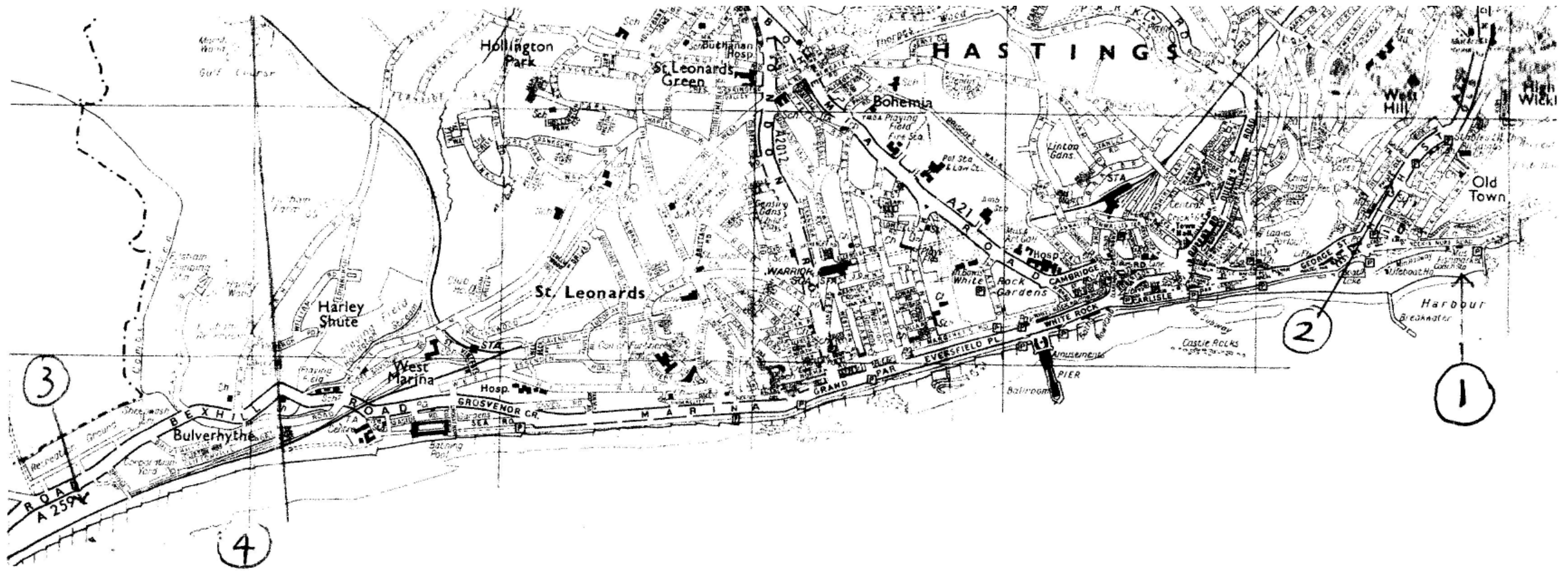
Contacts

Newsletter contributions & subs. to: David Carder, 53 The Ridgeway, Chatham ME4 6PB (01634) 849085 (answering service).

Excavations: Albert Daniels (Archaeological Director), [01622] 692450

General: Richard Weeks (Chairman) and Linda Weeks (Secretary), 40 Bell Meadow, Maidstone ME15 9ND (01622) 762422; email: maag.info@tesco.net

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP visit to Hastings, Saturday 23rd February 2008.
Meet Paul Reed our guide at 2 p.m. outside the Fisherman's Museum in Rock - a - Nore Road. (1 on map)
We will be guided around the town looking at the early houses. On the way we will visit 103 Old High Street (2 on map) to view the final stages of the restoration work. We will continue our perambulation around the town back to the Fishermans Museum arriving 3-30 to 3-45 p.m.
Meet again at 4-15 p.m. at Bridge Way, Bulverhythe (3 on map) Park in Bridge Way or in the car park 100 m to the west. Led by A. J. Daniels we will cross the railway line by the bridge (steps) to visit the wreck of the East Indiaman Amsterdam (4 on map) which is partially buried 400m out across pebbles and sand (pools and streams may need To be crossed).
Whether or not the wreck is visible depends on previous tides and storms.





Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, May 2008

Dear Fellow Members

Firstly, welcome to more new members: Mr and Mrs Applin, and Mr and Mrs Davenport-Drake.

