



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group

Established 1969



Newsletter, March 2010

Dear Fellow Members

It is with regret that we note the death of two people who have given their support to the group over the years. Firstly Alec Miles, who was Chairman of the group in 1969/72/73 and 1976, and secondly Karl Wittwer who has given several talks to the group on Anglo Saxon themes and unfortunately died before his proposed talk in February.

Linda

Notice of Annual General Meeting – Friday 23rd April 2010

This year's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 23rd April 2010 at the Kent Police College, Coverdale Avenue (off the A274 Sutton Road), Maidstone. The Agenda is as follows:

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 2009 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. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary
10. Election of Hon. Examiner
11. Reports and Election of Representatives
12. Future Activities
13. Any Other Business

Membership Renewals

Subscriptions for the year beginning **1st April 2010** 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; David can help with queries on Gift Aid or subscriptions generally.*

Albert's Archaeological Roundup

East Farleigh

This year's programme of excavation is being planned at the moment (machine excavation of the overburden and back-filling should take place after Easter). Site work should resume on Sunday 25th April. Excavations may take place on one weekday if there is any support for this. The open day is provisionally pencilled in for Sunday 1st August to coincide with the end of National Archaeology Week.

Potyn's Field - Snodland

Five visits to the site to carry out field walking and metal detecting have taken place. The original plan was to locate a missing farm house. This appeared to have been demolished to about 500mm above ground level and a barn built on the foundations in the 19th century. A barn has been converted into a modern house. The field adjacent revealed nothing dating before 1800 except a few flints and four musket balls. The total finds from the site were 73 iron finds, 97 non-iron finds and 60 non-metal finds. Distribution plans have been drawn and a report is in progress.

Dode Church

Three days at Dode Church located rammed chalk foundations built off the solid underlying chalk at a depth of 500mm. The supposed north-south Roman road leading past the adjacent well was proved for a length of 30 meters; it was 2 to 2.15 meters wide and consisted of one layer of flint 150mm thick. The west edge of the road was supported by 300mm wide rammed chalk berm. Finds were located with GPS and plans and sections drawn and a report is in progress.

Albert proposes to stand down at this AGM but will continue with East Farleigh with the help of Stephen Clifton and will continue writing up the backlog of reports. With a larger number of members available in the week excavations at East Farleigh and/or work on finds could take place if suitable premises can be found. A few evening walks could be set up during the summer.

Other News

FESTIVAL OF BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY: 17 July-1 August 2010

This year the Festival is celebrating 20 years of events, which have been encouraging people all around the UK to take an active interest in archaeology and the historic environment around them. 2010 will see the biggest celebration of archaeology yet. It is co-ordinated by the Council for British Archaeology and is entirely reliant on the participation and support of heritage groups, societies and organisations around the UK.

The **KAS** hope to transfer their conservation project currently running in two shops, 10.00am to 5.00pm six days a week at the Forum Shopping Centre in Sittingbourne to Maidstone.

Work has started on the new **library and archive** building in Maidstone. The site is being monitored by PCA Archaeology.

Iron Age Settlement in Pembury : BBC News 30.01.2010

The remains of an Iron Age settlement have been unearthed by archaeologists working along the route of a new £1.3m water pipeline in Kent. Evidence of a dwelling, postholes, pits, ancient hearths and pieces of pottery were found. The archaeologists, who were employed by South East Water to survey the route, will now record and preserve the finds. Tim Allen, from Kent Archaeological Projects, said that the remains are probably associated with a prehistoric roundhouse.

Archaeology of the East Kent Access Road

A new road is to be built on the Isle of Thanet in east Kent during 2010-11. The road will be 6.5 km long and will cross one of the richest archaeological areas in Britain. Before construction begins archaeologists will excavate the whole length of the route. This will be the largest excavation in Britain in 2010, covering approximately 40 hectares. If you have access to the internet and would like to keep up to date with the road's progress, the East Kent Road website address is: <http://eastkent.owarch.co.uk/>

Courses/Talks/Events

Saturday, 15th May 2010 : 10am-11am

As part of a series exploring Hidden Maidstone, Maidstone Museum are selling tickets to see the nuclear bunker in the surroundings of a solicitor's office. Cost : £5 - Spaces are limited; booking is essential. Please contact Nicholas Ward on 01622 60282. Suitable for ages 16yrs+.

Saturday, 9th October 2010

The KAS Historic Buildings Conference will be held at Harrietsham. Further details will be announced in the next Newsletter.

Future MAAG Meetings at Kent Police College : 7.30pm start

- 23rd April : **Annual General Meeting**
21st May : **Britain's Earliest Humans?** David Carder (MAAG)
18th June : **To be arranged**

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