

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

JANUARY 1980 NEWSLETTER

COXHEATH SURVEY

At the last Group Meeting there was a discussion of the suggestion by Mrs. Sonia Hawkes, the Anglo-Saxon expert, that the Westerhill area might prove interesting. A local landowner has been approached and a visit will be organised when permission has been obtained. If you would like to participate, please contact the Secretary who will send details when available.

CONSERVATION IN THE EIGHTIES

The C.B.A. are holding a conference on the above subject at Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey on 28-30th March 1980. Further details from the Secretary.

JANUARY MEETING

A special meeting of the Group will be held on Wednesday January 30th at 7.15 pm in Maidstone District Library, Faith Street, Maidstone. The business of the meeting will include :

1. A proposal to give up the Barming premises from March 31st 1980.
2. A proposal to reduce the number of Group Business Meetings to four or two a year.
3. A proposal to reduce the annual subscription to £1 a year from April 1st 1980.

NOTE:

Many members have remarked on the change in the character of the Group over the past three years, or so. Members continue to pursue their archaeological interests but on an individual or small group basis, rather than taking part in formal Group projects. As a result, the number of Group projects has fallen, as has attendance and business at meetings. The Barming centre has been little used for some time and so its maintenance has become a problem. The time has come to bring the organisation of the Group into line with the changing activities of members and so the Officers have produced the above proposals for the January meeting.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

FEBRUARY 1980 NEWSLETTER

BARMING CENTRE

The January meeting decided to end the tenancy of the Barming Centre by March 31st 1980. Members are asked to remove their own possessions from the Centre at the earliest opportunity. The Centre will be open every Friday from 7 pm to 9 pm and Alec Miles would welcome help with the pottery.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting will be held at the Barming Centre, Tonbridge Road, Barming on Wednesday February 27th at 7.15 pm. Apart from routine business, the storage or disposal of the Group's possessions at Barming will be discussed and there will be an auction of such items that it is decided to sell.

FUTURE MEETINGS

At the January meeting, it was agreed to have a minimum of two business meetings and two lecture meetings each year. The meetings will be held, either in Maidstone Museum or the District Library. There will be no meeting in March.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

The new, reduced subscription of £1 (50p for junior members) is due on April 1st and should be sent to Mrs. R.K. Proctor, The Dairy House, Kirkdale, Loose, Maidstone.

CELIA BECKHAM
HON. SECRETARY.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

APRIL NEWSLETTER 1980

APRIL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Group will be held in Maidstone Museum at 7.15pm on Wednesday April 30th. I hope you will make every effort to attend.

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGY IN CANTERBURY

A course of six lectures on the above subject will be held at Canterbury University on Tuesdays from 7 - 9pm starting on 22nd April. Cost : £4.

THE CANTERBURY & WHITSTABLE RAILWAY : ITS PLACE IN HISTORY

A lecture to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the above railway will be given on Saturday 3rd May at Christchurch College, Canterbury. Cost : £3.

COUNTY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

A one-day conference will be held on Saturday 21st June in the Guildhall, Sandwich and will include talks on the history and buildings of Sandwich with a guided tour of the town. Cost : £1.50.

K.A.S. MAIDSTONE BRANCH

Michael Ocock will give a talk 'A comparative study of the development of Bradbourne House, E. Malling & Milgate Park, Thurnham' on Wednesday June 25th at 7.15pm in Maidstone District Library, Faith St., Maidstone.

LOOKING AT LANDSCAPE

A 3-day summer school will be held on June 23rd to June 25th at Maidstone Adult Education Centre, Faith Street, Maidstone. There will be study groups and lectures on : landscape and literature, archaeology, painting, ecology and history. Cost : £8.

COUNTRYSIDE AND LAND MANAGEMENT

A series of day schools will be held at Wye College Nr. Ashford on Saturday 13th, 20th and 27th September. Titles are : 'Farm & Village Landscapes', 'Wildlife Conservation Habitats', 'Countryside Recreation Areas'. There will be tours of Wye College and village, Crundale Downs and Sissinghurst Gardens. Cost : £9.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1980-81

Many subscriptions are long overdue. Please tear off and return the following slip to :
Mrs. M.G. Proctor, Membership Secretary, The Dairy House, Kirkdale, Loose, Maidstone.
.....

I enclose £1. (Junior 50p) subscription for 1980-81.

OR:

I wish to resign from the Group.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DATE: _____

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

OCTOBER NEWLETTER 1980

GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the Group will be on Wednesday 29th October at 7.15 pm in the Committee room of Maidstone Library, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone.

UNIVERSITY OF KENT AT CANTERBURY

There will be a 10 week course starting at 7.00 pm on Monday 12th January 1981 on 'Saxon and Viking Archaeology in Britain' by T.F.C. Blagg MA., Fee £9.

At 7.30 pm on the same evening there will be a course on 'The History of the Book' by D.J. Shaw PhD. Fee £9.

There will be a 20 week course on tracing 'Family History' by D. Harrington L.H.G. starting on Thursday 9th October 1980. Fee £15.

A 20 week course entitled 'Bottom's world : Seventeenth Century Village Records' started on Wednesday 24th September at 7.30 pm. Fee £15.

MAIDSTONE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Molly Proctor would like to see some new, younger faces joining the above group! Their winter lectures are held in Maidstone Library, St. Faith's Street, at 7.00 pm on Tuesdays. The titles are as follows :

18th November	-	The Royal Maundy Ceremony.
16th December	-	In Search of Vernacular Buildings.
20th January	-	Wall Paintings at Hardham Church & Hollingbourne and the Culpeppers.
17th February	-	Water Mills around Maidstone.
17th March	-	Local Ghosts and Legends.
21st April	-	Field Archaeology in Kent.

During Summer 1981, there will be a three day visit to Winchester, tour of Brenchley, tour of Inns on Romney Marsh and a visit to the excavations in Canterbury - all by coach.

Membership is £2. per year or £3. for a couple.

Please contact the Hon. Sec. - Mrs. Molly Proctor. Maidstone 43801 for further details.

CELIA BECKHAM. HON. SEC.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

APRIL NEWSLETTER 1981

A.G.M.

The A.G.M. will be held on wednesday April 29th at 7.15 p.m. in Maidstone Library, Faith Street.

COUNTY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

I have received the minutes of the last two meetings of the above Group and their revised panel of lecturers. They are holding a one-day conference on Saturday 9th May 1981 at Wye College and I have a copy of the programme and application forms for tickets at £2.

THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

Literature and Culture Seminars will be offered in various topics under the above subject at a summer school at the University of Kent, Canterbury between 6th July and 14th August 1981. I am awaiting a programme of lectures which can be attended by the general public in Darwin College.

ASPECTS OF PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE SOUTH-EAST

There will be a day school at Darwin College,, Canterbury on Saturday 23rd May. Fee £3. Chairman : T.F.C. Blagg, Speakers : Paul Bennett from Canterbury, Dr. David Bird from Surrey, Dr. Andrew Woodcock from E. Sussex and Brian Philp from Kent.

DIPLOMA IN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

I have details of the above course which can be studied in Chelmsford.

KENT ARCHIVES FELLOWSHIP

There will be a meeting on wednesday 13th May in County Hall, Maidstone at 7.30 in Committee Room 'A' to discuss details and arrangements for forming the above Fellowship, which is intended to be similar to a Supporters' Club.

PEAK NATIONAL PARK STUDY CENTRE

I have a programme of courses for 1981 which includes the subjects of : Practical Field Archaeology, Industrial Archaeology, Canals and Railways of the Peak. Photography. Bird Spotting and Geology of the area.

I will be bringing details of the above items to the A.G.M., together with archaeological holiday brochures.

P.T.O.

KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Society has obtained a stock of ties, T-shirts, sweatshirts, headscarves and car stickers bearing the Society's crest, for resale to members. Orders should be sent to Mr. E.P. Connell, 2a, Penenden, New Ash Green, Dartford.

The Society and the County Council have jointly agreed to endow a Trust to promote the study of archaeology and local history in Kent. The appointment of a county archaeologist and the restarting of the Victoria County History series are two projects already under study.

STUDIES OF SOUTHERN MAIDSTONE

Bert and Margaret Terry are interested in doing a survey of the southern areas of Maidstone using an old tithe map. If you would like to join them, please telephone : MAIDSTONE 57662.

Roger Thornburgh has been collecting records and studying different aspects of the village and valley of Loose. If you are interested in this area, please telephone him on MAIDSTONE 44401.

Celia Beckham
HON. SECRETARY.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

August Newsletter 1981

Annual Subscriptions

It was decided at the 12th. Annual General Meeting of the Group held on Wednesday 29th. April 1981 at Maidstone Library that subscriptions would be suspended for this year and the situation reviewed at the next A.G.M. meeting in 1982.

Excavation

We have been asked by the Kent Archaeological Soc., to assist in trial excavations at a possible Roman Settlement site at Wouldham.

If any member wishing to attend could be at the parking place opposite the Lower Bell Public House, Bluebell Hill at 9.30am. on Saturday the 29th August and the two succeeding days.

Anyone without transport or wishing further details please contact A.J. Daniels... Maid. 674494.

Meetings

The next informal meeting of the group will be held in Chillington House next to the Adult Education Centre in St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Wednesday Sept.9th. 1981 at 7,30pm. It will take the form of an

Antiques Quiz...held by Mr. Neale [?]

Please come as I'm sure it will be very interesting...friends welcome. Tea or coffee will be provided.

Tour of Medieval Maidstone

Mr. Albert Daniels has kindly offered to take us on a walk (perambulation ?) of medieval Maidstone on Saturday the 10th. of October, meeting in front of the Old Palace at 2.30pm. Walk to include a visit to the dungeon.

Evening Class

The Worker's Education Ass., is holding a series of 10 evening classes entitledPractical Archaeology

Details.....Lecturer Mr. S. Harker

Place Westborough Evening Centre, Astor of Hever School,
Oakwood Park, Maidstone.

Date of first meeting 1st. October....Fee £10.

Enrolment Tel.Miss B. Gordon, Maid. 38912 or on first evening.

Books

Southern History.. pub. annually by Alan Sutton Publ. Ltd.

'A Saunter through Kent with Pen and Pencil' (Sir Charles Igglesden's Series)

The A to Z of Georgian London.

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 1980.

Historic Towns in Dorset.... by Ken. Penn.

I enclose a list of members as requested.

Further details on books etc.,please phone Maid. 57662

Mrs Margaret Terry

Hon. Secretary

367, Sutton Rd.,

Maidstone, Kent.

Other courses at The Adult Education Centre at St. Faiths St., Maidstone.

Genealogy Monday 7pm. To 9pm. History of London Monday 9.30am, to 11.30am.

Tudor England Thursday 1.20pm. to 3.30pm....further details Adult Education

Centre Prospectus

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

November Newsletter 1981

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the group will be held in the Annex of the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone, on Friday the 27th. of November 1981 at 7.30pm.

Please note the change of venue.

This will be an informal meeting with a talk illustrated by slides given by Mr. Arthur Harrison B.A. F.S.A. General secretary of the K.A.S. on local archaeology sites and the groups recent dig. We hope to finish with a wine and cheese party as this will be the groups last meeting before Christmas.

Please come.....non members welcome (A silver collection will be taken towards the cost of food and drink.)

Meetings 1982.

It has been decided that monthly meetings will be resumed in 1982. The first meeting to be held on the 27th January, on the last Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm. It will take the form of a film evening with films shown on archaeology followed by tea or coffee. (Meetings to be held in the annex, Adult Education centre.)

Excavation.

The trial excavation held at wouldham, which has proved to be a bronze age burial site has been suspended until next year due to weather conditions. The last nine weekends spent on the dig have proved of great interest to all concerned and it is hoped to resume in April of next year. The site may yet prove to have Roman connections.

Recent Books

The Chatham Dockyard Story..... Philip MacDougall
The Hoo Peninsula..... Philip MacDougall
Bibliotheca Cantiana..... or Antiquarian Kentish Books Vol.1.
(Reprinted edition of John Russell Smith's Bibliography of the County of Kent.)

The Kent Archives Office.

Publication of Town Maps and Illustrations.....first series.

Print 1738....North West Prospect of Maidstone £1.50.

Map 1823...Maidstone Town Map..... £1.50.

Map 1848...Map of the Town of Maidstone£1.50.

Map 1884...Map of the Town of Maidstone£1.50.

£6.00

But ordered as a set of 4..... £4.50. before 1st. Jan.1982

Further details of books, maps or illustrations...please phone Maid. 57662.

Merry Christmas everybody

Hon. Secretary
Mrs Margaret Terry
367, Sutton Rd.,
Maidstone, Kent.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

February Newsletter 1982

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the group will be held in the Annex of the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent on Wednesday the 24th. of February at 7.30pm.