It is a busy time for our Hon. Secretary, Linda Weeks. She has just received her MA in Business Studies at a degree ceremony at Canterbury Cathedral, and is due to have a baby in June - many congratulations on both counts. Nevertheless, she has kindly agreed to become Newsletter Editor with effect from the next (September 2008) issue, so this will be my last issue as Editor.

I am sure that Linda will bring new features and a fresh approach to the Newsletter, so I leave it in safe hands.

David Carder

MAAG Visit to Otford and Shoreham - Saturday 26 July

An open invitation to two guided tours of the neighbouring villages of Otford and Shoreham - come to one or both, no booking necessary. Each tour will last about 2 hours. Maps overleaf.

For Otford, meet in the car park at **10.30 am**. Led by Cliff Ward, who spoke to us recently, we will visit the Archbishop's Palace, church (if available) and Heritage Centre, which has a fine model of the Palace, a 56-foot timeline, Roman artefacts, and details of the unique model of the solar system, which can be seen in the field next to the car park.

For Shoreham, meet in the car park at 2 pm, where we will be guided by Joy Saynor, visiting the mill site, church (if available) and viewing the various historic buildings and water systems.

Light lunches and teas are available locally - details on the day. No charge, but for each tour there will be a collection for local good causes - please give generously.

Annual General Meeting - New Chairman Elected

Richard Weeks chaired the 39th AGM held on 18 April with 25 members attending. Membership now stands at around 87 (compared with 56 in 2005) - let's reach the 100 by next year's AGM !

Financially, we made a surplus of £240, so subscriptions will be held at current levels for at least the coming year. The Treasurer would welcome ideas for spending at least some of our accumulating funds, which now stand at £3934. Purchase of a resistivity meter was discussed, but there is a supply problem with low-cost versions at present.

It was suggested that some members might be willing to receive Newsletters by email, thus reducing postage costs and speeding up the distribution. This will be explored.

The Group had another busy year, particularly with the continuing East Farleigh excavation where three Roman buildings, probably of a non-domestic nature, were discovered. There was a second visit to the Centre for Kentish Studies in June.

After 20 years as Secretary and then (since 1996) Chairman, Richard Weeks stood down as Chairman and Albert Daniels was elected for one year. David Carder handed over the Newsletter editorship to Linda Weeks. The Officers are thus:

Executive Officers and Trustees: **Albert Daniels** (Chairman), **David Ottway** (Vice-Chairman), **Linda Weeks** (Hon. Secretary), and **David Carder** (Hon. Treasurer).

Non-executive Officers: **Josephine Sanders** (Indoor Meetings Organiser), **Linda Weeks** (Newsletter Editor), **Pat Brooks** (Kent History Federation rep.), **Roger Wallbridge** (Council for British Archaeology rep.), **Lesley Feakes** (Kent Archaeological Society rep.), and **Albert Daniels** (Fieldwork Director). Honorary Examiner: **Josephine Sanders**.

After the AGM, Richard Weeks showed some photos of the visit to Hastings and Bulverhythe.

Indoor Meeting on 20th June 2008

Our speaker, Mrs Lyndall Hacker, has changed the name of her talk to **Silent Stones and Symbols Speaking**, and says it will bring new insight to familiar artefacts found in Christian Art and Architecture, seeking to answer questions such as:

Who is the Green Man? Which Patriarch is shown with horns? Why are fonts often octagonal? Why were churches painted? Why do paths to the main door of a church often lie at a slant? Why do so many large Victorian secular buildings have an ecclesiastical appearance?

What is the symbolism contained within a Mandorla, an Icon, an Altar, a Square Halo, a Celtic Knot, a Pope's Tiara, a Pallium, a Broken Staff, Covered hands, etc.? How is movement portrayed in an essentially static medium?

It sounds fascinating, so let's have a good turnout.

Fieldwork

Excavation continues at **East Farleigh** on Sundays. Further details (including new entry arrangements) from Richard and Linda Weeks or Albert Daniels.

MAAG Email News Service

The Email News Service is now in full operation and is a useful way to communicate the latest information to members in between Newsletters and indoor meetings. To subscribe, simply send an email to **maag.info@tesco.net** and ask to be included.

Subscription Reminder

If this Newsletter was posted to you and is marked with a red cross, then your subscription for the year beginning 1st April 2008 is now overdue.

