



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Established 1969

www.maag.btck.co.uk also on *Twitter* as *MAAGinfo* and on *Facebook*

Newsletter, September 2012

Dear Fellow Members

Welcome back after our Summer break - a break from meetings, that is, but not from activities, as you will see below!

Linda

Albert's Archaeological Roundup

East Farleigh: This year excavations have concentrated on finding whether any Roman wall foundations from buildings 2, 3 and 4 remain north of the retaining wall constructed in 1938. No walls appear to exist. A hop garden road dating from 1938 was located overlying the Iron Age ditch, which had been severely truncated in width and depth. In the ditch was a crushed pot of furrowed ware (50AD to 100AD) together with associated sheep bones. Several trial pits were dug to the south of the previously located buildings, but no new structures were located. The excavation has now closed.

X-rays have been obtained of the iron objects and Albert and a small band of helpers have been photographing the small finds and processing the painted wall plaster, oyster shells, pottery, etc.

The **Lead Scroll** has received a lot of coverage in the local and national media this summer, with Albert being interviewed for BBC SouthEast and a behind-the-scenes look at the scroll itself as it was being studied by Dr. Roger Tomlin at Oxford University. There were also articles in a number of newspapers, such as the Kent Messenger and Daily Mail online. It is also mentioned in the September issue of Current Archaeology and the CBA Newsletter. At the end of September Dana Goodburn-Brown will bring the scroll back to the CSI (Conservation Science Investigations) lab at The Forum shopping centre, Sittingbourne, giving visitors and shoppers the chance to watch her working on the artefact during October, then she will return it to Dr. Tomlin for more work. The scroll will then come home and Mr. Baughan has kindly agreed to donate it to Maidstone Museum.

Out and About

We've been busy this summer, as apart from the East Farleigh excavation we attended Barming Fete on 9th July, dodging the rain under a spare gazebo which was kindly lent to us by the neighbouring exhibitors. We staged an exhibition in the Education Room at Maidstone Museum on Saturday, 21st July:



This was arranged by the KAS and coincided with the Festival of British Archaeology. The exhibition was attended by approximately 90 people, and Albert gave a talk in the afternoon.

Group members also had a very interesting visit to Shoreham Aircraft Museum on 30th June; our thanks to Trevor Bardell and all the staff for a fascinating afternoon - and we can certainly recommend the cream teas!

Some members also visited Eynsford Castle with David Carder in the morning.

Future Meetings

The Programme Card for our 2012-13 season of meetings is now available, and in it you will see that we are only meeting at Kent Police College until March 2013 due to the increased cost of hiring the venue. For future meetings, beginning with the AGM in April, we will be meeting at New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Lane, Loose, Maidstone, ME15 9QL - more about this in the March newsletter.

Other News

North Downs Henge : from Kent Online, 4th September 2012

An ancient Neolithic site the size of Stonehenge has been discovered on the North Downs near the Pilgrim's Way, Hollingbourne. Dr Paul Wilkinson of the Kent Archaeological Field School which led the investigation said that the first clue had come in the form of a circular mark which had been spotted in satellite images. Digging began in August and revealed a 50 metre wide henge which has horn shaped entrances to the east and west.

Courses/Talks/Events

5th September to 3rd November 2012 : Defending Medway

An exhibition of 20th Century military and civil defences in Medway at the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre, Strood, Kent, ME2 4AU. Admission free; open during normal MALSC opening hours. www.medway.gov.uk/archives

Medway Archives are offering FREE classes for people wanting to undertake **Family History** research on the 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st October from 2pm-4pm. People should be computer literate and book a place early, as there will be a large demand. Tel No 01634 332714.

The Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society invites our Members to join them for the following talks:

Monday 24th September : Ancient Coins of Kent by Dave Holman

Monday, 22nd October : Oldest Buildings in Birchington 1450-1699 by Jennie Burgess

Monday 26th November : Archaeology in Thanet - Ges Moody and Emma Boast of the Trust for Thanet Archaeology

All the above talks will take place at the Lecture Hall, Crampton Tower Yard, Broadstairs. Doors open 7.15 p.m. for 7.45 p.m. start; admission £2 for non members.

Thursday, 18th October : Recent East Kent Access Road Excavations at ChristChurch University's Broadstairs Campus, given by Phil Andrews of Wessex Archaeology. This was one of the largest archaeological excavations ever undertaken in the area. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start. Admission is £5, £2.50 for students and £3 for IOTAS members. www.iotas.org.uk

Saturday, 20th October : CKA Conference on Recent Research on Anglo-Saxon Kent

This will be held between 2pm and 5.30pm at the Old Sessions Lecture Theatre, Canterbury ChristChurch University, North Holmes Campus. Tickets £5, available from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent, TN15 8HP.

