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# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

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## JANUARY NEWSLETTER 1990

"Last minute" newsletters seem to be becoming a habit which I must rid myself of!! The first event, of what I hope is a varied and interesting programme, is this FRIDAY, 19th JANUARY. In addition to the usual monthly meetings, there are details of two excursions overleaf.

As members will be aware, I have been investigating the possibility of finding another venue for the Group's monthly meetings. Attempts to satisfy the necessary criteria (central Maidstone, Friday evenings, preferably room for 40+) have so far failed. Consequently, our meetings will continue to be held in the Parish Room, St. Francis Church commencing at 7.30 pm. The matter will be reassessed at AGM 1990 in April. In the meantime, if anyone has any suggestions please let me know. Members will be delighted to learn that the calor gas heaters in the Parish Room are now operational!!

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

JANUARY 19th

\*\*\*\* ROMAN SILVER AND THE MILDENHALL TREASURE \*\*\*\*

Mr Kenneth Whitehorn, who was a full-time lecturer at the British Museum for 14 years before retirement, will give an illustrated talk, entitled 'Roman Silver and the Mildenhall Treasure'.

The celebrated 'Mildenhall Treasure', discovered at Mildenhall (Suffolk) in 1942 (and now in the British Museum), is the largest hoard of Roman silver plate yet found in Britain. It is of fourth century date and includes over thirty pieces, many intricately decorated with a variety of both Christian and pagan motifs.

FEBRUARY 16th

\*\*\*\* RECENT EXCAVATIONS IN WINCHESTER \*\*\*\*

Mr Alan Ward M.A., currently with the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, will give an illustrated talk on 'Recent Excavations in Winchester'.

Famous for its cathedral and public school, Winchester has a long and interesting history. Capital of Saxon Wessex from 519 AD, it developed on the ruins of the Roman city of Venta Belgarum and the earlier capital of the Celtic Belgae. With intensive redevelopment since World War II, excavations have discovered much about the Roman and mediaeval cities.

MARCH 16th

\*\*\*\* THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY \*\*\*\*

Mr Paul Oldham will give a talk on the work of the Council for British Archaeology.

It was agreed at the first meeting of the Group (June 1969) that it should be affiliated to the CBA, whose meetings are regularly attended by our representative, Mr Clive Law. Mr Oldham as treasurer of the CBA, is in an ideal position to explain the role of the CBA in British archaeology as a whole and its relevance to local amateur groups, such as our own.

PLEASE NOTE, the Group's Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 20th April in the Parish Room, St. Francis Church at 7.30 pm.

## EXCURSIONS

JANUARY 28th

\*\*\*\* SUNDAY RAMBLE AROUND SANDLING \*\*\*\*

On Sunday morning, Albert Daniels will lead a gentle ramble around the Sandling area of Maidstone.

Those wishing attend should meet in the car park of the Cobtree Manor Country Park, Forstal Road (opposite Sandall and Perkins) at 10.00 am.

MARCH 11th

\*\*\*\* SUNDAY EXCURSION TO HASTINGS \*\*\*\*

On Sunday, 11th March there will be an excursion to Hastings. This will include visits to the Borough Museum and Art Gallery and (hopefully) the Shipwreck Heritage Centre. The latter does not normally open until Easter, however (given sufficient numbers) it is possible that arrangements can be made for it to open for our visit. At about 16.00 pm we will travel along the coast to Bulverhithe, where the tide should be sufficiently low for us to visit the wreck of the 'Amsterdam'. This was a Dutch East Indiaman, run ashore by its mutinous crew in 1749, on its maiden voyage from Amsterdam to Java. The wreck, of which about two-thirds remains, is being excavated by an Anglo-Dutch team during the summer months with the view to eventually raising it.

Those wishing to come along should meet at 11.15 am in the 'Music Centre' car park in College Road, Maidstone - where any "car sharing" can be sorted out. Lunch will be taken on our arrival in Hastings. For the 'Amsterdam' visit, PLEASE bring wellington/waders or be prepared for a paddle !! Further details will be announced at forthcoming meetings.