Please send your cheque, payable to *Maidstone Area Archaeological Group*, to David Carder (address at end) or pay at one of the meetings, preferably with a completed renewal form.

Other Events

Saturday and Sunday, 31st May and 1st June: Dover Western Heights Open Weekend. See the Drop Redoubt Fort (1808, admission charge) and Grand Shaft (c.1807, free), 140 ft high with unique triple staircase. Contact Dover Tourist Information on 01304 205108.

Saturday 12th to Sunday 20th July; National Archaeology Week. Open days at Shorne Country Park, on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th July from 10.30-4.30.

Sunday 7th September: Kent History Sunday. At the Museum of Kent Life, Sandling. Details (01622) 763936. MAAG will be having a display table, **so volunteers needed.**

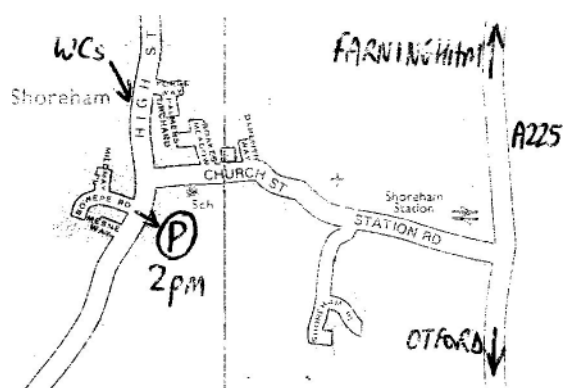
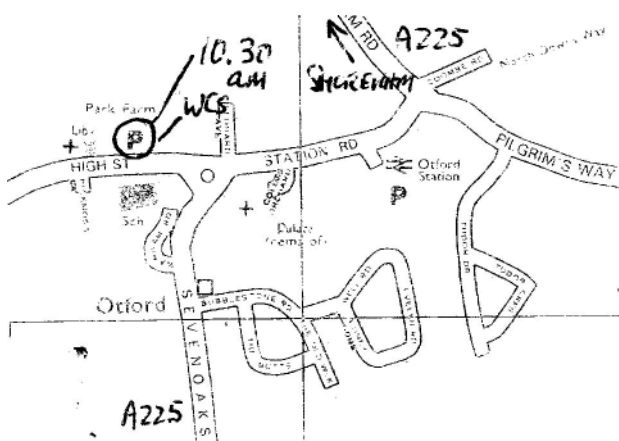
Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th September; Heritage Open Days. Details of local events from tourist information centres or the Civic Trust website nearer the time.

General & Newsletter: Linda Weeks (Secretary), 40 Bell Meadow, Maidstone ME 15 9ND (01622) 762422; **email: maag.info@tesco.net.**

Subscriptions: David Carder (Treasurer), 53 The Ridgeway, Chatham ME4 6PB (01634) 849085 (answering service); **email: david.carder@baesystems.com.**

Fieldwork: Albert Daniels (Chairman and Fieldwork Director), 07966 172807.

Maps for the Visits on 26 May





Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Newsletter, September 2008

Dear Fellow Members

My first task as your new Newsletter Editor must be to give thanks to David Carder on behalf of everyone for doing such an excellent job of producing our Newsletter over so many years. I take over with some trepidation - he will be a hard act to follow!

My second task is, of course, to ask you all to please let me know if you have any news items or any ideas of what you'd like to see included in future newsletters.

Linda Weeks

Summer Roundup

We hope that you have had a good summer - if you have been doing anything that you would like to share with the rest of us at the Members' Evening or Christmas Social, please let us know.

- **Otford and Shoreham Visits - Saturday 26th July** : The visit to Otford was led by Cliff Ward, and Joy Saynor guided members around Shoreham. Several members expressed regret that they were unable to join in and would very much like this event to be repeated next year.
- **Randall Manor** : Some of our members have been helping at this dig, which has now closed for 2008. The site had more than 500 visitors during the 'Archaeology in the Park' (National Archaeology Week) events, many of whom returned to dig later in the week.

Future Events

Maidstone Museum : 150th Anniversary

The Museum are commemorating their anniversary in several ways this year, including an exhibition called **Kaleidoscope** from 24th July to 26th October. It tells the Museum's history and explores the stories of 150 objects from among the collections.