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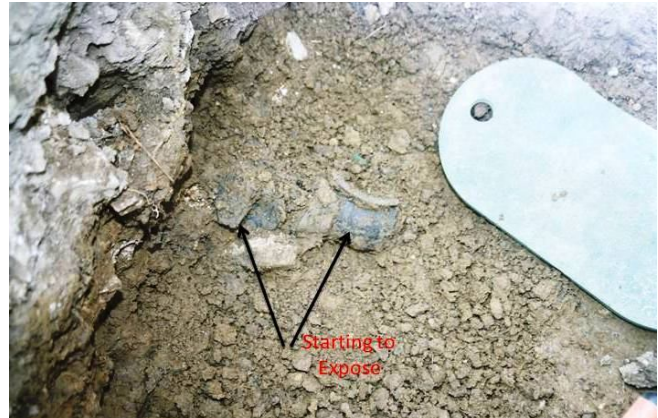
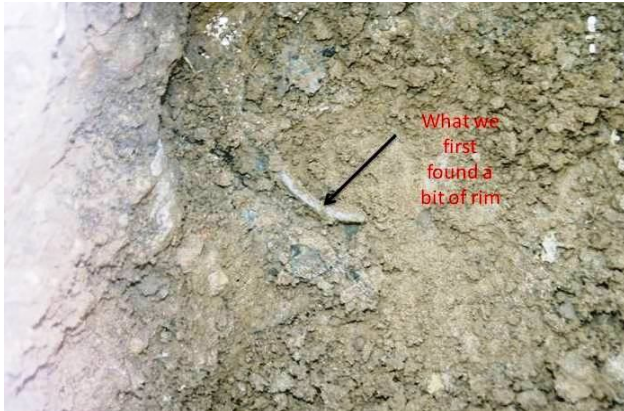
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Extra Pages for E-Newsletter

East Farleigh Find

Thanks to John Durling from the following photos of another find at East Farleigh, which came from the trench he was working on with Mick in what is thought to be the Iron Age ditch. Albert has dated the fragments to circa 50 AD Romano British:



Flint Knapping

And more from John, who recently accepted an invitation from Valley of Visions to try flint knapping, fire lighting and bushcraft survival at Tyland Barn (Kent Wildlife Trust HQ) just outside Maidstone. Karl Lee, who delivered the events, is based in the Forest of Dean, has spent over twelve years teaching bushcraft, flint knapping and doing experimental archaeology on different ways of working flint.

In John's own words:

Day 1. Flint Knapping

This was a half day session so you had a chance of picking the time of day you attended. I had the morning session - on my own, as it turned out - so I had one-to-one tuition.

As with all things you get out what you put in so as soon as Karl had shown me various techniques and produced a very nice hand axe, I started on a small hand scraper, which took me twice as long as he did to produce the much larger hand axe. From there we went to the techniques for making arrow heads, cutting blades, augers etc, leaving me with a set of samples to take away with me.



During the session we also looked at the uses of flints over the years from the Stone Age, through the Bronze and Iron Ages through to their use with a steel for fire lighting and building work over the years and also as flints for pistols, rifles and cannon.

Sandra Manser also attended the flint knapping session and said: It was thoroughly enjoyable and I never realised how easily flint splits. We all came away being able to produce our own hand axes and scrapers should we ever need them! It explained a lot about the creation of a tool that had always been a mystery to me. Glad I went.

Day 2. Fire Lighting

Again this was a half day session so you had a chance of picking the time of day you attended, And again I had the morning session to myself and one-to-one tuition! We looked at various methods from the Stone Age with fire drill and bow, flint and steel and modern day magnesium based products.

This was again very much a practical session; I was very lucky in that I managed to get a working ember from the fire drill at the first attempt. From here we moved to flint and steel which I was not so adept at getting to work; we also looked at what made good tinder, e.g. Concentrica mushroom and beech bark. We then moved on to more modern types of fire lighting materials.

Day 3. Bush Craft

This was an all day session and a bigger group. The basis was looking at what you could use as survival techniques. This session built upon the knowledge gained from the previous two days.

Again we started with flint knapping but here we moved the knapping on to include the use of the broken bottom of a glass bottle, with Karl making a very serviceable hand axe / survival knife. We all spent time making blades from a flint core for ourselves. From here we moved onto fire lighting techniques which the group spent quite a time on. The afternoon was spent looking at what you could use to make cordage that could be used for various things including threads for sewing up materials etc.

All three days were very much hands on; the more you put in the more you got out, and I found them all very enjoyable. I would recommend them if they become available next year.

John Durling

Thanks to John and Sandra for their contribution to this newsletter - I wish I'd gone too!

If anyone else would like to talk about an archaeological experience of their own in a future newsletter, please contact me and I will be happy to include it.

Linda