Bernard Thomas of the Archive Dept. County Hall will give a talk on 'The History of Mote Park', with slides.

MARCH Meeting

This meeting will again be held in the Annex, but please note it will be on FRIDAY the 26th March at 7.30pm.

The speaker will be Roger Thornburgh and he will be speaking on 'Working on the Local History of Loose'.

No further notice of this meeting will be given.

K.A.S. Library

The work of cleaning and reorganizing the books in the K.A.S. library will resume on Saturday the 20th. February. Meeting at the Museum, St. Faith's street at 10.30am.

K.A.S. Excursions

Saturday 12th. June will be to Dorney Court, Eton which dates from 1500 and the nearby 13th century parish church of St. James. It is hoped a river trip will be included. Price £7.50 and the day will also include tea.

Saturday 18th September will be to a vineyard and will include a visit to church and house and a trip on the Kent and Sussex railway, price to be announced.

Old Newspapers

The Archives Dept. require a team to go through old newspapers dating from 1768 to work in the library in their spare time. Notes are required on the social and religious life of Maidstone over the years.

Anyone interested please ring Maid.671411 ext.3312

Kent Voluntary Service Council

The K.V.S.C. are holding a one day conference on 8th May at Christ Church college, North Holmes Rd Canterbury.

The programme will contain 'The Beginning of Monasticism in Canterbury' by T. Tatton-Brown B.A., and 'The Dissolution and its effect on the City' by Canon D. Ingram Hill M.A., F.S.A.

There will be a guided tour of the remains of St. Augustine's Abbey and the ruins of the buildings of Christ Church Priory in the afternoon at 2pm.

Tickets £2.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

April Newsletter 1982

APRIL Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Group will be held in the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone at 7.30pm. on Friday the 23rd. AprilRoom No.15

Agenda

1. Minutes
2. Matters Arising
3. Hon. Secretary's. Report
4. Accounts.
5. Election of Officers
6. Election of Representatives
7. A O B.

Nominations and resolutions should reach me by April 16th.

MAY Meeting

The May meeting of the group will be held in the Annex of the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 28th May at 7.30pm.

This will be a informal meeting with a talk given by Mr. Paul E. Oldham on 'Kent Coin Hoards and Treasure Trove'.

No further notice of this meeting will be given.

EXCAVATION.....dig, dig, dig.....

Our dig at wouldham will be resumed on Sunday the 11th of April (weather permitting) under the guidance of Mr. Arthur Harrison. (K.A.S.) If any member wishing to attend could be at the parking place opposite the Lower Bell Public House, Bluebell Hill at 9.30am.

Anyone without transport or wishing further details please ring Albert Daniels....Maid. 674494.

Following Sunday, the 18th. of April the same arrangements apply.

COUNTY Local History Committee

A one day conference will be held on Saturday 8th. of May at Christ Church College, North Holmes Rd., Canterbury beginning at 10.00am. Talks will include ; The Beginning of Monasticism in Canterbury by T. Tatton-Brown B.A. and The Dissolution and its effect on the City by Canon D. Ingram Hill M.A. F.S.A.

In the afternoon there will be a guided tour of the remains of St. Augustine's Abbey and the ruins of the buildings of Christ Church Priory.

HOMEWOOD School Tenterden

The above are holding a local history one day conference in Tenterden on Saturday 17th July from 10am. to 4pm.

ANY further details or queriesplease phone Maid. 57662.

Margaret Terry
Hon. Secretary
367, Sutton Road,
Maidstone,
Kent.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

May Newsletter 1982

MAY Meeting

2nd. notice. The May meeting of the group will be held in the Annex of the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 28th. of May at 7.30pm. Mr. Paul Oldham will give a talk on 'Kent Coin Hoards & Treasure Trove'.

JUNE Meeting

The June meeting of the group will also be held in the Annex, St. Faith's Street on Friday June 18th. Mr. Clive Law will give a talk on 'Pompeii' (A city in ancient Italy, which was buried by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79) starting at 7.30pm.

Both meetings are with slides.

JULY Meeting

There will be no meeting as such, but an excursion to The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum on SUNDAY the 25th. of July has been arranged. The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum of country buildings is located to the north of Chichester. Barns, houses, a market hall, and farmhouse have all been carefully dismantled and rebuilt in a lovely setting (36 acres). There are displays and a shop from which gifts may be purchased. We will also be calling at Bignor, a Roman villa close by. The coach will be leaving Maidstone at approx. 8.30am. and the cost will be £4.50 per head including admittance to the Museum. Please can you phone or send a stamped addressed envelope to me as soon as possible if you wish to come.....Maid. 57662.

AUGUST

There will be no meeting in August because of holidays but Headcorn Local History Soc. Have an exhibition in connection with the Summer Fair organised by Friends of Headcorn Parish Church on Monday the 30th. August. Please phone Head. 890253 for details.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

It was decided at the annual general meeting of the group that an annual sub. should be reintroduced to cover running costs of the society.

£1.....for members.....

£1.50....for family membership

50p.....for under 18s.

If there is not a receipt enclosed with this letter please will you complete the following slip and return it to me.

.....

I/we enclose our annual subscription for 1982/83

OR

I/we wish to resign from the Group.

NAME:

Address:

Date.

.....

ANY further details or queriesplease phone Maids. 57662.

Please return slip to.....Mrs. M. Terry.....Hon. Secretary.

367, Sutton Road,
Maidstone,
Kent.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

September Newsletter 1982

SEPTEMBER Meeting

The September meeting of the group will be held in the Annex of the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 17th of September at 7.30pm. Mr. John Cruse will give a talk on 'Aspects of British & Mediterranean Pre-History' or 'My Holiday Slides'.

EXCAVATION....Dig...Dig...Dig.

Our dig at Snodland will commence on Sunday 22nd. of August (weather permitting) under the guidance of Mr. Arthur Harrison (K.A.S.) We will be excavating the remains of part of a Roman Villa.

Turn right into Snodland High Street towards the river and the site lies in the grounds of the Lead Wool Factory in the road between the Church and Snodland Station. Meeting at 10am.

Anyone without transport or wishing further details please ring Albert Daniels....Maid.674494.Following Sunday the same details apply.

Annual Subscription

If there is a cross in the margin against this item, your subscription for 1982/3 has not been paid. Please send...

£1.....for members

£1.50..for family membership

50p....for under 18s.

or let me know if you wish to resign from the group

The Kent Archives Office

Publication of Maps.

Cary's Map of Kent.....1787....price £3. plus postage 30p.

(This shows the road system indicating whether roads are turnpike or minor roads and also indicates Market towns.....in colour)

Chart of the North Sea 1693..... in black and white.

Price £2.....plus postage 50p.

also available soon reproductions of Victorian and Edwardian Christmas cards mainly from originals held in the Kent Archives Office.

Recent Books

Excavations at Canterbury Castle£15.00 plus £1.60 postage

Excavations on the Defence of Canterbury....£9.50 plus £1.60 postage

The Arch. of the Welsh Marches by S.C. Stanford£6.25

Midsummer Hill - an Iron Age Hillfort on the Malverns..£7.50...£1.30 postage

Croft Ambrey (Excavations on the Herefordshire Hillfort)..£7.50..plus £1.30 postage

Any further details on above please phone Maid. 57662

Margaret Terry, Hon. Secretary....367, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

October Newsletter 1982

OCTOBER Meeting

The October meeting of the group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 22nd. of October at 7.30pm. Mr. Peter Tester will give a talk on 'Timber Framed Buildings'. (Illustrated with slides.)

NOVEMBER Meeting

The November meeting of the group will also be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 19th. of November at 7.30pm. Mr. Chris. Wade (Public Paths Officer from County Hall) will give a talk on 'The Saxon Shore Way' a long distance footpath recently created around the coastline of Kent. (Illustrated with slides.) No further notice of this meeting will be given please note.

EXCAVATION....dig...dig.

Our dig at Snodland is continuing every Sunday until further notice under the guidance of Mr. Arthur Harrison (K.A.S.) Turn right into Snodland High Street towards the river and the Roman site lies in the grounds of the Lead wool Factory in the road between the church and Snodland Station...Meeting at 10am. Anyone without transport or wishing further details please ring Albert Daniels....Maid. 674494.

AERIAL ARCHAEOLOGY....K.A.S

This meeting will be held in the Corn Exchange, High Street, Rochester on Saturday the 16th. of October at 2pm. to 5.30pm.

The meeting will look at the wealth of information readily available for consultation by members working on local researches. Aerial archaeology can assist greatly whether you are studying Roman settlement patterns or recent land use changes. The emphasis will be on the recognition and causes of crop and soil marks, sources and locations of vertical photographs that can be examined, and some suggestions on the future development of aerial archaeology in Kent.

There will be the usual break for tea.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

If there is a cross in the margin against this item your subscription for 1982/3 has not been paid and it will be assumed that you wish to resign from the group.

CHRISTMAS Meeting.... December 10th.

If any members have any ideas for the Christmas meeting....food, games etc., please let me know.

Any further details on the above please ring....Maid. 57662.

Margaret Terry... Hon. Secretary
367, Sutton Road,
Maidstone, Kent.
ME15 9BU.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

December Newsletter 1982

DECEMBER Meeting

The December meeting of the group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 10th. of December at 7.30pm. Mr. Bernard Thomas will give a talk on 'Christmas and other Traditional Customs', finishing approximately 8.30pm. to 8.45pm. when there will be food and drink, followed by slides brought by members. Any member who could contribute food and/or a bottle please give me a ring or bring on the night otherwise a silver collection will be taken. Background music will be provided.

JANUARY Meeting

The January meeting of the group will be held in the Annex of the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 28th. of January at 7.30pm. This will take the form of a film evening. We will be showing two films;

(1) The Village

Bronze Age herders, Iron Age Celts, the Anglo-Saxons and the Norsemen all created settlements which grew into villages, which by the end of the 11th. Century were many and prospering. The story of the evolution of the English village is developed from these beginnings.

(2) The Road.

The originator of our highly sophisticated and effective modern road system was primitive man, the hunter and the nomad who sought his food in the forests. Where the wild beasts went, man followed, and his footsteps made the first paths. This film traces the history of the evolution of the English road since its pre-historic beginnings to the motorways and 'spaghetti junctions' of today.

WEEKEND Course to be held at Allington Castle.

University of Kent at Canterbury, School of continuing Education The Greeks and the Persians.

A residential weekend course to be held in Allington Castle from 28th.-30th. January 1983. Fees. Resident £37 (£38.50 for a single room if available)
Non-Resident.....£31.

Any further details on the above please ring Maid. 57662.

Margaret Terry (Hon.Secretary)
367, Sutton Road,
Maidstone,
Kent.

Merry Christmas everybody.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTEER 1983

February Meeting

The February meeting of the group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 18th. of February at 7.30pm. Mr. Fred Dwight will give a talk on 'Public Footpaths' followed by 'something different'. The talk will be illustrated with slides.

March Meeting

The March meeting of the group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 18th. of March at 7.30pm. Sgt. Liddicoat will give a talk on 'The Excavation of a 16th. century Portuguese Galleon in the Indian Ocean'. Again illustrated with slides.

University of Kent at Canterbury

The Churches of the Darent Valley. A day school to be held on Saturday the 26th. of March in the Village Hall, Shorham. Fee £3.50. (to include tea and coffee). Begins at 10.30am. and ends at 4.15pm. when there will be tea and discussion. Includes The Valley Churches-from Dartford to Sutton-at-Hone and Chevening to Westerham: G.H. Porteus. Dip.Hist. of Art, Dip. Hist, and The Southern Valley Churches-from Horton Kirby to Otford (and including Kemsing); P.J. Tester, FSA, Member of Council KAS. County Local History Comm. One day Conference at Tenterden.

To be held on Saturday 14th. of May. Programme to include an illustrated talk by Mr.H.V.Roberts 'Tenterden Explored' and a talk by the Rev. C.W. Earle on 'The Revolting Men of Kent'.

The programme begins at 9.45am. and ends at 3.30pm. when tea will be served in the Town Hall. To be held in the Tenterden Club, Church Rd., and the host society - Tenterden and District Local History Soc.

County Library

The local studies room at Springfield have acquired the National Genealogical Index for Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Essex. It is on microfiche which means the use of one machine only and so an appointment will be necessary to view these records.

EXCAVATION...dig...dig..at Snodland

The dig at Snodland will be resumed when weather conditions improve and a date has been agreed on between the 'digging team'.

Any further details on the above please ring...Maid 57662.

Margaret Terry .(Hon. Sec.)
367, Sutton Road,
Maidstone,
Kent.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

APRIL MEETING

April Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 15th. of April at 7.30pm.