CKA Conference : Roman Discoveries in Kent and London : Saturday 25th October

The Powell Lecture Theatre, Canterbury Christ Church University, North Holmes Road, Canterbury
Tickets £4.00 in advance from CKA, Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP. Please enclose SAE.
Further information is available at <http://www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk>

MAAG 40th Anniversary

Well, we can't match the Museum's 150th Anniversary - yet - but 2009 will be the 40th Anniversary of MAAG's existence. If you have any ideas of how we can celebrate the occasion, please let one of the Committee Members know - all suggestions will be very welcome.

Other News

Folkestone Museum : The Museum has recently been de-registered with a view to making it a History Resource Centre. This and other matters, including the proposed redistribution of artefacts, has generated a lot of controversy. More information from the KHF Minutes or from me (Linda).

Heritage Society List : Kent County Council have published a list of local archaeological and history societies here: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/publications/environment/heritage-society-list.htm>; the list includes MAAG and LMARG. If you would like to see it but don't have internet access, let me know as I have a printed copy.

KHF Quarterly Meeting : 5th December 2008 at County Hall, Maidstone.

New Book : Dr. Hann's book "Life and Work in the Medway Valley : 1750-1900" is currently being edited, and publication is likely to be early in 2009.

Thanet Earth : Excavations at the Thanet Earth site near Birchington have revealed the 4,000-year-old skeleton of a Bronze-Age man in a double ring ditch barrow, complete with a decorated ceramic drinking beaker and other artefacts. If you have access to the internet, you might like to see a short film about it here: <http://www.kenttv.com/programmes.php?PID=900&Title=Thanet+Earth+Skeleton>

***** **EAST FARLEIGH OPEN DAY Sunday 28th September** *****

An Open Day at the East Farleigh dig will be held on Sunday, 28th September from 11.00am - 3.00pm.

There will be tours of the excavations, a display of the finds, geophysics demonstrations and poster displays.

The site is off Lower Road (B2010), 75 yards W of the junction with Gallants Lane. Grid Ref: TQ728534. For further details or to be sent a map please contact Linda.

Albert's Archaeological Roundup

It has been a busy summer!

East Farleigh : The Group's excavations have located a fifth building underneath the field lynchet. The east and west corners indicate a building 14m long. Decayed mortar floors and areas of burning and soot indicate a disused stokehole which is buried underneath demolition debris. A long section north/south is being cut across building three to examine its relationship to building two which it overlays.

Randall Manor : The 5th - 19th July excavation at Shorne Country Park on the site of Randall's Manor, a mediaeval moated site, revealed more of the ground plan raising more questions than answers.

Excavations at **Snodland** by Archaeology South East west of the railway line revealed foundations of a further wing of the Roman villa. No floors were located.

The University of Birmingham had a training excavation at the beginning of July based on the area around the Coffin Stone at the bottom of **Bluebell Hill**. This is part of the Valley of Visions project. A filled in hollow way was located alongside the Coffin Stone which is now thought to be placed on a field boundary. Test pitting was also carried out in the area locating the top of the chalk. Sieving of the excavations located burnt flint and struck flakes. Further work may take place next year.

Maidstone - St Peter's Street : Excavations by the Museum of London Archaeological Service prior to the construction of a budget hotel have located a ragstone constructed tunnel (at first believed to be a drain). This tunnel is believed to be connected with the off loading and loading of barges to the adjacent brewery. Disarticulated skeletons from the cemetery of the medieval hospital (the Newark) were excavated where they clashed with the pile positions of the new hotel.

Maidstone - Florence Road : A Car Sales Lot adjacent to St Michael's School was investigated by Archaeology South-East. A paved yard was located which is believed to relate to the Roman bathhouse excavated three years ago by Canterbury Archaeological Trust on the south side of the road.

Lyminge : The University of Reading have been carrying out investigative research into land south of Lyminge Church believed to be the site of a joint Anglo-Saxon monastery and nunnery. The foundation post holes of a large building approximately 20 m x 8 m were located together with many storage pits filled with domestic rubbish including loom weights, quern stones, daub and metal objects all dating to the mid Saxon period.

Milton Regis : A further 70 Anglo-Saxon graves have been located on the building site of a proposed public house. The Canterbury Archaeological Trust are carrying out the excavations.

Out of County Sites : Clearance cairns on Eyam Moor Derbyshire (Sheffield University) and a Roman site at Kitchenham Farm 5 miles west of Battle (Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group) will feature in the Members' Evening on 21st November.

