



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Established 1969
www.maag.btck.co.uk

Newsletter, June 2011

Dear Fellow Members

A summary of this year's AGM follows:

Linda

AGM Notes – Friday 15th April 2011

The AGM was attended by 26 people.

Membership stands at 118, with 32 new members and 15 who have defaulted or resigned.

This has been a good year financially for the Group, recording our second largest ever surplus of £809, largely due to very generous donations at the East Farleigh Open Day. Fee income was up, at £205 compared with £150 last year, mainly for talks given on behalf of the Group, and guided tours of East Farleigh. Gift Aid claims for the four years 2006/7 to 2009/10 yielded £342, and a further claim can now be made for around £200.

General expenses were significantly higher than last year, largely due to the writing up of archaeological reports, and the use of an earth-moving machine at East Farleigh. The Group's finances are very sound, with cash assets of £4983. However, the coming year could prove difficult, with the loss of the East Farleigh site, so we must all endeavour to increase income and reduce costs wherever possible. After some discussion it was agreed that we did not yet need to increase subscriptions.

E-mail Updates and E-Newsletters : If you would like to be added to either list, please let me know, because I can only add people who specifically state that they would like to receive them. You can change your mind at any time.

Our representatives are still - CBA : Roger Wallbridge KAS : Albert Daniels KHF : Pat Brooks, and the Committee is still as follows:

Chairman : Richard Weeks Vice-Chairman : David Ottway
Hon. Secretary : Linda Weeks Hon. Treasurer : David Carder Hon. Examiner : Josie Sanders

A demonstration of our website was given and the evening concluded with a book auction conducted by Albert, which raised a sum of approximately £52 plus Gift Aid where appropriate - thanks to all who donated and bought books.

Albert's Archaeological Roundup

East Farleigh : The dig is continuing for a final year. In May a one tonne excavator was hired to remove the overburden from Buildings 2 and 3, in order to fully investigate the purpose of these buildings by excavating the archaeological layers to floor level. Some interesting finds have already turned up, including a carved antler knife handle with a ring and dot decoration, and a portion of a circular pottery sieve (possibly part of a cheese press). See overleaf for details of this year's Open Day.

For those who haven't been before and would like to join in, in whatever capacity, please contact me and I will send you a copy of our information for Volunteers. Access is through Lower Gallants Business Park (ME15 0JS), on Lower Road (B2010), just west of its junction with Gallants Lane, through a big green gate. If the gate is locked when you arrive, please phone Albert on 07964-395891 and he or one of the other diggers will come and open it for you. Drive down the track for about 150 yards and, on passing through the gate, turn left through some outbuildings onto the open field where you can park within a few yards of the excavation.

Excavations take place from 10am until approximately 4.00pm on Sundays and Thursdays.

Potyn's Field, Snodland : A walkover and metal detector survey of the final 25 metre strip of Potyn's Field has been carried out. None of the finds dated to before the last quarter of the 18th Century.

Final Open Day : Sunday, 31st July 2011

This will be our last year at East Farleigh, and we plan to hold a final Open Day at this most interesting excavation on Sunday, 31st July 2011. As in previous years this coincides with the Festival of British Archaeology. Volunteers are needed throughout the summer, please, in order to help with the excavation, cleaning and processing finds, etc. All offers of help on the day itself will be greatly appreciated. There will be plenty to do; such as setting up the displays, being on the gate, being at the membership recruiting table to talk to potential members, looking after the display tables, showing visitors where to park, etc.

Visit to Folkestone Roman Villa, East Wear Bay

Saturday, 13th August 2011 at 2pm : Following the interesting talk by Keith Parfitt that we had about the Folkestone Roman Villa on 18th March this year, a visit to the Villa has been arranged. It is situated on the clifftop, with access via Wear Bay Road (Grid Reference TR 2408 3690, Postcode CT19 6PR). Parking should be available on site. Some further details are available at: www.atownunearthed.co.uk

Please let us know if you would like to go in case we need to contact you should there be any change of plan, and we will provide a map and directions if required.

Other News

English Heritage have now created a searchable list of all Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Battlefields online at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/list>

The War and Peace Collection consists of over 3,900 glass plate images of Kent, believed to have been taken by Kent Messenger photographers between 1932 and 1962. All the images can be viewed here: www.kentphotoarchive.org.uk

Future MAAG Meetings at Kent Police College : 7.30pm start

Most of you will know that in May we had a potential crisis in relation to our meeting venue due to a sudden large increase in hiring fees which we could not afford. This has now been resolved and we can continue to meet at Kent Police College for the same cost as in previous years. Our thanks go to all those who suggested alternative venues; I have kept a list and the details in case we need them in future.

16th September - Jim Preston : Short Brothers of Rochester
21st October - Jennifer Jackson (Kent Finds Liaison Officer) : The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Kent
18th November - Members' Evening
16th December - Christmas Social

A programme card containing full details of forthcoming meetings will be available at the September meeting, and posted with the newsletter to members who are unable to attend.

Publicity

We now have a website: www.maag.btck.co.uk - this is still under construction, and if you would like to make comments on it or add anything to it, please let me know. We are planning to include an archive of Group newsletters. If anyone has any early newsletters - before 1980 - please get in touch. Thank you.

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 if you would like to hire it for a private function this year.

Contacts

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Photos for inclusion in e-newsletter:

Excavator : May 2011



June 2011