Agenda

1. Minutes
2. Matters Arising
3. Hon. Secretary's Report
4. Accounts
5. Election of Officers
6. Election of Representatives
7. A.O.B. including future activities

Nominations, resolutions, and additional items for the agenda should reach me by 8th. of April.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and myself (Hon. Sec.) propose to alter Rule 8 of the society from :-

'The Officers, who must be residents of the Maidstone area, shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. '
To 'The officers shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.' If anybody objects to the above please could they inform me. We hope the formal business will be over by 8.15pm. so members are invited to show any slides of interest to the group (even holiday slides - about 10 to 15 mins. each.) Please let me know before the meeting.

ANNUAL Subscriptions

Members are reminded that the annual subscriptions are due on April 1st. and should be paid to Hon. Secretary.

£1.50 family
£1 adult
50p. ...student.

MAY Meeting

The May meeting of the group will be held in the Annex of the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 27th. of May at 7.30pm. Mr Arthur Harrison B.A. F.S.A. will give a talk on 'The Bridges and Castles of Rochester'.

UNIVERSITY OF KENT AT CANTERBURY

A series of residential weekend courses are being held in May and June write to me for details.

Please ring Maid. 57662
Margaret Terry
367, Sutton Rd.,
Maidstone, Kent. (HON. Secretary)

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

JUNE NEWSLETTER 1983

JUNE Meeting 17th. of June.

The June meeting of the group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 17th. of June at 7.30pm. It will take the form of an 'Antiques Quiz' held by Mr. Graham Hunter. Any member or friends of members are welcome to bring any 'antiques' or 'mystery' objects to the meeting.

JULY Meeting SUNDAY24th.of July

There will be no meeting as such, but an excursion to ST. ALBANS has been arranged.

St. Albans was once the Roman City of Verulamium, which was situated beside the river Ver to the west of the present City. The Roman city with its temple and forum covered two hundred acres. Preserved intact is a Roman hypocaust and a Theatre unique in Britain because it is the only extant example with a stage rather than the usual amphitheatre arrangement. The City Museum houses a vividly displayed collection of the craft tools of succeeding generations. The Cathedral is Norman with additions, the nave being the longest in Europe, also the Verulamium Museum has an extensive Roman collection including mosaics.

The Fighting Cocks, beside the river Ver is reputedly the oldest inhabited licensed house in England and one could also visit the colourful Royal National Rose Society Gardens in Chiswell Green Lane.

The coach will be leaving Maidstone at approx. 9am. and the cost will be £4. per head, children £2.

Please can you phone or send me a stamped addressed envelope if you wish to come....Maid. 57662

EXCAVATION..... dig...dig.

Our dig at Snodland has been resumed on Sundays, under the guidance of Mr. Arthur Harrison (K.A.S.). Anyone without transport or wishing further details please ring Albert Daniels.....Maid. 674494.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

If there is a cross in the margin against this item, your subscription for 1983/4 has not been paid....please send or let me know if you wish to resign from the group.

Any further detail on the above.....please phone Maid. 57662.

Margaret Terry...Hon. Sec.
367, Sutton Rd.,
Maidstone, Kent. ME15 9BU

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 1983

September Meeting

There will be no September meeting as we have arranged a conducted tour, by Mr. G. Harvey, of Fort Amhurst, Chatham, on SATURDAY the 1st. of October. We are meeting at 2.30pm. at the Main Gate of Fort Amhurst, opposite St. Mary's Church, Dock Rd., Chatham.

Please bring torches; if wet bring wellington boots. Admission free, donations to Fort Amhurst Trust. If you require a lift to Chatham or can offer a member a lift please could you ring me....Maid. 57662.

October Meeting

The October meeting of the Group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 21st. of October at 7.30pm. Mr. John Vigar will be giving a talk on 'Underground Kent', with slides.

November Meeting

The November meeting of the Group will again be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street on the 18th. of November.

Mr. A. Detsicas will be speaking on 'The Roman Villa at Eccles'. This will be of great interest to our 'Digging team at Snodland'. The meeting will commence at 7.30pm.

Annual Subscription

If there is a cross in the margin against this item, your subscription for 1983/4 has not been paid, please send or let me know if you wish to resign from the group.

Courses at the University of Kent at Canterbury

There are a number of courses to be held from Oct. 1st.

Oct.1st..... Martin Luther.....Lecturer John M. Todd

Oct.6th..... Garden, Landscape & Architecture....C.N. Taylor

6th. Oct.... The Changing Village....Professor G.E. Mingay

Citisights

Citisights are organising 'A Look at London from Prehistory to the Present Day' to be held in The Lecture Theatre, Museum of London, London wall, on Saturday 8th. October.....cost £5.-. From 10am. to 5.40pm.

Any queries on above.....ring Maid. 57662.

Margaret Terry
367, Sutton Rd.,
Maidstone, Kent. (Hon. Sec.)

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 1983

December Meeting

The December meeting of the group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 16th. of December at 7.30pm. Mr. H. Murby will give an illustrated talk on 'The History of English Furniture', finishing at approximately 8.45pm., when there will be food and drink, followed by slides brought by members. Any member who could contribute food and/or a bottle please give me a ring or bring on the night otherwise a silver collection will be taken.

January Meeting

The January meeting of the group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 20th. of January at 7.30pm. Mr. A Harrison will give a talk on 'My Most Exciting Day in Archaeology'. Illustrated.

Any further queries on the above please ring Maid.57662.

Margaret Terry (Hon. Sec.)
389, Sutton Road,
Maidstone
Kent.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 1984

February Meeting

The February meeting of the Group will be held in the Annex of The Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 17th. of February at 7.30pm. Mr Alan Hall will give an illustrated talk on 'Compton wynyates' warwickshire.

March Meeting

The March meeting of the Group will..... be held in Room 15...of the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone .on Friday the 16th. of March at 7.30pm. It will take the form of a film evening. we will be showing three films on Bronze, Prehistoric, and Roman times.

April Meeting

The April meeting of the Group (The Annual General Meeting) will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 13th. of April at 7.30pm.

Agenda

1. Minutes
2. Matters Arising
3. Hon. Secretary's Report
4. Accounts
5. Election of Officers
6. Election of Representatives
7. A.O.B. including future activities.

Nominations, resolution, and additional items for the agenda should reach me by 6th. of April.

The Chairman, Vice-chairman, and myself are all up for re-election so nominations would be welcomed.

We hope the formal business will be over by 8.15pm. so members are invited to show any slides of interest to the group (even holiday slides-about 10- to 15mins each) Please let me know before the meeting.

Aspects of Kent's Industrial Archaeology

Saturday 17th. of March between 11am - 5.30pm.
at Town Hall, Chatham.

A special all-day Conference of illustrated lectures covering aspects of transportation, its history and preservation, in the Medway-Swale areas and visits to local sites of historic interest.

Choice of four guided tours 1. General tour of Chatham Dockyard, 2. The Ropery and Museum, Chatham Dockyard, 3. Medway Heritage Centre and Brook Pumping Station, 4. Fort Amhurst.....£1.50 (full-day) or £1 (half day)
Any queries on above...please ring Maid. 57662.

Margaret Terry
389, Sutton Rd.,
Maidstone, Kent. ME15 9BU. (Hon. Sec.)

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

MAY Newsletter 1984

May Meeting

The May meeting of the Group will be held in the Annex of the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 18th. of May at 7.30pm. Mrs Avis Harms will give an illustrated talk on 'The History of the Pillar Box'.

June Meeting

The June meeting of the Group will be held in the Annex of the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street on Friday the 15th. of June at 7.30pm. Mr John Ashdown will give an illustrated talk on 'The County in the Countryside' An A to Z of the County's work in the countryside from 'Archaeology to Zoology'.

July Meeting

SATURDAY 14th. July.

There will be no meeting as such, but an excursion to Colchester has been arranged. There was probably a settlement at Colchester in the 5th century BC, and in the 1st century AD, Cunobelin (Shakespeare's Cymbeline) was king at Camulodunum. Roman invaders occupied Colchester in AD 43 and five years later established a major colony there. In AD 60 the Britons under Queen Boadicea's command revolted against Roman rule, massacred the Roman occupants, and destroyed the temple. By c.1085 the Normans had built a castle on and around a former Roman temple. Colchester oysters, prized by the Romans, have been important since the 12th century. The coach will be leaving Maidstone at approx. 9am. and the cost will be £3.50 per head, children half price.

Please can you phone or send me a stamped addressed envelope if you wish to come.....Maid. 57662.

There will be no August meeting due to holidays.

Excavation.....dig...dig..dig.

Our dig at Snodland has been resumed on Sundays, under the guidance of Mr. Arthur Harrison (K.A.S.) Anyone without transport or wishing further details please ring Albert Daniels...Maid. 674494. The site lies in the grounds of the Lead Wool Factory in the road between the Church and the Station. All members are welcome to come and just look between 10am and 4pm.

Annual Subscriptions

Members are reminded that the annual subscriptions are due on April 1st. and should be paid to the Hon. Secretary.

£1.50.....family

£1.....adult

50p.....student.

Any further details on the above..please ring...Maid. 57662.

Margaret Terry
389, Sutton Rd.,
Maidstone, Kent. ME15 9BU (Hon. Sec.)

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 1984

September Meeting SATURDAY September 22nd.

There will be no September meeting as we have arranged a conducted tour of Aylesford by Mr. John Vigar. We are meeting outside the Post Office at 2.30pm. and the cost will be £1.10p per person. If you wish to take tea afterwards it will be an extra £1. Please will you let me know at least two weeks before hand if you require tea.

October Meeting

The October meeting of the Group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 19th. of October at 7.30pm. Mr. J.M. Preston will be giving a talk on 'Industry in the Lower Medway'. Illustrated with slides.

November Meeting

The November meeting of the Group will be held again in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre on November the 23rd. Mrs Molly Proctor will be speaking on 'Bygone Shops', illustrated with slides. The meeting begins at 7.30pm.

University of Kent at Canterbury

I have had various Day schools and courses sent to me, if anybody is interested please phone.

Annual Subscription

If there is a cross in the margin against this item, your subs. for 1984/5 has not been paid, please send or let me know if you wish to resign from the group.

Excavation at Snodland.

Our dig is on Sundays, between 10am and 4pm. in the grounds of the Lead wool Factory in the road between the Church and the Station. Please ring Albert Daniels Maid.674434 for further details.

Archaeology at work KAS. Exhibition at Faversham

Saturday Sept. the 29th at 10.30am. to 5pm. To be held in the Queen Elizabeth School, Abbey Place, Faversham, Kent. Adm. is free by previous ticket obtained from Mr. Ted. Connell, 29, Penenden, New Ash Green, Dartford. DA3 8LR. Building recording, Studying your Parish Churchyard, Heraldry, & how to read a coat of Arms, are amongst subjects offered.

Any further details on above..please ring ... Maid.57662

Margaret Terry
389, Sutton Rd., Maidstone Kent ME15 9BU (Hon. Sec.)

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 1984

DECEMBER Meeting

The December meeting of the Group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday the 7th. of December at 7.30pm. Mrs Robinson will give a talk on 'A Victorian Christmas', finishing approx.8.45pm.when there will be food and drink followed by slides brought by members. Any member who could contribute food and/or a bottle please give me a ring or bring on the night otherwise a silver collection will be taken.

JANUARY Meeting.

The January meeting of the Group will be held again in the Annex of the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street on Friday the 18th. of January at 7.30pm. Dr. A. Hood will give a talk on 'The Museum of Rural Life, Cobtree, Sandling'.

FEBRUARY Meeting

The February meeting of the Group will again be held in the Annex of the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street on Friday the 15th. of February at 7.30pm. It will take the form of a film evening, the title of the film to be announced later.

Excavation

The excavation at Snodland will be 'put to bed for the winter' in the next few weeks so if any member would like a last look please get in touch with Albert Daniels Maid. 674944.

Annual Subscription

If there is a cross in the margin against this item, your subs. For 1984/5 have not been paid, please send or let me know if you wish to resign.

Any further details on above..... please ring....Maid. 57662.

Mrs Margaret Terry (Hon. Sec.)
389, Sutton Rd.,
Maidstone, Kent.
ME15 9BU.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

March Newsletter 1985

MARCH Meeting

The March meeting of the Group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday the 15th. of March at 7.30pm. Mr. Clive Law will give a talk on 'Palaces of Crete'. Illustrated with slides.

APRIL Meeting

The April meeting of the Group (The Annual General Meeting) will be held in the Annex to the Education Centre, as above on Friday the 19th of April at 7.30pm.

Agenda

1. Minutes
2. Matters Arising
3. Hon. Secretary's Report
4. Accounts
5. Election of Officers
6. Election of Representatives
7. A.O.B. including future activities

Nominations, resolutions and additional items for the agenda should reach me by 6th. of April.

The Chairman and myself are all up for re-election so nominations would be welcomed.

We hope the formal business will be over by 8.15pm. so members are invited to show any slides of interest to the group (even holiday slides of interest about 10 to 15mins. each.) Please let me know before the meeting.