The Newsletter : What Next?

If you would like to have your newsletter delivered electronically as an e-mail attachment in future, please let me know via the e-mail address below. E-newsletters might incorporate photographs that we cannot at present include on two sides of A4, and if we can save on printing and postage costs in this way it should be possible to produce longer and more frequent newsletters.

Contacts

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(01622) 762422 : **email:** maag.info@tesco.net

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Fieldwork: **Albert Daniels (Chairman and Fieldwork Director)**
(01622) 692450 or (07964) 395891 : **email:** a.daniels249@btinternet.com



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group

Established 1969



Newsletter, March 2009

Dear Fellow Members

As always, if you have items that you'd like to be included in the next Newsletter, please let me know.

Linda

Notice of Annual General Meeting – Friday 17th April 2009

This year's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 17th April 2009 at the Kent Police College, off the Sutton Road (A274), Maidstone. The Agenda is as follows:

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 2008 AGM and Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Indoor Meetings Organiser's Report
6. Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts
7. Subscription Rates
8. Archaeological Director's Report
9. Election of Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer
10. Election of Hon. Examiner
11. Reports and Election of Representatives
12. Future Activities
13. Any Other Business

At the last AGM Albert only took on the role of Chairman for one year, so we will be looking for a volunteer to keep us going for another year.

Membership Renewals

Subscriptions for the year beginning **1st April 2009** are now due, and are unchanged. If you are due to renew, a form will be enclosed with this Newsletter. If renewing, please complete as much of the form as possible – that way we can establish what members' interests really are. Return the form with your cheque to David Carder (address at end), or hand it with your cheque or cash to any Committee Member who will give you a receipt on request.

Please sign the Gift Aid section if you qualify, as it provides valuable income to MAAG at no cost to you.

Contact David with any queries on Gift Aid or subscriptions generally.

MAAG 40th Anniversary

This is an ongoing reminder that 14th May 2009 will be the 40th Anniversary of MAAG's existence. If you have any ideas of how we can celebrate the occasion, please let one of the Committee Members know - all suggestions will be very welcome. Richard and I are currently working on our Group's website and will demonstrate it after the AGM business is concluded, if time allows.

Events

CKA Conference : 25th April 2009

The Council for Kentish Archaeology is holding the West Kent Conference on Saturday, 25th April 2009 from 2pm-5.30pm at Sevenoaks Community Centre. Leigh Historical Group will present an award-winning documentary on "The Leigh Gunpowder Mills", followed by presentation workshops with artefacts and drawings led by various groups (including MAAG and LMARG). Tickets £4.00 from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent, TN15 8HP (sae required).

Charles Darwin Exhibitions

- **Down House** : "On the Trail of Darwin" : A new exhibition launched on 9th February 2009 to mark the 200th anniversary of his birth.
- **Natural History Museum** : Current until 19th April 2009 : Open 10.00-17.30 daily; last admission 17.00. £8.80 adults, £4.40 children, £23.50 families, £5.90 concessions. Advance booking is strongly recommended.

Festival of British Archaeology 2009

The Council for British Archaeology has announced that National Archaeology Week will become The Festival of British Archaeology 2009 and will be extended to a fortnight, running from 18th July to 2nd August. It will retain the general format of National Archaeology Week but will give even more opportunities for people to participate in a wide range of archaeological-related activities across the UK. If you have access to the internet, more information is available at: <http://festival.britarch.ac.uk/>, and if you don't we will keep you updated at future meetings.

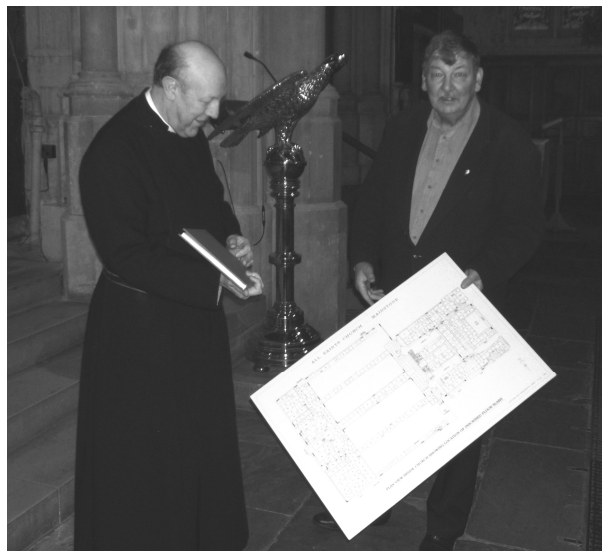
Albert's Archaeological Roundup

East Farleigh : The excavation was put to bed during October, and it will re-commence on Sunday, 19th April 2009 - details will be announced nearer the time. An Open Day was held on Sunday, 28th September 2008 with tours of the excavations, a display of the finds, geophysics demonstrations and poster displays of other excavations and was reported on in the Kent Messenger on Friday, 10th October. By all accounts it was a very enjoyable day, and we were blessed with fine weather.