## LETTERS

Mr Michael Ocock, who gave a talk last October on 'The Archaeology of Historic Buildings around Maidstone', has asked me to publish the following note:

'Since taking part in my first excavation near Kits Coty when still at school, I have maintained a close interest in the historic Blue Bell Hill area. This part of mid-Kent seems destined to be "developed" during the new few years and I am becoming increasingly concerned that much interesting material will be lost or overlooked when the inevitable urgent field work and excavation takes place. My aim is to see that there is a body of local knowledge relating to the early history and archaeology of this unique locality readily available to those who eventually undertake the more intensive investigations. I have accumulated information from libraries, museums, archives, and occasional field trips. There is still much to do but having collected material for some time I now wish to concentrate on interpretation. If Group members know of anyone working in this area or anyone who might be interested in actively participating, would they please write to me at 2 Voodley Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9BN'

## DIGGING NEWS

As previously reported, the Group is not maintaining a "full time" dig this winter. Instead, Sunday mornings are being spent on processing the pottery and other finds from the Group's recent excavations. So far, about 60% of the finds from Snodland have been processed to level 1 (i.e. washed, marked and sorted). Reports on the Old Palace and Snodland digs are progressing.

If you would like to come along to Albert's house on a Sunday morning you would be most welcome. Albert's address is 39, Holtye Crescent, Maidstone (turn into Park Way from the Loose Road (A229), Holtye Crescent is about 200 yards on the left). It is probably a good idea to give Albert (Maidstone 674494) or myself a ring beforehand.

Before Christmas, a small team assisted the Lower Medway Group in attempting to find a Roman site on Higham Marshes following the discovery of Roman tile and pottery in the spoil from new drainage ditches. Bert Terry was able to try out his "one man" resistivity equipment which performed very well. Dowsing was also used and located a piece of samian and a cremation urn!!

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

APRIL NEWSLETTER 1990

PLEASE READ THIS

After much talk about the possibility of finding another venue for the Group's meetings, the time has come to 'take the plunge'. It has been decided to hold the April and May meetings in the Function Room at The Arches Inn (formerly 'The Mitre'), Market Buildings. The room is used for conferences, seminars, etc and is superbly equipped - comfortable chairs, projection screen/overhead projector/TV, etc. There is also a small bar area!!

The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall). The entrance to the Function Room (which is prominently signed) is separate from that to the 'pub', being at the Kent Hall/Arcade end of the building. I will ensure that there will be someone (probably me!) on duty outside to give directions.

It is difficult to advise on car parking. Those familiar with the town centre should have no problem in finding a suitable spot somewhere reasonably close. There are a number of car parks within 200 yards at most - e.g. Palace Avenue (near the Old Palace) or Havock Lane (opposite the Museum).

Meetings will continue to be held on Friday evenings commencing at 7.30pm.

A decision as to the suitability of the venue can only be made after we have given it a try, but, as a contingency measure, I intend to keep our options at St. Francis Church open in the meantime.

DIARY

APRIL 20th

\*\*\*\* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1990 \*\*\*\*

The April meeting, to be held in the Function Room, The Arches Inn, Market Buildings, Maidstone on Friday, 20th April at 7.30pm, will be the Group's Annual General Meeting.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of AGM 1989
3. Chairman's Report
4. Honorary Secretary's Report
5. Honorary Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers
7. Election of Auditor
8. Reports and Election of Representatives
9. Future Activities (Annual Outing)
10. Any Other Business

Nominations, resolutions and additional items for the agenda should (if possible) reach me by Thursday, 19th April.

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

PLEASE try to give some thought to possible itineraries for the Annual Outing in July. If anyone would like to help with the planning/organising of the outing this year I would be very grateful.

Following the formal business (approx 8.15pm), it is hoped that there will be the opportunity to view some videos of archaeological interest. If you have any slides or other 'exhibits' of interest to members please bring them along.