MAY Meeting

The May meeting of the Group will again be held in the Annex, St. Faiths Street on Friday the 17th. of May. By request Mr. J.M. Preston will give a talk on 'Aveling and Porter' (Traction Engs. and Steam Rollers.) Illustrated by slides.

University of Kent at Canterbury.

Day School.....11th. of May...at Finchcocks, Goudhurst
Music for an English Country House.

Weekend Course.....10th-12th.May...Allington Castle

The Seventeenth Century woman.

Summer School...20th.July-17th. August...Rutherford College
An English Heritage.

Also various Summer programmes at Loughborough University.

Any queries on above... .please ring.. Maid. 57662

Margaret Terry
389, Sutton Rd., Maidstone, Kent.(Hon. Sec.)

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

June Newsletter 1985

JUNE Meeting

The June meeting of the group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday the 14th. of June at 7.30pm. Mr. Bob. Ratcliffe will be speaking on 'A Trip down the River Medway'.

JULY Meeting

SATURDAY... 27th. of July.

There will be no meeting as such, but an excursion to Reading and Mapledurham House and watermill has been arranged.

Reading is the Capital town of Royal Berkshire and rose to importance with the Normans. Henry I founded the Abbey here in 1121. It used to be one of the major centres of the medieval cloth trade, but this was declining by the early 17th. century. The Kennet and Avon Canal opened in 1810 and brought more prosperity to the town. The Museum exhibits archaeological remains and other material from the earliest times to the present day. Special attractions include The Silchester Collection of Roman material from the Town of Calleva, The Thames Water Collection of items dredged from the Thames and a collection of Huntley & Palmer decorative biscuit tins with the history of this famous local firm.

Mapledurham House was built by Sir Michael Blount in 1588. It was used as one of the settings for the Forsyte Saga and The Wind in the Willows. Old almshouses and a water mill adjoin the Elizabethan manor of pink brick. The water mill dates from the fifteenth century and visitors will often be able to see flour being ground, using the old millstones. The watermill is within the curtilage of the Riverside Picnic Park on the banks of the Thames.

The coach leaving Maidstone at 9am will be £5. inclusive of the river trip to Mapledurham House. The river launch leaves from Caversham Bridge at 2.15pm. and the coach will pick us up again at Mapledurham House at approx. 5.30pm. Please can you phone or send me a stamped addressed envelope if you wish to come...Maid . 57662.

Coach and launch £5. Mapledurham House £1.60...Watermill....70p.

Bardolf Aisle (the private family aisle in the village church dating from c1385)40p

JUNE 8th.

There will be a walk around Sutton Valence and Chart Sutton, please ring Albert Daniels for details....Maid .674494.

There will be no August meeting due to holidays.

ANNUAL Subscriptions

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions are due and should be paid to the Hon. Sec.£1.50..for family... £1.....adult...50p. children.

Any further details on the above... please ring Maid. 57662.

Margaret Terry (Hon. Sec.)

389, Sutton Rd., Maidstone Kent. ME15 9BU

P.S. Don't forget the DIG at Snodland, every Sunday, Ring Albert Daniels.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

September Newsletter 1985

September Meeting Saturday Sept. 14th.

There will be no September meeting as such, but we will be meeting in the car park of Cobtree Rural Museum, Lock Lane, at 1.30pm. Entrance fee is £1. as that afternoon there is a Harvest Fair being held.

October Meeting.

The October meeting of the Group will be held in Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone on Friday the 18th. of October at 7.30pm. Mr. F.L. Palmer will be giving a talk on 'Vanishing Maidstone'. Illustrated with slides.

Dates to come of meetings; Nov.15th, Dec.20th., Jan.17th., Feb.21st., March 21st., April 18th., May 16th., June 20th.,

University of Kent at Canterbury.

I have had various Day Schools and courses sent to me, if anybody is interested please phone.

Annual Subscription

If there is a cross against this item, your subs for 1985/6 have not been paid, please send or let me know if you wish to resign from the group.

Excavation at Snodland.

Our dig still continues at Snodland on Sundays at the Lead Wool Factory. Please ring Albert Daniels Maid. 674494 for further details.

Visitors are very welcome to come and look round the Roman villa at Snodland on Sunday afternoons, before it is put down for the winter (reburied).

Any further details on the above...please ring... Maid.57662.

Margaret Terry (Hon. Sec.)
389, Sutton Rd.,
Maidstone, Kent. ME15 9BU.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 1985.

November Meeting

The November meeting of the Group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday the 15th. November at 7.30pm. Mr. P. Murray will give a talk on 'Kent, Frontier of England'. Illustrated with slides.

December Meeting....PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.

The December meeting of the group will be held in the Annex of the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, on Friday the 13th. of December at 7.30pm. Mike Ducker will give a talk on 'Kent from Public Footpaths'. Members are invited to bring any slides of interest to be shown afterwards. Any member who could contribute food and/or a bottle please give me a ring or bring on the night otherwise a silver collection will be taken.

January Meeting

The January meeting of the Group will again be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, on Friday the 17th. of January at 7.30pm. Mr. Duncan Robinson will be speaking on 'The History of Cranbrook'.

Excavation.

The excavation at Snodland will be 'put to bed for the winter' in the next few weeks so if any member would like a last look please get in touch with Albert Daniels ...Maid. 674944.

I would just like to add my congratulations to the 'Digging Team' on their 'Open Day at Snodland' and to thank them for their very hard work over the last few years.

Merry Christmas everybody and a very Happy New Year

Mrs Margaret Terry (Hon. Sec.)
389, Sutton Rd.,
Maidstone, Kent.
Maid. 57662.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 1986

February Meeting

The February meeting of the group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday the 21st. of February at 7.30pm. Mr. F.L. Palmer will be giving a talk on the 'Second half of Vanishing Maidstone'. Illustrated with slides.

March Meeting

The March meeting of the Group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre as above on Friday the 21st. of March. Mr. P. Murray will give a talk on the 'Second half of Kent, Frontier of England'.

April Meeting

The April meeting of the Group (The Annual General Meeting) will be held again in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre as above on Friday the 18th. of April at 7.30pm.

Agenda

1. Minutes.
2. Matters Arising.
3. Accounts.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Election of Representatives.
6. A.O.B. including future activities.

Nominations, resolutions and. additional items for the agenda should reach me by the 6th. of April.

The Chairman and myself are again all up for re-election so nominations would be welcome.

We hope the formal business will be over by 8.15pm, so members are invited to show any slides of interest to the group (even holiday slides of interest about 10 to 15 mins. each.) Please let me know before the meeting.

Archaeological Discoveries and Conservation in Kent.

Saturday 15th. March (11am-5.30pm.) Kent Hall, Earl Street, Maidstone.

Archaeological Excavations and Research - Recent work of the Maidstone Archaeological Group - Speaker Albert Daniels - 2.15pm - 5.30pm.

Tickets; Price £1.50 (all day) 75p. (half day) from C.K.A., 5, Harvest Bank Rd., West Wickham, Kent (s.a.e. please)

An all day conference of illustrated talks covering some conservation projects and recent archaeological discoveries and research, with displays and bookstalls.

Any further details on the above, please ring...Maid. 57662.

Margaret Terry (Hon. Sec.)
389, Sutton Rd., Maidstone, Kent.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

MAY NEWSLETTER 1986

MAY MEETING

The May meeting of the Group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday, 16th May at 7.30 pm.

Chris Wade will give a talk on "Smugglers and Ghosts from the Public Footpaths".

JUNE MEETING

*** PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS ***

The June meeting is something a little special. Mr Paul Oldham will give a guided tour of Maidstone Town Hall (including the cells, silver display and magistrates court), followed by a talk on the building and civic law - to be held in one of the chambers there.

*** Those who would like to attend are asked to meet outside the Town Hall ***
*** at 6.50 pm on Friday, 20th June. we shall be let in at 7.00 and those ***
*** arriving late are liable to find themselves locked out !!! ***

JULY MEETING

*** ANNUAL OUTING - SATURDAY, 5th JULY ***

There will be no July meeting as such, but an excursion to West Sussex, taking in Amberley Chalk Pits Museum and Arundel, has been arranged.

The open air Chalk Pits Museum at Amberley, aims to show the development of the typical industries of the South-East of England. The site, in a thirty acre former chalk quarry, has massive lime kilns (once the largest works in the area), a narrow gauge industrial railway and country brickworks. Former workshops house a working smithy, a printing works and carpenters shop; while displays show developments in transport, engineering and many other aspects of local industrial archaeology.

In the afternoon there will be an opportunity to explore the picturesque town of Arundel, dominated by its Norman castle, home of the Duke of Norfolk. Other buildings of interest include the 14th C church of St. Nicholas & Roman Catholic cathedral of St. Philip Neri. Attractions include the 1100 acre park, Potters Museum of Curiosity, the Arundel Museum and Heritage Centre relating the history of the town, the Arundel Wildfowl Reserve, as well as numerous antique & tea-shops.

The coach will leave Maidstone at 9.00 am (with the usual picking-up points at Senacre School, the Old Palace and along the London Road). The cost of the trip will be £5-00 (inclusive of admission to the Chalk Pits Museum).

THERE WILL BE NO AUGUST MEETING DUE TO HOLIDAYS.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions are due and should be paid to the Hon. Sec. FAMILY £1-50 ADULT £1-00 CHILD 50p

For further details on any of the above - contact: Margaret Terry (Hon. Sec.)
389, Sutton Road,
Maidstone, Kent. ME15 9BU
Tel: MAID 57662

EXCAVATION AT ROCHESTER

The Group is currently digging at Northgate, Rochester. The site, at the Friends Meeting House, is on the bank behind the Roman wall. Permission has been obtained from Rochester City Council to extend our excavation to the south, taking us within the wall and into the Roman town itself.

We are there every Sunday, from 10.00 am to about 4.30 pm. Conditions are much better than at Snodland - no concrete, a palatial site office, nearby toilets with hot water and hopefully plenty of finds! If you would like to lend a hand or just have a look, please come along.

Ring Albert Daniels - Maidstone 674494 - for further details.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

September Newsletter 1986

September Meeting.

There will be no September meeting in Maidstone, but a WALK around Cranbrook has been arranged, Mr Duncan Robinson will be conducting a tour round Cranbrook finishing up with a visit to the Museum. We will be meeting in the car park next to the fire station at 2.30pm. on Saturday the 20th. Those people interested and require a map please write to me enclosing a stamped addressed envelope....otherwise just turn up. Anybody who might require a lift, ring, and I will see what I can arrange.

October Meeting.

The October meeting of the Group will be held in the Annex to Adult Education centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone, on Friday the 17th. of October at 7.30pm. Mr. Mike Fuller will be giving a talk on 'watermills around Maidstone'. Illustrated with slides.

November Meeting.

The November meeting of the Group will be again held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre on Friday the 21st. of November at 7.30pm. Mr. Robin Cook will be giving a talk on 'The Growth of a Brewery in Kent, (with the use of deeds)'.

Excavation.... Dig...dig.

The excavation at Rochester will be finishing towards the end of September, and a new excavation will commence in October. This dig will be much nearer Maidstone and be very near a pub so perhaps more members will come and give a hand to our very hard working 'digging team'. Details from Albert Daniels, by phone, or on the Cranbrook walk.....Maid. 674494.

Annual Subscriptions

If there is a cross against this item, your subs. for 1986/7 have not been paid, please send or let me know if you wish to resign from the Group.

School of Continuing Education....University of Kent at Canterbury.

I have been sent a whole collection of courses including....
Access to the Humanities...New Opportunities for Women.....Prelates, Parsons, & PeopleLife and Death in Ancient Egypt...Painters and People...
Ancient Rome before Caesar...Mvsicke at the Covrte of Queen Elizabeth I....
Writing Local History...The Age of Stonehenge...etc....etc....
Any further details of the above....please ring....Maid. 57662.

Margaret Terry (Hon. Sec.)
389, Sutton Road, Maidstone,
Kent. ME15 9BU.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

December Newsletter 1986

November Meeting

Mr. Robin Cook will be giving a talk on 'The Growth of a Brewery in Kent'. See November newsletter.

December Meeting.....Christmas.

The December meeting of the Group will be held in the Annex of the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone, on Friday the 12th. of December at 7.30pm. Mr. Mike Ocock will be giving a talk on 'Milgate and the Great Doctor Fludd!' Members are invited to bring any slides of interest to be shown afterwards. Any member who could contribute food and/or a bottle please give me a ring or bring on the night otherwise a silver collection will be taken.

January Meeting

The January meeting of the group will be held on 16th in the Annex as above. Mrs Julia Page will be giving a talk on 'Kent in defiance of Napoleon, 1803'. Once again Kent was at bay against an invader. This is the story of the momentous months when the county expected the French to land at any minute and of the efforts made in some of the towns and villages to keep up morale and defend themselves.