150 people (and two dogs, thanks Peter for that info!) attended throughout the day, and donations more than covered the expenses of this year's excavation. Five visiting people/couples/families subsequently joined the Group, and we welcome you all.

All Saints' Church Ledger Slabs

On Sunday, 1st March 2009 Albert presented the Rev. Canon Christopher Morgan-Jones, Vicar of All Saints' Church, Maidstone, with a bound copy of the inscriptions and map of the Ledger Slabs set in the floor of the Church. Three hundred slabs were recorded by the Group. The book is one of two copies bound by the KCC Archives Office, who retain the second copy.



Contacts

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Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Established 1969

***** Please note our new e-mail address : maag.info@virginmedia.com *****

Newsletter, June 2009

Dear Fellow Members

We have changed our internet and e-mail supplier, and our new e-mail address is shown above.

Linda

Minutes of Annual General Meeting – Friday 17th April 2009

A quick summary of this year's AGM follows:

Matters Arising from last Minutes

KCC has bought a magnetometer for use with the "Valley of Visions" project, and it will be available to KAS and other groups to use. HER Online is now live (<http://www.kent.gov.uk/her>). Three members had offered to have newsletters delivered by e-mail but, as that was not enough to offset the cost of copying and posting a fourth newsletter, the frequency will remain at three per year for the time being.

Finance

The CKA has given us a grant of £200. Subscriptions were up but that is due to several members paying for some years in advance. Donations were up, but so were expenses, as we had bought quite a lot of equipment and had hired the meeting room for an extra meeting connected with the HER project. One of the biggest expenses is in printing and posting newsletters. It was agreed that we do not need to increase subscriptions, though recognised that it would be expensive to hire an excavator to use at East Farleigh.

Archaeological Director's Report

The East Farleigh excavation is continuing throughout 2009, and will re-commence on Sunday, 19th April beginning at 10am as usual.

Future Activities / Outings / Visits

- 1) East Farleigh
- 2) Oldbury/Ightham Walk (see below)
- 3) Chatham Industrial Museum one evening (although The Brook is currently closed)

Website

A draft version of a website for MAAG was shown after the meeting; it is still under construction. If anyone knows of a suitable 'host' for the site that will be easy for me to administer, please let me know!

MAAG 40th Anniversary

Carole Frost has kindly offered to arrange an Anniversary pub lunch at The Horseshoes, Dean Street, East Farleigh on Saturday, 1st August - the day before our East Farleigh Open Day. If you'd like to come (partners and guests are also invited), please see the enclosed slip.

Events

Festival of British Archaeology 2009 : Events are taking place at Sissinghurst and Shorne during the summer; more information was given at the June meeting. You can also search <http://festival.britarch.ac.uk/> if you have access to the internet; if not, please give me a call.

Gazebo Hire

A few years ago the Group bought a hexagonal gazebo for use at displays and open days. It is available for Members to hire at £5 a time, the money to go to Group funds. Please contact me for details.

Albert's Archaeological Roundup

East Farleigh : The excavation recommenced on 9th April and will take place on Sundays between 10am and 4.30pm. If you'd like to come and join in but haven't been before, please contact us for directions and further information. Work this year is concentrating on the west end of building 3 and building 5:

Building 3 : An area 5m by 8m by 1m deep has been hand excavated to reveal the relationship with building 2 which was demolished to construct building 3. The internal wall and hearths on the floor will be examined to establish their use. The burning has been so intense that the west wall has been patched in two places, conveniently with pink mortar.

Building 5 : Machine excavation of 600mm of hillwash has revealed the SW and SE corners. A 1.5m wide strip has been cut across the building. The building is 14m by 9m with a 3m extension to the south. The walls remain 1m high in places with examples of pink wall plaster and decorated render externally. Part of a copper alloy bath house strigil was located on the spoil heap. The strip through the middle will be excavated to floor level and it is hoped that this will reveal the building's use.