MAY 18th

\*\*\*\* VANISHED MAIDSTONE \*\*\*\*

Mr FL Palmer will give a talk called 'Vanished Maidstone'.

This is an edited version of a similar talk given to the Group by Mr Palmer some five years ago. However, given the number of new members since then (and our own little jaunt around the town outlined below) I think it warrants a 'repeat'. For the uninitiated, this fascinating talk is based around a collection of slides taken by Mr Palmer over a thirty year period of those parts of Maidstone long since gone to make way for roads, superstores and car parks. Come, along and see how good your memory is!!

#### EXCURSIONS

APRIL 29th

\*\*\*\* SUNDAY "PHOTOGRAPHIC" WALK AROUND MAIDSTONE \*\*\*\*

On Sunday morning, Albert Daniels will lead a walk around the centre of Maidstone. The aim of this little expedition is to record photographically some of the "unusual" sights of Maidstone which are fast disappearing with the development of the town.

Those wishing to attend should meet in the Brunswick Street public car park at 10.00am. This is off Upper Stone Street (follow signs to Hastings or Loose (A229), to the right, about 100 yards past the Knightrider Street/Mote Road junction (behind a Total garage).

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1990/91 became due on the 1st April. The rates will remain unchanged from those of last year:

FAMILY    £1-50

ADULT    £1-00

JUNIOR   £0-50

Subscriptions for the coming year should be sent to me (please make cheques payable to M.A.A.G.). A receipt will be sent with a subsequent newsletter.

Having recently acquired a new computer, I have created a new 'membership database' to record names, addresses and subscription details. I would be grateful if members could verify that their entry in the enclosed membership list is correct.

PLEASE remember to advise me of any change of address (or if you wish to resign from the Group).

#### DIGGING NEWS

There is little to report on the "digging" front. Our "winter break" is fast becoming a "spring break" as well!!

Over the past few months, all of the finds from the Snodland and Rochester "digs" have been processed to level 1 (i.e. washed, marked and sorted). The bulk of this work has been done by Albert and a few stalwarts (many thanks) on Sunday mornings. A report on the our excavations at the Old Palace has been submitted to Maidstone Borough Council.

Albert has informed me that he plans to recommence hostilities (probably at the Iron Age site at the Museum of Kent Rural Life, Sandling) towards the end of April. In the meantime, it may be worth considering taking a 'task force' to Canterbury or to lend a hand to the Lower Medway Group. Further news will be given at the AGM.

#### OTHER EVENTS

Saturday 28th April : K.A.S. 'Country Social Evening' at Brattles Farm Museum, Staplehurst (museum tour/cider/barbecue). £4-00. Contact Margaret Lawrence (0622 871945).

Saturday, 12th May : K.H.F. 'Sandwich - The Medieval Gateway to Europe' at The Guildhall, Sandwich (one day conference with afternoon tour of the town). £5-00. Apply Hon. Sec., 127 Snodhurst Avenue, Chatham, Kent ME5 0TN.

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

## **MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

### **SUNDAY, 6TH MAY - EXCURSION TO RICHBOROUGH CASTLE**

On Sunday, 6th May there will be an afternoon excursion to Richborough Castle, near Sandwich, to coincide with a display of "Armour, Weaponry and Battle Tactics of the Imperial Roman Army" to be presented by the Ermine Street Guard. Armoured Legionaries and Auxiliaries in authentic costume will parade and demonstrate the tactics used by the Roman Army (and Prison Officers!!).

This is a rather last minute affair!! A few others and myself are going anyway - anyone else is free to join us.

To allow flexibility, you may want to take a picnic and tour round the area first, I suggest we meet up at Richborough (see enclosed map and directions below). If you require a lift, then please give me a ring. In any event, if you are coming along, then please let me know so that we can look out for you.

#### **HOW TO GET THERE**

Richborough Castle is 1.5 miles north of Sandwich (OS Map 179, grid ref TR324602).