February Meeting

The February meeting of the Group on 20th will be again held in the Annex as above. Mr Clive Law will be giving a talk on 'An Introduction to Jorvic (York)' at 7.30pm.

Excavation

The new excavation has begun along the River Medway and any member who would like to do some 'digging' before the bad weather sets in are welcome. Please get in touch with Albert Daniels for details..... Ring Maid. 674944. Merry Christmas everybody and a very Happy New Year.

Mrs Margaret Terry (Hon. Sec.)
389, Sutton Rd.,
Maidstone, Kent.
Maid. 57662.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

February Newsletter 1987

February Meeting

The February meeting of the Group will be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday the 20th. of Feb., Mr Clive Law will give a talk on 'An Introduction to Jorvic (York)' starting at 7.30pm.

March Meeting

As the January meeting was cancelled due to weather conditions, Mrs Julia Page will be giving a talk on 'Kent in defiance of Napoleon 1803'. It will be held in the Annex at 7.30pm. on Friday March 20th.

April Meeting

The April meeting of the Group (The Annual General Meeting) will be held again in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre as above on Friday the 10th of April at 7.30pm.

Agenda.

1. Minutes.
2. Matters Arising
3. Accounts.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Election of Representatives.
6. A.O.B. including future activities.

Nominations, resolutions and additional items for the agenda should reach me by the 5th. of April.

The chairman and myself are again both up for re-election so nominations would be welcome.

We hope the formal business will be over by 8.15pm. so members are invited to show any slides of interest to the Group (Even holiday slides, about 10 to 15 mins. each.) Please let me know before the meeting.

May Meeting.

The May meeting of the Group will again be held in Annex on Friday the 15th. of May. Mr. Clark will be giving a talk on 'A walk around Lenham'. Later on in the year (in the Autumn) we hope Mr. Clark will take us on an actual walk.

Any further details on the above please ring....

Margaret Terry (Hon. Sec.)
389, Sutton Rd.,
Maidstone,
Kent. ME15 9BU Maid. 57662.

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

MAY NEWSLETTER 1987

DIARY

JUNE 19th

The June Meeting is to be held in the Annex to the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday, 19th June at 7.30pm. Mr Arthur Harrison will give a talk entitled "The Iron Age in Britain".

JULY 4th

On Saturday, 4th July, the long awaited WALK around the Medway Marshes has been arranged - David Bacchus of the Lower Medway Group will be our guide. There will be the opportunity to collect Roman pottery and other artefacts along the foreshore and at other localities.

Those wishing to come along should meet in the car park in front of St. Helen's Church, Cliffe at 2.00pm. Stout footwear or wellingtons are advisable. For further details contact the Secretary.

JULY 18th **** A N N U A L O U T I N G T O S U T T O N H O O ****

There will be no July meeting as such, but an excursion to Sutton Hoo, near Woodbridge, Suffolk has been arranged for Saturday, July 18th.

Sutton Hoo needs little introduction, especially following the recent series of programmes on BBC2. In the summer of 1939 the famous Saxon ship burial was discovered with its spectacular gold, silver and enamel treasures. The entire complex of barrows and the ground between them is currently the subject of excavations by a team from Birmingham University led by Martin Carver. We are to have a special guided tour of the site.

Lunch will be at Woodbridge, a small town once a busy seaport but now mainly a sailing centre. It is full of 15th, 16th & 18th Century buildings with the Shire Hall (1575) dominating the market square, the quays and river frontage. Woodbridge Museum has displays and finds from Sutton Hoo. On the quay stands a Tide Mill (to be opened specially for our visit) which has been fully restored and is the last remaining complete tide mill in the North Sea area.

The coach will pick up at the following places and times (approx.):

08.45 am	Senacre School	+-----+-----+-----+
09.00 am	Old Palace	! Please note the earlier !
09.05 am	London Road	! than normal start !
09.10 am	Larkfield	+-----+-----+-----+

The cost of the trip will be £ 5-00 for the coach [exclusive of admission to Sutton Hoo (£ 1-00) or Woodbridge Museum (40p)/Tide Mill (50p)]

AUGUST

The will be NO August meeting due to holidays.

P.T.O. (!)

DIGGING NEWS

At the time of writing no firm decision has been made regarding the site(s) of any dig for the coming season. However, Albert reports that he has at least three "irons in the fire". work will begin, no doubt, in the very near future and anyone interested in lending a hand - experienced or otherwise - should contact Albert.

The Group has recently taken delivery of our new resistivity meter (following a motion passed at the A.G.M.).

M.A.A.G. NEWS

At the Annual General Meeting of the Group held on 10th April, 1987 there was a change in the Officers of the Group. These may be summarised as follows:

CHAIRMAN	Mr ALBERT DANIELS 39, Holtye Crescent, Maidstone	(Tel 674494)
SECRETARY	Mr RICHARD WEEKS 387, Sutton Road, Maidstone	(Tel 675981)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Mrs MARGARET TERRY 389, Sutton Road, Maidstone	(Tel 57662)
VICE CHAIRPERSON	Mrs JOAN HOMEWOOD 5, Ringlestone Crescent, Maidstone	

After many years sterling service as Secretary, Margaret expressed the wish to stand down, in order to devote more time to her family. However, she agreed to take up the post of Assistant Secretary in order to show the new incumbent the "ropes". Being next-door neighbours this arrangement will, hopefully, not founder for lack of communication, and members should feel free to consult either on any relevant matter.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions for 1987/88 are now due and should be paid to the Secretary (or Assistant Secretary). For the nth year running subscriptions are unchanged:

FAMILY	£1-50	ADULT	£1-00	JUNIOR	50p
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The "little black membership book", having seen service for some 10 years, is to be replaced by a new "blue" book. In addition, it is proposed to hold the names and addresses of members on computer, primarily, in order to produce "sticky" address labels to make the preparation and distribution of newsletters a less arduous task.

Fortunately, under Section 33, Subsection 2 of the Data Protection Act 1984, the Group is exempt from registration under the Act. This is just as well, considering the forms to be filled in, and the £22-00 registration fee! Any member who objects to this information about them being held on computer should contact the Secretary.

The Group is always on the look out for new members - so if you know anyone who might be interested in joining, ask them!

Richard Weeks (Secretary)

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 1987

IMPORTANT NOTE

Future meetings in Maidstone will be held actually in the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, rather than in the Annex as in the past. There seems to be some confusion as to the actual room that we shall be using. If in doubt ask at reception.

DIARY

SEPTEMBER 12th

****** WALK ROUND LENHAM ******

As a follow up to his most interesting talk in May, Mr Clark will conduct a walking tour around Lenham.

Those wishing to attend should meet at Lenham Church, which is at the east end of the village square, at 2.30pm on Saturday, 12th September. A TEA has been arranged!

Anyone interested, but who is without transport, please give me a ring and I will endeavour to arrange a lift.

OCTOBER 16th

****** WORK OF THE K.C.C. MUSEUM SERVICE ******

The October meeting will be held in the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday, 16th October at 7.30pm.

Karen Webster, of the K.C.C. Museum Service, will give an illustrated talk on the work of the Conservation Laboratory and some of the interesting archaeological and historical artefacts that have been dealt with there.

NOVEMBER 20th

****** GOING FOR A SONG ******

The November meeting will be held in the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday, 20th November at 7.30pm.

Mr L.R.A. Grove will present his version of the TV antiques quiz, 'Going For A Song'. Two teams of 'experts' (to be chosen from the audience!) will be presented with a series of antique objects, provided by Mr Grove. After describing them, they will be asked for their estimate of the price that the objects would command if put up for auction. ('The Antiques Roadshow' meets 'The Price Is Right' - for those too young to remember the original programme!)

Mr Grove will, no doubt, be pleased to examine any antique or family heirloom that members may like to bring along.

DECEMBER 11th

****** CHRISTMAS PARTY/VIDEO SHOW ******

The December meeting, to be held at the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday, 11th December at 7.30pm, also promises to be a little out of the ordinary!

Albert Daniels hopes to provide an archaeological VIDEO show - titles yet to be announced.

As is customary for our Christmas Meeting there will be the usual party. Any member who could contribute food and/or a bottle please give Margaret Terry a ring (MAIDSTONE 57662). Otherwise a silver collection will be taken.

P.T.O.!

DIGGING NEWS

Several projects are currently in the offing. The Group will be restarting our excavations at the Museum of Kent Rural Life later this Autumn. It is also likely that we shall be excavating at Trottiscliffe next Summer, after preliminary land and resistivity survey work has been carried out. Albert has also identified a number of other sites which might be worthy of investigation - it's the usual problem of gaining permission.

During the summer members of the Group have paid two visits to Chatham Dockyard, to undertake a resistivity survey (as a trial for our new resistivity meter) of the Lower Terrace of the Commissioner's House Garden. There are plans afoot to restore gardens to their 17th Century glory. Our survey appears to have located the original fountain and ponds. Albert is currently writing a report for the Medway Branch of the WEA who are conducting the Garden Survey.

For details of forthcoming excavations, please contact Albert Daniels (MAIDSTONE 674494).

M.A.A.G. NEWS

Apologies to those members who had to be 'turned away' for the Annual Outing to Woodbridge/Sutton Hoo in July. The response was unprecedented and unfortunately attempts to book a larger coach were unsuccessful.

Despite the weather the trip was well worthwhile. The rain was heaviest while we were in Woodbridge (where there was at least some shelter!). It held off, for the most part, while we were at Sutton Hoo. As Albert remarked, after reading and hearing so much about the place, it was good to see the actual site. We were able to examine the current excavations and were given a tour of the site by an extremely enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide.

Later in the afternoon we visited the Woodbridge Tide Mill, one of the few remaining examples still in working order, and a remarkable piece of restoration.

The walk around the Medway Marshes, led by David Bacchus, earlier in the same month was also well attended. On a blazing hot afternoon 28 members embarked on a very interesting (and tiring!) 5 mile jaunt. A coin and a fair amount of pot were found, although conditions for collecting were not ideal after the recent rain. As a bonus, there was a sighting of a female Black Redstart!

ARCHAEOLOGY COURSES

There is an evening class, entitled 'Archaeology in Kent', given by Peter Leach, at the Cornwallis Evening Centre, Cornwallis School, Linton. The course lasts 10 weeks starting Wed 30th September 7.00-9.00. Cost £20.40. Phone Maidstone 47924 for details.

In addition I have details of numerous School of Continuing Education courses, held at the University of Kent, Canterbury - genealogy, archaeology, history - you name it!

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

A cross in the margin here means that, according to my records, your subscription for 1987/88 is unpaid. Please forward it (Family £1.50 Adult £1.00 Junior 50p) or let me know if you wish to resign from the Group.

I would like to compile an up-to-date membership list before the next Annual Meeting. So if your name or address are incorrect on the address label please contact me.

Any suggestions of ways in which the newsletter might be improved would be welcome.

**RICHARD WEEKS (SECRETARY) (TEL: MAIDSTONE 675981)
387, SUTTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME15 9BU**

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 1988

EDITOR'S NOTE

Meetings at the Adult Education Centre, St Faiths Street, Maidstone are held in Room 24 (up the stairs, through the double doors, second door on the left).

DIARY

JANUARY 15th

****** KENTISH LANDSCAPE IN MAPS ******

The January meeting will be held in the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday, 15th January at 7.30pm.

Miss Elizabeth Melling, of the Kent Archives Office, will give an illustrated talk entitled 'The Kentish Landscape in Estate and Farm Maps'.

FEBRUARY 13th

****** MAIDSTONE LIBRARIES TOUR ******

On Saturday, 13th February, Albert Daniels will be our guide for a tour of the three main 'reference' libraries in Maidstone. The itinerary will be as follows:

2.00pm Local Studies Library, Springfield (maps, books and census returns)
(please assemble in the main foyer of Springfield Library)

3.00pm Reference Library, St. Faiths Street (maps, books and local papers)

3.30pm K.A.S. Library, Maidstone Museum

FEBRUARY 19th

****** AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF EAST KENT ******

The February meeting will be held in the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday, 19th February at 7.30pm.

Jim Bradshaw, will give a talk entitled 'Aerial Photographs of East Kent'.

MARCH 18th

****** HISTORY OF HOLLINGBOURNE ******

The March meeting will be held in the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday, 18th March at 7.30pm.

Mr L.R.A. Grove will give a talk on the village of Hollingbourne and its history. In the Autumn a walk around Hollingbourne is planned as a follow up to the talk.

APRIL 22nd

****** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ******

The April meeting, to be held in the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday, 22nd April at 7.30pm, will be the Group's Annual General Meeting.

AGENDA

1. Minutes
2. Chairman's Report
3. Honorary Secretary's Report
4. Accounts
5. Election of Officers
6. Election of Representatives
7. Future Activities and Any Other Business

Nominations, resolutions and additional items for the agenda 'should reach me by Monday, 11th April.