Our **Open Day** will be on 2nd August from 11.30 - 3.30pm.

Watching Brief : The Gate House, Old Palace, Maidstone

A trial pit was dug on the west side of the Gate House to investigate the foundations of the building to enable the Borough Council's engineers to plan a method to excavate under the building to remove Japanese knotweed roots. The foundations were a ragstone 1 on 5 battered wall, probably 2.5 m deep. The mortar had appeared to have leached from the underground joints, leaving only soil binding the stones.

Finds Processing Day : Saturday, 27th June from 10am - 1pm

Albert has booked a room at St. Paul's Church, Boxley Road, Maidstone in order to examine some of the finds from East Farleigh, concentrating on sorting painted plaster, pottery and animal bones. We hope that you are able to join us (bring something to eat and drink). Contact me for further details.

Lecture not to be missed : Exploring Strange Landscapes - Medway Valley Prehistoric Landscape Project by Paul Garwood : 7-30 pm Tuesday 15th September, Main Hall, Holmesdale Technology College, Malling Road. Snodland. **Booking Required** - Tel 01634 242826

Other excavations :

Shorne Country Park : 5th to 26th July Open days 18th-19th July; Contact Andrew Mayfield andrew.mayfield@kent.gov.uk Mobile: 07920 548906 or at the Park Tel: 01474 823800

Lyminge : University of Reading : 6th July to 16th August; Contact gabor.thomas@reading.ac.uk

Oldbury Walk

Saturday 4 July - Walking in the Footsteps of Ben Harrison

A visit to Oldbury hill-fort and the Ightham area with our member Angela Muthana, an expert on both the prehistoric period and local archaeologist Ben Harrison (1837-1921). Meet at 10.30am at the car park in Styant's Bottom Road (TQ 578 559, off A25, brown sign "Oldbury Hill") for a gentle walk around the Iron Age hill-fort. After lunch, meet at 2pm in Ightham village centre (TQ 596 567) to visit some local sites, including churches. No booking - just turn up. You might even find a hand-axe! Donations to Maidstone Museum appreciated.

MAAG has joined TWITTER!

The Group is listed on www.twitter.com as MAAGinfo (somebody has already taken the name MAAG). If you have anything that you'd like to broadcast on it, please let me know. We're following some other archaeological groups and I will make a list of some of their 'tweets' to bring to meetings each month for anyone without internet access.

Contacts

General & Newsletter: *Linda Weeks (Hon. Secretary)*, 40 Bell Meadow, Maidstone ME15 9ND
(01622) 762422 : **email:** maag.info@virginmedia.com

Subscriptions: *David Carder (Treasurer)*, 53 The Ridgeway, Chatham ME4 6PB
(01634) 849085 (answering service) : **email:** david.carder@baesystems.com

Fieldwork: *Albert Daniels (Chairman and Fieldwork Director)*
(01622) 692450 or (07964) 395891 : **email:** a.daniels249@btinternet.com



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group

Established 1969



Newsletter, September 2009

Dear Fellow Members

We start with some sad news, I'm afraid; we have heard that Betty Clark, the widow of Michael Clark, both former members, has recently died, and our condolences go to her family. I hope that you all enjoyed the summer break, and are looking forward to the 2009-10 season of meetings and activities. *Linda*

East Farleigh Open Day

This was held on Sunday, 2nd August, and once again it was a great success. We had 161 visitors in total; 149 adults and 12 minors (oh, and three dogs this year!) We received some very generous donations, totalling £440, and attracted several new members - welcome to you all. Our grateful thanks to all who volunteered to assist on the day; your help was much appreciated.



KAS Affiliation

For the benefit of the new members who have joined us in the last year or so, and to remind other members who might have forgotten, MAAG is affiliated to the Kent Archaeological Society and are entitled to various benefits including use of the KAS's Reference Library and research facilities at Maidstone Museum; the catalogue is available at www.kentarchaeology.ac. The Library contains a large collection of books on archaeology and local history and a complete set of the bound annual journals, *Archaeologia Cantiana*, first published in 1858. These include academic papers on research and fieldwork relating to Kent. We also have a copy of the Sesquicentennial (1857-2007) DVD containing Volumes I to CXXV of *Archaeologia Cantiana* for loan, and we also receive a bound volume each year, a collection of which is housed in one of Richard's bulging bookcases; please let us know if you wish to borrow a copy of the books or DVD. You can also attend lectures, day schools, social events and excursions, seek advice from the curator and other experts and buy KAS books at a discounted rate. MAAG also receives a free copy of their newsletter three times a year, which Richard brings along to meetings for you to borrow and return.