Take the A257 east from Canterbury to Sandwich. About 2 miles east of the village of Ash is a major roundabout (see map). Continue east (signposted Sandwich), after 0.25 mile you will pass a white windmill on the left. About 0.25 mile further, on the left, is Richborough Road which leads to the castle (about a mile). If you miss the turning, I suggest you execute an immediate U-turn as Sandwich is a maze of narrow streets with a nasty one-way system.

#### **ON ARRIVAL**

The castle is in the care of English Heritage - who are organising the event.

Attendants will be supervising car parking. Hopefully they will have been advised to allow us to park as a group, so inform them that you are with the M.A.A.G. party and follow their directions.

Admission charges are as follows (members of English Heritage FREE):

ADULT £3.00 CONCESSION (OAP/UB40) £2.00 CHILD £1.00

If there are 10 or more in the party, then I should be able to negotiate a 15% discount. I will endeavour to be at "the gate" to meet you.

We will assemble by the entrance to the museum building at 3.00 pm.

This will enable us to have a look round before the 4.00 pm display by the "Roman Army". I have prepared some "handouts" and will attempt to give a guided tour of the site for those who are interested.

RICHARD WEEKS (Tel: Maidstone 675981)

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## JUNE NEWSLETTER 1990

### PLEASE READ THIS

At the May meeting, it was agreed that future meetings should continue to be held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings commencing at 7.30pm (thanks Robin).

The 'Arches' is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall). The entrance to the Function Room (which is prominently signed) is separate from that to the 'pub', being at the Kent Hall/Arcade end of the building. There are plenty of car parks within 5 or so minutes walk, e.g. College Road, Mill Street or St. Faith's Street.

### DIARY

#### **JUNE 15th                      \*\*\*\*\* EXCAVATIONS AT A IRON AGE/ROMAN SITE IN DEAL \*\*\*\*\***

The June meeting, to be held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn on Friday, 15th June commencing at 7.30pm, will be the last monthly meeting before the summer break.

Mr Keith Parfitt, Director of the Dover Archaeological Group, will give a talk entitled 'Recent Excavations at the St. Richard's Road site, Deal'.

#### **JULY 21st                      \*\*\*\*\* ANNUAL OUTING TO WINCHESTER \*\*\*\*\***

There will be no meeting in Maidstone in July, instead there is the customary coach excursion - this year to Winchester (PTO for full details).

### **AUGUST**

There will be NO August meeting due to holidays.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1990/91 became due on the 1st April. Rates remain unchanged from last year:

FAMILY	£1-50	ADULT	£1-00	JUNIOR	£0-50
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Paid up members should find a receipt for their subscription enclosed. May I request that outstanding subscriptions be paid as soon as possible (cheques payable, to M.A.A.G.) so that an updated membership list can be sent out with the next newsletter in August.

PLEASE remember to advise me of any change of address (or if you wish to resign).

### M.A.A.G. NEWS

The Group's 21st AGM, held on 20th April, was attended by 23 members. Although the business was not concluded until almost 9.00pm, there is little to report here that has not been discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. The existing officers and representatives were re-elected unopposed, although it was noted that Albert may be undertaking a university course from September.

On 6th May, 17 members attended a hastily arranged excursion to Richborough Castle to see the Ermine Street Guard demonstrate the weaponry and battle tactics of the Roman Army.

### MEMBERS DISCOUNT ON SHIRE PUBLICATIONS

Members will be familiar with the handbooks produced by Shire Publications covering all aspects of archaeology and history. A discount of 15% may be obtained by ordering any of their titles through the Group. Please contact Albert or myself for a full list of titles or for further details.

### DIGGING NEWS

The key word here is FRUSTRATION!! Apologies to all those suffering 'cold turkey' from lack of Sunday toil over a hot trowel or wishing to flee their parched gardens!

For the past couple of months, Albert has been seeking permission to investigate a number of sites in the area - acting on information received (thanks Paul) and local knowledge. This included a meeting with the County Archaeologist (who may address us in the autumn).