All the Officers of the Group are, as usual, up for re-election.

The destination for this year's Annual Outing will be decided at the meeting, so please put your thinking caps on!

Following the formal business (approx 8.15pm) there will be a **BOOK AUCTION** in aid of Group Funds. Please bring along any books (subject immaterial, well almost!) that are surplus to your requirements to contribute to the auction.

P.T.O.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions become due on the 1st April and should be paid to the Hon. Sec. (please make cheques payable to M.A.A.G.). The rates remain unchanged:

FAMILY £1-50 ADULT £1-00 JUNIOR £0-50

DIGGING NEWS

'Digging' has proceeded spasmodically throughout the Autumn - this has mainly been concerned with resistivity survey work. Surveys were carried out at Wouldham and the Museum of Rural Life, Allington.

Trial trenches dug in the lawn at the Commissioner's House, Chatham Dockyard, following resistivity surveys earlier in the year, proved disappointing. Although a lead pipe, possibly relating to the fountain and a gravel path were uncovered. It is hoped that Mrs Hall of the Medway Branch of the WEA, on whose behalf we did the work, will give a talk later in the year on their Garden Survey project.

Efforts to locate the site of the Roman Villa at the Museum of Rural Life, Allington drew a blank. Field walking and auguring failed to find any trace of the presumed buildings. However, following up the resistivity survey carried out in December 1986, has uncovered a potentially exciting discovery. The survey showed a roughly N-S linear feature crossing the hillside to the W of the hop garden. Excavation has shown this to correspond to a ditch cut into the sand, with a bank on the uphill side which appears to have a chalk (?) foundation. A piece of pottery (tentatively dated as early Iron Age or Neolithic) and an antler pick have been recovered. The pick is with the K.C.C. Museum Service for conservation/photography and C14 dating is being investigated.

Work will recommence in the next few weeks to determine the extent and form of the earthwork.

For details of how YOU can help with this and forthcoming excavations, please contact Albert Daniels (MAIDSTONE 674494).

M.A.A.G. NEWS

The walk around Lenham, back in September, was attended by over two dozen members. Mr Clark provided an extremely enjoyable and interesting guided tour of the village and church. Thanks must also go to Mrs Clark for such a splendid tea!

October's meeting, which was to be given by Karen Webster of the K.C.C. Museum Service, was cancelled in the wake of the 'hurricane'. My apologies to those members who managed to turn up at the appointed time to find the Adult Education Centre closed.

Mr Grove's version of 'Going For A Song', in November, proved both highly entertaining and enlightening. Any number of fascinating objects, from all over the world and ranging from loom weights to Victorian dress clips, appeared from the holdall - the function and significance of each being admirably described. Several members took the opportunity to bring along objects of their own.

December's meeting was the Christmas Party (if a little early!). Videos of a rescue excavation in Dover and the crafts associated with Chatham Dockyard were shown. Many thanks to those who contributed food and drink for the occasion.

ARCHAEOLOGY COURSES

There is a day school, entitled 'Experimental Archaeology: Butser Iron Age Farm', given by P. Reynolds, at the University Centre, Tonbridge on Saturday 27th February 10am to 4.30pm. The full fee is £7-50, with concessionary fees of £4-00 and £0-50. This deals with the contribution of experimental archaeology to understanding the past, as illustrated by work at the Butser Ancient Farm Research Project.

For further details phone Tonbridge 352316 (24 hour Ansafone) or write to School of Continuing Education, University Centre, Avebury Avenue, Tonbridge, TN9 1TG.

RICHARD WEEKS (SECRETARY) (TEL: MAIDSTONE 675981)
387, SUTTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME15 9BU

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

MAY NEWSLETTER 1988

DIARY

MAY 20th

**** C17th GARDEN AT CHATHAM DOCKYARD ****

The May meeting of the Group will be held in Room 24 at the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday, 20th May at 7.30pm.

Mrs Hall, from the Medway Branch of the W.E.A., will give an illustrated talk entitled 'A 17th Century Garden in Chatham Dockyard'.

Last summer some members of the Group carried out a resistivity survey and trial excavation at the Dockyard. The talk will explain how study of visible remains, archive records and 'archaeology' is being used to prepare plans for an historic recreation of the garden.

JUNE 17th

**** COSTUMES & MEDIAEVAL BRASSES ****

The June meeting will be held in Room 24 at the Adult Education Centre, St. Faiths Street, Maidstone on Friday, 17th June at 7.30pm.

Mr Lawrence will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Costume from Mediaeval Brasses'.

This fascinating talk, given recently to the Halling Historical Society, is highly recommended.

JULY 9th

**** ANNUAL OUTING TO THE CHILTERNNS ****

There will be no July meeting as such, but an excursion to West Wycombe and the Chilterns, has been arranged for Saturday, 9th July.

In the morning we shall visit a glass craft centre, near High Wycombe. A special guided tour will illustrate all aspects of glass manufacture (including stained glass, glass blowing and the production of formed and decorated glass). There is, of course, a shop on the premises for the purchase of glassware.

Lunch will be at West Wycombe. The village, which was presented to the National Trust in 1934, is overshadowed by the spectacular church and mausoleum, and the famous, perhaps infamous, caves. All the legacy of the C18th knight, Sir Francis Dashwood (of 'Hell Fire Club' fame). West Wycombe was a coaching station so there are numerous inns!

In the afternoon, we shall move on for a guided tour of the Chiltern Open Air Museum (which is to be opened especially for our visit). Historic buildings which would otherwise have been destroyed, have been dismantled and re-erected at Newland Park. The buildings date from the 16th to the 19th centuries. Several incorporate displays illustrating their original use, or exhibitions on Chiltern life and landscape. There is also a Woodland Nature Trail and gift shop.

The coach will pick up at the following places and times (approx.):

08.45 am	Senacre School	09.00 am	Old Palace
09.05 am	London Road	09.10 am	Larkfield

The cost of the trip will be £ 6-00 (inclusive of admission to the Open Air Museum), half-price for children. Admission to the glass centre (£ 1-50), and the 'Hell Fire Caves' (£ 1-60) are not included (payable on the day).

Please phone Margaret (Maid. 57662) or myself to book seats. Cheques should be made payable to M.A.A.G.

(Home-made teas (70 p) are available at the Open Air Museum. When booking please say if you are likely to require this so that we can pass on approx. numbers).

P.T.O.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1988-89 became due on the 1st April and should be paid to the Hon. Sec. (please make cheques payable to M.A.A.G.). The rates remain unchanged.

FAMILY £1-50 ADULT £1-00 JUNIOR £0-50

DIGGING NEWS

**** M.A.A.G. BACK AT SNODLAND !! ****

News arrived in March that the Lead wool Company site at Snodland had been acquired for development. By the time we arrived the buildings had been demolished and the site substantially cleared - presenting an ideal (and final) opportunity to examine the SE corner of the Roman villa (previously beneath the factory) and to tie up a few loose ends from our previous excavation.

In the ensuing weeks, with the co-operation of the Lower Medway Group, we have been able to extend the S range of the villa (which terminates in at least two rooms with mortar floors) by about 40 metres. Excavations at the W end of the S range have uncovered substantial walls and a tessellated floor (partially exposed in the 1965 excavation). 4 coins, including a silver one of Antoninus Pius, have been found and a large rubbish pit examined.

Planning permission has yet to be granted and the dig will continue, on Sundays, probably until mid-June. THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR 'DIGGERS' (EXPERIENCE NOT ESSENTIAL) TO ENABLE THE EXCAVATION TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE BUILDING STARTS. So if you can spare the odd Sunday please come and help. Visitors are, of course, welcome.

Prior to moving to Snodland, the excavation at the Museum of Kent Rural Life was completed. Environmental samples were taken and the section drawn. Towards the end of March, officers of the Group attended the Lloyd's Bank Archaeological Awards ceremony at Burlington House, London following a successful application to fund the C14-dating of the antler pick. Albert is negotiating with Harwell who carry out the determination. Our thanks to Margaret Crowhurst for her fine drawings, and Mr Barry Tomlin for his photographs of the antler. Thanks also to the 'human JCB's' who helped to backfill the section!

For details of how YOU can help with this and forthcoming excavations, please contact Albert Daniels MAIDSTONE 674494).

M.A.A.G. NEWS

The A.G.M. in April was attended by 23 members. Short reports were given by the Chairman and Hon. Sec. and the Group's Finances were reviewed by Mr Jess Obee.

No nominations for Officers having been received, nor forthcoming from the floor, the existing Officers were elected *en bloc*. M.A.A.G. representatives were also elected unopposed.

Future activities were outlined and the venue for this year's outing debated. A notion was proposed, and passed without opposition, that a committee of 3 members be set up to investigate possible revision of the Group's rules to bring them in line with current use. Concern was also expressed about the poor acoustics of the current meeting room. The possibility of obtaining an alternative room is to be investigated.

Following the business, there was a book auction which raised £15 for Group funds.

K.A.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. of the K.A.S. will be held at St. Gregory's Church, North Holmes Road, Canterbury on Saturday, 21st May at 11.00 am. In place of the usual afternoon lecture there will be visits to places of interest in Canterbury, commencing at 2.30 pm.

RICHARD WEEKS (SECRETARY) (TEL: MAIDSTONE 675981)
387, SUTTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME15 9BU

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 1988

PLEASE READ THIS

Bureaucracy has forced the Group to seek yet another new venue for our monthly meetings. Future meetings will be held in the Parish Room at St. Francis Roman Catholic Church, Week Street, Maidstone (well done Margaret!).

St. Francis Church is at the north (County Hall) end of Week Street, more or less opposite Maidstone East station. Walk towards Grove House, down the "drive" between the church & Stonham's the Chemists, half way to house, turn right through a wooden gate.

DIARY

SEPTEMBER 24th

****** SATURDAY WALK ROUND HOLLINGBOURNE ******

This year's autumn walk takes us to Hollingbourne. Mr Allan Grove will conduct a guided walk and regale us with stories about the history of the village and, no doubt, of it's most famous inhabitants, the Culpepers. There will be an opportunity to see the celebrated Culpeper embroidery. If time permits a visit to Leeds Church may be included in the itinerary.

Those wishing to attend should meet at Hollingbourne Church, at 2.15pm on Saturday, 24th September

Anyone interested in attending, but who is without transport, please give me a ring and I will endeavour to arrange a lift.

OCTOBER 21st

****** UPCHURCH POTTERY & SALT PANNING ******

The October meeting will be held in the Parish Room, St Francis Church, Week Street, Maidstone on Friday, 21st October at 7.30pm.

Ian Jackson, of the Upchurch Archaeological Research Group, will give a talk on the Upchurch pottery and salt panning industries.

NOVEMBER 18th

****** LEAD MINING IN THE PENNINES ******

The November meeting is to be held in the Parish Room, St Francis Church, Week Street, Maidstone on Friday, 18th November at 7.30pm.

For those with an interest in industrial archaeology and/or seeing some picturesque views of northern England, John Rhodes will give an illustrated talk entitled "Lead Mining in the Northern Pennines".

Details of the December meeting have yet to be finalised, but the provisional date is Friday, 16th December.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

A cross in the margin here means that, according to my records, your subscription for 1988/89 is unpaid. Please forward it (Family £1.50 Adult £1.00 Junior 50p) or let me know if you wish to resign from the Group.

P.T.O.!

DIGGING NEWS

Excavations have continued at the Roman villa site in Snodland over the summer. It is sad to report that attendance at the dig has been disappointing. A big thank you is therefore due to all those members of the Group (and of the Medway Research Group) who have put in so much effort this year.

The excavation of the S range of the villa has been completed and tied in with the results of previous work. Just when patience had been exhausted, one of the stone coffins, reported when the Lead Wool factory was built in the 1930's, was finally located. Unfortunately it has suffered some damage and was empty. Current interest (within the last week or two) has centred on the region SE of the bath house, with the discovery of a substantial ditch and another building (which is possibly a granary).

As members will be aware the site has been acquired by wards with the intention of building a substantial number of houses. However, the site has now been scheduled and a meeting with wards and English Heritage is due to take place in the next week or so, to determine the future of the site.

At the time of writing, it is intended to continue with our excavation and my plea in the last newsletter for volunteers still stands. The Group has put a considerable amount of effort into this site over the past five or six years and we should endeavour to finish the job.

Given the current situation regarding the site, those wishing to participate in the dig are asked to contact Albert Daniels (Maidstone 674494) first.

M.A.A.G. NEWS

There have been no further developments regarding the carbon-14 dating of the antler pick found at the Museum of Kent Rural Life. It looks as though the Turin Shroud is going to win!

Recently, a Sites and Monuments Register (covering some 300 sites) for the Maidstone area, has been compiled at the request of the Maidstone Borough Council to aid the identification of sites threatened by development in the town. A copy will be available for inspection at the meetings.