News

Maidstone Museum held a Fossil Roadshow in June and members of the public brought in various finds for identification, including an early primate jaw from Sheppey and part of a 300million year old giant millipede (from when the Kent coalfield was in the tropics).

A team of archaeologists from Orkney College and Aberdeen, Glasgow and Cardiff universities has unearthed a 5,000 year old **Neolithic "cathedral"** - a massive building of a kind never before seen in Britain, easily predating the Egyptian pyramids. It is in Orkney between the Ring of Brodgar and the Stones of Stenness and is 82 ft long x 65 ft wide. The shape and size of the building are visible, with the walls still standing to a height of more than three feet. The walls are 16 feet thick and surround a cross-

shaped inner sanctum where the excavation team have found examples of art and furniture created from stone.

Courses/Talks

Kent Adult Education : St. Faith's Adult Education Centre, Maidstone
Maidstone and its Villages : 10 weeks from 1.10.2009 : Thursdays 1300-1500: £69
Maidstone and its Villages (2) : 10 weeks from 7.1.2010 : Thursdays 1300-1500 : £104
Gorgeous Georgians : 10 weeks from 30.09.2009 : Wednesdays 1000-1200 : £69
Turbulent Tudors : 10 weeks from 30.09.2009 : Wednesdays 1300-1500 : £69
Vile Victorians : 10 weeks from 6.1.2010 : Wednesdays 1000-1200 : £69
Stunning Stuarts : 10 weeks from 6.1.2010 : Wednesdays 1300-1500 : £69

KHF Talks at the Lecture Theatre, Sessions House, Maidstone
4th November 2009 : **"100 Years of Scouting"** by Colin Walker
10th December 2009 : **"Henry VIII and his Links to Canterbury Cathedral"** by Marjorie Lyle
For more information and tickets, call 01622-694461 or email archives@kent.gov.uk

"New User Sessions" : 5th October and 15th February 2019 from 9.30am - 12 noon at the Centre for Kentish Studies will provide an introduction to the centre and give advice on how to discover information. Places are limited; book in person or Tel: 01622-696197 or email: archives@kent.gov.uk

Albert's Archaeological Roundup

East Farleigh : Excavations have progressed well this year with between 8 and 30 excavators (av.14) The west 5 meters of building 2 have been opened up, revealing what appears to be a workshop. Building 5 has developed into two rooms surrounded on the north-east and south sides by a corridor. A large oven 1.5 meters in diameter is built into a 400mm high plinth in one of the central rooms. An unexpected find was the painted and decorated render on the outside of the west wall.

Shorne : Several members attended the 3 week KCC community dig which exposed more of the foundations of the moated manor house of Randall's Manor. The star find - a glazed floor tile with the head and shoulders of a woman - was found by me but, contrary to reports in papers and other journals, I did not see it cleaned until two days later. A further two weeks work will take place from the 26th September.

Lyminge : Five members of the group assisted the University of Reading's excavations of a Mid-Saxon nunnery at Lyminge during July and August.

Training : Three members attended the two-day "Beyond the Trowel" training course run by the University of Birmingham as part of the Valley of Visions programme.

Up and Coming

3rd October KAS : **"Peopling Past Landscapes"** North Downs to the Weald; a study day at Lenham Village Hall £5 (lunch £6 extra) Tickets and further details from Lesley Feakes, Old School Close, Lenham ME17 2HD, 01622-850275

17th October KAS : **Historic Building Conference** at Harrietsham Community Centre £10 (£6 extra for lunch) contact David Carder

24th October CKA : **"Lost Cities of the Mediterranean"** 2pm to 5-30pm at The Old Sessions Lecture Theatre, Canterbury Christ Church University, North Holmes Road, Canterbury : Tickets £4 available from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent, TN15 8MP (sae please) www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk

Future MAAG Meetings at Kent Police College

16th October : Maidstone Museum : Hidden Treasures of Kent : Giles Guthrie
20th November : Members' Evening
18th December : Christmas Social

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