The latest volume of Archaeologia Cantiana contains a detailed report by John Cruse on the Acheulian site at Cuxton excavated by the Group in 1984. In addition, there is a brief report on the silver penny of King Offa found at Northgate, Rochester.

ARCHAEOLOGY COURSES/CONFERENCES

There is an evening class, entitled "Archaeology in Kent", at the Cornwallis Evening Centre, Cornwallis School, Linton. The course lasts 11 weeks starting Wed 28th September 7.00-9.00. Cost £24.20. Phone Maidstone 47924 for details.

In addition I have details of numerous School of Continuing Education courses, held at the University of Kent, Canterbury. Perhaps the most interesting are "Industrial Archaeology in Kent" (a day school on Sat 22nd October), "Archaeology of Ancient Greece" (20 meetings from 12th October) and "County and Family Records - using & understanding records in the Kent Archive Office" (16 meetings from 11th January).

The C.K.A. are holding a special Armada conference entitled "Some Aspects of Nautical Archaeology & History in England", on Saturday 19th November (2.15 to 5.30 pm) at Christ Church College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury. Tickets are £ 1-00 (payable to CKA with s.a.e.) from 5, Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9DL.

**RICHARD WEEKS (SECRETARY) (TEL: MAIDSTONE 675981)
387, SUTTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME15 9BU**

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 1988

EDITOR'S NOTE

Forthcoming meetings will continue to be held in the Parish Room, St Francis Church, Maidstone. Directions for those who have not yet found the venue are given below. Albert assures that, me that the heating will be switched on for future meetings!

St. Francis Church is at the north (County Hall) end of Week Street, more or less opposite Maidstone East station. Walk towards Grove House, down the "drive" between the church & Stonham's the Chemists, turn right and follow the path.

Although a little early, may I take this opportunity to wish all M.A.A.G. members a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

DIARY

DECEMBER 16th

****** CHRISTMAS MEETING ******

The December meeting will be held in the Parish Room, St Francis Church, Week Street, on Friday, 16th December at 7.30pm.

Our chairman, Albert Daniels, is in charge of proceedings and promises to provide a fitting pot-pourri of archaeological entertainment. If any members possess any interesting slides these would be welcome.

As is customary for our Christmas meeting there will be the usual party. Any member who could contribute food and/or a bottle please bring it along.

JANUARY 20th

****** ARMOUR & MEDIAEVAL BRASSES ******

The January meeting will be held in the Parish Room, St Francis Church, Week Street, Maidstone on Friday, 20th January at 7.30pm.

Mr Lawrence will give a talk entitled 'Armour as illustrated by Mediaeval Church Brasses'.

This lecture is a follow up to Mr Lawrence's recent excellent talk, back in June, on ladies costume as depicted in memorial brasses. I am sure that members who attended that meeting will not want to miss the opportunity to catch the sequel.

FEBRUARY 17th

****** MINING IN THE KENT THROUGH THE AGES ******

The February meeting is to be held in the Parish Room, St Francis Church, Week Street, Maidstone on Friday, 17th February at 7.30pm.

Mr Adrian Pearce will give an illustrated talk entitled "Mining in Kent through the ages".

It is possible that there may be a walk, linked to this talk, later in the year. So it may be worth making an attempt to attend this meeting.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Any member who has yet to pay their subscription for 1988/89 is asked to forward it as soon as possible (Family £1.50 Adult £1.00 Junior 50p) or let me know if they wish to resign from the Group.

P.T.O.!

DIGGING NEWS

Here we are, into December, and the Group's excavation at the Roman villa site in Snodland still continues!

Recent work has concentrated on the area immediately to the SE of the bath house. A further building has been uncovered, located over the stoke hole and extending to the SE. The full extent of the building has yet to be determined, and its initial identification as the granary remains to be confirmed.

Much decorated plaster from an earlier building has been discovered. Underlying the area is a large pre-Roman ditch.

A JCB (kindly provided by wards) has been used to remove the overburden, so the work is predominantly of the 'trowelling' and 'cleaning up' variety to trace the robbed-out walls.

The outcome of the meeting with wards and Mr Neal of English Heritage, mentioned in September's newsletter, was that further work to locate the extent of the pre-Roman occupation of the site should be undertaken by a professional excavation unit. In the meantime, the Group's excavation will continue. More (any!) diggers are always welcome. However, with winter upon us, please check with Albert first.

In the new year, the Group has been asked by the Maidstone Borough Council to undertake some work at the Old Palace, Maidstone. This will entail excavating trenches prior to the installation of a new drainage system. It has been a considerable time since the Group has had a 'dig' in Maidstone and it is hoped that this enable us to recruit more members to the cause.

Over the past few months a watching brief has been kept on the Corpus Christi Hall site in Maidstone. Trial pits have failed to show any archaeological remains.

Finally, in this section, may I thank everyone who has given up their Sundays to help with the Group's excavations this year. For the regulars there has been little respite, starting off at the Museum of Kent Rural Life and then moving on to Snodland. I think we can be justifiably proud of our efforts. Many thanks also to the Lower Medway Research Group for their invaluable co-operation.

Any member wishing to participate in the Group's current (or future) excavations are asked to contact Albert Daniels (Maidstone 674494) for further details.

M.A.A.G. NEWS

Recently, an application was made to the K.A.S. Fieldwork Committee for a grant of £100 to purchase a 35mm slide projector for use at meetings. Rumour has it that our application has been successful. The task now is to purchase one. Any member who is knowledgeable about such matters and who can suggest any good (or bad) buys is asked to contact me.

Unfortunately, the Group's entry for this year's British Archaeological Awards (describing work carried out using our resistivity meter) was unsuccessful, although Albert received a complimentary letter from the Chairman of the judging panel.

Members are reminded that 1989 marks the 20th anniversary of the founding the Group. If anyone has any constructive ideas as to how this event may be celebrated could they please let me know or raise the matter at a future meeting.

RICHARD WEEKS (SECRETARY) (TEL: MAIDSTONE 675981)
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MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

FEBRUARY 1989 NEWSLETTER

DIARY

Meetings are held in the Parish Room, St. Francis Church, Maidstone starting at 7.30pm. St. Francis Church is at the north (County Hall) end of Week Street, more or less opposite Maidstone East station. Walk towards Grove House, down the "drive" between the church & Stonham's the Chemists, at the house turn right and follow the path.

MARCH 17th

****** EXCAVATIONS AT ROMAN VILLA, PLAXTOL ******

Mr Roger Crockett will give a talk entitled "Recent Excavations at the Sedgebrook Roman Villa, Plaxtol".

The villa, a winged-corridor type house, was discovered in 1986 and has been excavated by members of the K.A.S. and nearby affiliated societies (including members of our own Group).

APRIL 21st

****** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ******

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of AGM 1988.
3. Rules Sub-Committee Report.
4. Vote on Proposed Rule Changes.
5. Chairman's Report.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Secretary's Report.
8. Election of Officers.
9. Election of Auditor.
10. Reports and Election of Representatives.
11. Future Activities (Annual Outing, Anniversary Events).
12. Any Other Business.

All the Officers of the Group are, as usual, up for re-election - nominations (and any further items for the agenda) should reach me by 1st April.

A vote will be taken at this meeting on the rule changes recommended by the Rules Sub-Committee instituted at AGM 1988. For further details, see MAAG NEWS section.

MAY 19th

****** ROMAN PUBLIC BUILDINGS ******

Dr Tom Blagg, of the University of Kent, will give an illustrated talk entitled "Roman Public Buildings".

Dr Blagg, who will be known to many of you, will discuss Roman public buildings (fora, theatres, etc), using examples principally taken from Britain and France.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions became due on the 1st April. The rates remain unchanged (Family £1.50 Adult £1.00 Junior 50p), please make cheques payable to M.A.A.G. Prompt payment would be appreciated as I propose to distribute a full membership list with a forthcoming Newsletter.

A red cross in the margin here indicates that I have received no subscription since 1987/88 and unless I receive some communication no further newsletters will be sent.

DIGGING NEWS

Excavations at Snodland to uncover the late robbed building to the SE at the bath house have continued. Recent finds have included a fine bronze fibula.

Proposals for intensive excavations by a professional unit appear to have foundered over the question of who is to pay for their services.

Work at Snodland has been temporarily suspended in order to excavate some trial trenches at the Old Palace, Maidstone in advance of drainage work. Albert Daniels and I met one of the Borough architects to discuss the plans for the area, part of a £5.5 million scheme recently described in the local press, and to examine the interior of the building which is undergoing extensive renovation work.

As a result of attending a conference in Bournemouth, Bert Terry is well advanced in constructing a one-man operated two-probe resistivity system.

A sample from the antler pick discovered at the Museum of Kent Rural Life in 1987 has finally been sent to Oxford for C14 dating (funded by Lloyds Bank).

Any member wishing to participate in the Group's current (or future) excavations are asked to contact Albert Daniels (Maidstone 674494) for further details.

M.A.A.G. NEWS

The Rules Sub-Committee (Joan Homewood, Arthur Harrison and Roger Wallbridge), instituted at AGM 1988, have come up with their suggestions for revising the Group's Rules. They have asked me to publish the following statement:

"It is stressed that these changes do NOT make any alteration of substance to the nature of the Group. They are merely designed to remove anomalies and to bring the Rules into agreement with what has in fact been our practice over the last few years. "

Enclosed, assuming that your 1988/89 subscription has been paid, should be a copy of the Group's current Rules, together with a blue "ballot" paper for postal votes on the proposed rule changes.

A VOTE WILL BE TAKEN AT THE AGM, ONLY USE THE BALLOT PAPER IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND

Ballot papers should be returned to me no later than Thursday, 20th April. Results of the vote will be reported in the next newsletter and ALL members will receive a full copy of the Rules as adopted at the AGM.

The generous grant received from the K.A.S. Fieldwork Committee has been used to purchase a 35 mm slide projector, a carry case is on order. Providing the projector is available for use at meetings, members are free to borrow it for their own personal use. If you are interested, please contact me.

The Group has obtained permission to set up an exhibit in Maidstone Museum from May. Any members who may have interesting memorabilia, or more importantly documents, relating to excavations and surveys (especially from the Group's early years) which would be available for display, are asked to contact either Albert Daniels or myself.

OTHER EVENTS

Saturday, 11th March : Day School "The Parish Churches of Kent - their history and architecture" at Charing, £3-00. Apply to Thomas Church, Mannering House, Bethersden.

Saturday, 1st April : Conference "Protecting our Archaeological Heritage" at Orpington £ 2-50 (all day), £1-50 (half day) from CKA, 5 Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham BR4 9DL

Monday, 24th April : LMARG "Jewellery from Roman Britain" by Catherine Johns of the British Museum, 7.30pm at the St. Andrew's Visitors Centre, Rochester.

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MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

MAY NEWSLETTER 1989

DIARY

JUNE 16th *** WORK OF A MUSEUM CURATOR (NATURAL HISTORY) *******

The June meeting will be held in the Parish Room, St Francis Church, Week Street, on Friday, 16th June at 7.30pm.

As an antidote to the recent series of talks on archaeology, Mr Eric Philp, of Maidstone Museum, will give a talk on his work as a curator of the Museum's natural history collections.

JULY 15th *** ANNUAL OUTING TO STANSTED AND SAFFRON WALDEN *******

There will be no July meeting as such, but a coach excursion to Stansted Mountfitchet and Saffron Walden has been arranged for Saturday, 15th July.

In the morning we shall visit Mountfitchet Castle at Stansted. This is a re-constructed Norman wooden motte and bailey castle and village built on its original site as it would have been soon after its conquest by William I in 1066. With models, artefacts and real domestic animals, it is a vivid and accurate recreation of life in a Norman baron's house. Great fun for the young and old alike!

Lunch will be at Saffron Walden. This small picturesque mediaeval market town was designated a Conservation Area in 1968 and there are some 400 buildings of special architectural or historical interest. Particularly notable is the pargetting or ornamental plasterwork. Walden boasts one of the largest parish churches in Essex with a length of nearly 200 feet and the nearby Museum, in what was once the castle bailey houses excellent displays of the archaeological history of the area and of the local building crafts. On the Common is a turf maze (reputed to be the largest of its type in the country) and considered to be possibly a pre-Christian relic.

In the afternoon, members have the choice of learning more about Saffron Walden on a specially arranged "blue badge" guided walk of the town or of visiting Audley End House, a magnificent Jacobean building, now in the care of English Heritage.

Audley End was built between 1605 and 1614 by Thomas Howard, 1st Earl of Suffolk and Lord Treasurer to James I. It was bought by Charles II in 1669 for use as a royal palace and Samuel Pepys recorded in his diary a visit in 1677. Early in C18th outer & western courts were demolished, the remaining building repaired and many of the rooms re-decorated by Robert Adam. Audley End has one of the finest landscaped parks in England. It was laid out in the late C18th by Capability Brown. The stables house a collection of farm implements. There is a restaurant(!) and souvenir shop.

The coach will pick up at the following places and times (approx):

08.45 am	Senacre School	09.00 am	Old Palace
09.05 am	London Road (Buckland Lane)	09.10 am	Larkfield (Wealden Hall)

The cost of the trip (coach fare and admission to Mountfitchet Castle only) will be:

Adults	£ 7-00	Senior Citizens	£ 5-00	Children	£ 3-50
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Since the afternoon activity is optional, please indicate when booking whether you wish to visit Audley End (Adults £2-50, Senior Citizens £ 1-75, Children £ 1-25, members of English Heritage free) or join the guided tour of Saffron Walden (£ 1-00).

P.T.O.

Please phone Margaret Terry (Maid. 57662) or myself to book seats or for further information. Cheques should be made payable to M.A.A.G. Please, please, please book early as I have to notify the venues of the numbers attending and the coach must be paid for.

DIGGING NEWS

Excavations at Snodland continue, the plan of the domestic building to the SE of the bath house has now been recovered and drainage ditches from the bath house to the river are being investigated.

Any member wishing to participate in the Group's current (or future) excavations are asked to contact Albert Daniels (Maidstone 674494) for further details.

M.A.A.G. NEWS

The exhibition in Maidstone Museum to celebrate Group's 20th anniversary was opened by Alan Grove on 30th April and was attended by about 40 or 50 people. In his address, Mr Grove outlined the early years of the Group, highlighting its close links with the Museum and the goodwill of local archaeologists in its inception. Margaret Crowhurst is to be congratulated on her hard work in preparing such a fine exhibition, which has already resulted in at least a dozen new members. Thanks must also go to the Museum's curator Mr Middleton and his staff for their goodwill and assistance, as well as to those members who helped make the opening such a great success. The exhibition is due to end on Monday, 4th June, but may be open, until the end of that week.

The Group's 20th AGM, held on 21st April, was attended by 22 members. After some discussion, all the proposed rule changes were passed unanimously and a copy of the Group's rules are enclosed. The existing officers, with the addition of Mr Jess Obee as Honorary Treasurer were elected *en bloc*. The Group's representatives were also re-elected, with Mrs Pat Brooks to attend meetings of the Kent History Federation.

Please note that as usual there will be no August meeting (due to holidays). It is planned that in future, meetings will be organized on a longer-term basis (as opposed to quarterly as present) to allow their prior advertisement in various newsletters (e.g. K.A.S., K.H.F., etc). If anyone has any views on possible topics for lectures or would like to suggest places to visit in this part of Kent please let me know. Details of one or two afternoon/evening excursions will be given in the next newsletter.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Those members who have paid their 1989/90 subscriptions should find enclosed a receipt. It was decided at the AGM that a membership list should be sent to all members. So may I ask that outstanding subscriptions be paid as soon as possible, so that an up-to-date membership list can be sent out with the next newsletter in August.

Rates: Family £ 1-50 Adult £ 1-00 Junior £ 0-50 (cheques payable to M.A.A.G.)

OTHER EVENTS

Dr Tom Blagg, who gave an excellent talk at the May meeting, has organised a day school on Saturday, 22nd July on "Albania: Archaeology and History" at the University of Kent, Canterbury. Application forms from The School of Continuing Education, Rutherford College, Canterbury. Tel: Canterbury (0227) 764000 exts 7647/3662.

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MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

M.A.A.G. ANNUAL OUTING TO ESSEX : 15TH JULY 1989

ITINERARY (Times very approximate)

MORNING

- 09.00 Leave Maidstone
- 10.30 Arrive Stansted
Visit Mountfitchet Castle and village (time permitting)
- 12.15 Board coach for Saffron Walden

LUNCH

- 12.45 Lunch in Saffron Walden

A parking place will, hopefully, have been reserved for us in the Catons Lane car park. For those who have brought packed lunches, this is convenient for Bridge End Gardens and the Common. There are the usual eating establishments in the town. The Eight Bells in Bridge Street probably provides the best pub lunches, the Hoops in King Street is one of the better cafe/restaurants.

For those visiting Audley End in the afternoon, the Museum houses a fine exhibition of the local archaeology. There is also a display of the building techniques to be seen in the 400 or so buildings of special architectural/historic interest in the town. Note especially the intricate plasterwork (parqueting) of the timber-framed buildings and the various types of brickwork (mostly Georgian). The best examples are along the High Street, Bridge Street and in The Rows off the Market Square.

The remains of the C11/C12 castle keep and the church (largely C15 with a lavishly designed interior) are adjacent to the Museum.

AFTERNOON

GUIDED WALK

- 14.00 Meet the guides outside Tourist Information Centre, Market Square

The walk will take about two hours, leaving plenty of time to visit the museum/castle and church which are not included in the tour. We have been promised three guides, so at least one party can cater for the less agile walkers.

- 17.15 Board the coach to collect the rest of the party from Audley End

AUDLEY END

- 14.15 Board the coach for the short drive to Audley End
- 17.30 Meet coach for journey home (via a pub somewhere)

EVENING

- 20.00 Arrive back in Maidstone

MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 1989

Firstly, may I apologise for the delay in distributing this newsletter, especially after the long summer break. Secondly, may I welcome the considerable number of members who have recently joined the Group (mainly by virtue of the exhibition in Maidstone Museum).

Meetings are held in the Parish Room, St. Francis Church, Maidstone starting at 7.30 pm. St. Francis Church is at the north (County Hall) end of Week Street, more or less opposite Maidstone East station. Walk towards Grove House, down the "drive" between the church and Stonham's the Chemists, at the house turn right, through a gate and follow the alley-way. The entrance to the hall is round the corner, on the right. The best place to park your car is in County Road. After the meetings (usually about 9.00 pm), discussions are continued in a nearby hostelry.

DIARY

SEPTEMBER 15th

Mr Trevor Anderson, the Canterbury Archaeological Trust's resident palaeo-osteologist (or 'bone man') will give an illustrated talk, entitled 'The Osteo-Archaeology of St. Gregory's, Canterbury'.

Few topics provoke as much interest as the study of human burials and remains. CAT have been excavating the site of St. Gregory's Priory, Northgate, since June 1988 and Mr Anderson has examined literally hundreds of burials from the adjacent graveyard. His work has uncovered a wealth of information about the burial practices, mortality rates, causes of death, diet, etc of the people of Canterbury from 11th to 16th century.

OCTOBER 20th

Mr Michael Ocock, one of the Group's founder members, will give a talk entitled 'The Archaeology of Historic Buildings around Maidstone'.

Mr Ocock is a respected authority on the recording and researching of historic buildings and his talk is particularly well-timed, given the Group's recent excavations in the town (see 'Digging News').

NOVEMBER 17th

Miss Jessica Vale, a curator at the K.C.C. Museums Service at West Malling, will give a talk about her work which involves the curation and researching of the wide variety of archaeological and historical objects that come to the Service from the County's Museums.

PLEASE NOTE, the Group's Christmas meeting/party will be held on Friday, December 15th, so please try to keep that date free.

EXCURSIONS

I have been trying to arrange a guided tour of Aylesford Priory for a Saturday afternoon in late September. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, details have not been finalised. If you are interested in this 'mini-outing', and cannot attend the September meeting, please drop me a line and I will notify you of the date, time, etc. Transport can be arranged if necessary.

M.A.A.G. NEWS

The annual outing to Essex was, remarkably, blessed with fine weather (if anything it was a little too hot!). Everything went to plan (more or less), even the 'double-header' in the afternoon with one group visiting Audley End House and another exploring Saffron Walden. If anyone wants to volunteer to organise next year's outing, please let me know!

The exhibition in Maidstone Museum in the early summer resulted in the recruitment of over twenty new members and the Group now has over 100 subscribers.

Congratulations to those younger members who have passed their exams and plan to pursue a career in archaeology. Hopefully, they will keep in touch and pass on their experiences to the next generation.

DIGGING NEWS

Digging has continued throughout the summer (notwithstanding Albert's frequent absences). Excavations at Snodland have been completed and the report is in preparation. The future of the site is still in some doubt.

During the summer, some of the digging team helped at the CAT dig at St. Gregory's Priory, Canterbury. At the time the site was in imminent danger of becoming an underground car park. However, the developers have granted an extension to be reviewed on a monthly basis.

About six weeks ago, at the request of Maidstone Borough Council/Maidstone Museum, the Group recommenced excavations at the Old Palace in Maidstone. Work earlier in the year had centred on the 'North Garden'. Our attention is now focussed on the 'South Garden' (which is not usually accessible to the public). The aim of the work is to identify the former ground levels and to unravel the phases of construction of the extant walls ('Dungeon', 'Keep' and the churchyard walls (apparently there is evidence of early Norman work, see Arch Cant 24 (1900) 91-5). The MBC plan to convert the 'Dungeon' into a garden shop with adjoining 'period gardens'. Our work will aid the reconstruction of the area.

Excavations and augering have uncovered spreads of mortar (floors?) and some foundations of walls. It is planned to make a detailed survey of the existing walls. Anyone with any experience of such building recording work, or anyone with some artistic talent (and lots of patience!) please contact me. Work will continue for a few more weeks at least.

The antler pick from the Museum of Rural Life has finally been carbon-14 dated, yielding an Iron Age date (consistent with the fragments of pottery also found). A report on the antler has also been received. Further excavations to determine the extent of the ditch found in 1987/88 are likely in the autumn.

Details of current excavations will be given at the meetings. Alternatively, ring Albert Daniels (Maidstone 674494) or myself.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A red cross in the margin indicates that, according to my records, your subscription for 1989/90 is unpaid. Please forward it (Family £ 1-50, Adult £ 1-00, Junior 50p) or let me know if you wish to resign from the Group. As agreed at AGM 1989, the Group's current membership list is enclosed.

COURSES AND OTHER EVENTS

Evening courses commencing 4th October (Wed 7.00 - 9.00 pm):
'Before Civilisation (Prehistoric Archaeology in S. Britain', Anthony Ward : Aylesford.
'Roman Britain', Dr Tom Blagg : Adult Education Centre, Gillingham.

CKA conference : 'Urban Archaeology in SE England', Sat 18th November (2.15 - 5.30 pm)
Christ Church College, Canterbury. £ 1-00 (SAE to 5 Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham).

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MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 1989

This newsletter is, I am afraid, a rather "last minute" affair. I am in the process of arranging an alternative venue for the Group's meetings next year and, for one reason and another, things are in a state of flux. However, I did not want anyone to miss out on the Christmas meeting THIS FRIDAY.

May I take this opportunity to wish all M.A.A.G. members a Happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

DIARY

DECEMBER 15th

**** CHRISTMAS PARTY - THIS FRIDAY ****

The December meeting will be held in the Parish Room, St. Francis Church, Week Street, Maidstone on FRIDAY, 15th DECEMBER at 7.30 pm.

Our Chairman, Albert Daniels, will give a "Review of the Year", as well as presenting what he describes as "Archaeological Twenty Questions"!!! Apparently, there will be a book or two to be given as prizes.

In addition, I shall give a brief illustrated talk of some of the archaeological sites I visited whilst in Ireland in September. If anyone else would like to show some holiday slides then please bring them along.

As is customary for our Christmas meeting there will be the usual party. Any member who would like to contribute food and/or a bottle please bring it along.

M.A.A.G. NEWS

At the November meeting, I announced that I was seeking a new venue for meetings in 1990. Our current haunt, which we have used since September 1988, has a number of shortcomings - of which members will be all too aware of.

Unfortunately, nothing has yet been finalised, and without dates engaging speakers is slightly problematical. If possible meetings will continue to be held on the third Friday in the month. However, if it is necessary to consider switching evenings, the pros and cons will be discussed at the next meeting.

A further (!) newsletter will be distributed as soon as details of the programme for the new year have been finalised.

DIGGING NEWS

The Group's "dig" at the Old Palace, Maidstone has been completed and backfilled. During the course of the excavation, a number of features were uncovered - notably the south wall of the Norman building adjacent to the Dungeon. A report is in preparation. Restoration work is expected to take about two years and it hoped that we will return to undertake further investigations in the future. Many thanks to all those who have participated in the Group's "digs" this year.

This winter, for a change, it has been decided not to maintain a "full time" dig. Instead, the opportunity is being taken to complete the processing (i.e. washing, marking, sorting) of pottery and other finds from the Group's recent excavations. Anyone who would like to come along to Albert's house on a Sunday morning to help would be most welcome. In addition, some outdoor work is planned (e.g. fieldwalking, surveys, rambles, etc) on an irregular basis.

If you are interested in helping with the finds or in the reconnaissance "missions", then please give Albert (Maidstone 674494) or myself a ring.

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