Excavations have now commenced in earnest at the Long Market site in Canterbury. It is likely that in the absence of a site of our own we shall lend a hand here. Plans will be made at the forthcoming June meeting. If you are unable to attend and fear that you may be overlooked for "digging" duties, please drop me a line.

#### ANNUAL OUTING TO WINCHESTER - SATURDAY. 21st JULY

It was decided at the AGM that this year's coach excursion should be to Winchester on Saturday, July 21st (sorry Margaret). Alan Ward, for whom the city is almost a second home and who recently gave an excellent talk on recent excavations there, has kindly agreed to act as our guide.

Winchester, the capital city of Hampshire, boasts over 2000 years of history within a remarkably small area and the following can only give an outline of the many places to see.

It was one of the largest towns in England in Roman times (Venta Belgarum), King Alfred reigned here (it was capital of Wessex and Angle-Land) and succeeding kings held their courts in Winchester until the 13th Century.

The cathedral (£1-50 donation) is the city's crowning glory (consecrated in 1093), built to replace the earlier Saxon Old Minster of which St. Swithun was bishop from 852-862. In the Cathedral Close are several interesting mediaeval buildings, including the Deanery and Pilgrims' Hall. Wolvesey Palace, the main residence of the bishop throughout the Middle Ages, was largely built in the 12th Century (English Heritage, 85p). Nearby is Winchester College (founded in 1382) and Jane Austen's house.

Most of the castle (built by William I) was destroyed in the Civil War but the Great Hall (meeting place of the first English parliaments, scene of many famous trials - including the Bloody Assize of Judge Jeffreys - and home of the famous Round Table) remains.

In addition to the City Museum, West Gate Museum (20p) & the Heritage Centre (80p), which trace the city's history, there are several regimental museums, as well as the City Mill (National Trust, 50p).

One further attraction which may not appeal to the purist, but is a bit of fun, is the 'Crusaders Experience'. This is a 30-40 minute 'living history' trip back to the 12th Century with sound effects (via earphones) and some very clever special effects. Normal charges are £2-70 (Adults), £1-90 (Children/OAPs) - pre-booking prices (for 20 or more) are £2-10/£1-60 - so please indicate (but not pay) when booking if you would like to travel back to 1191!!

To accommodate a party of 40 or more (hopefully), it is intended that Alan will lead two separate tours in the morning and afternoon. Both will cover more or less the same ground although the morning tour will include (weather permitting) an ascent of St. Catherine's Hill (not recommended for the less agile). This will leave at least half the day for shopping and exploring at leisure the Cathedral, various museums and other attractions. Both Robin Cook and I have made recent reconnaissance visits and a 'brochure' of maps, notes on eating places, sites to visit, etc will be compiled from the 'bumph' we have collected.

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

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

The cost of the trip (coach only - any profits will be used to discount admission charges listed above where possible) will be:

ADULTS £ 7-00      SENIOR CITIZENS £ 5-00      CHILDREN £ 3-50

Please contact me to book places (cheques payable to M.A.A.G.) or for further information.

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

# **MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP SATURDAY, 21ST JULY - ANNUAL OUTING TO WINCHESTER**

## **ITINERARY**

This itinerary is intended purely as a guide - more detailed plans will be made on our arrival in Winchester.

### **MORNING**

- 09.00      Leave Maidstone
- 11.00      Arrive in Winchester  
             Disembark in the Broadway (by King Alfred statue)  
             Split into two groups (A and B)
- 11.15      GROUP A will join Alan Ward for a walk along the water meadows and an ascent of St. Catherine's Hill (Iron Age hill fort), followed by a tour of the area around the Cathedral
- GROUP B have the opportunity to visit places of interest at their leisure or to explore the city (and shops).  
             (See the selected list of places to see or visit overleaf - those included in the afternoon tour will be decided before we disperse)
- 13.30      Lunch
- 13.45      I will be at the coach stop in The Broadway to 'field' any enquiries or problems

### **AFTERNOON**

- 14.30      GROUP A do their own thing (as Group B above)
- GROUP B meet up in Abbey Gardens (by coach stop) to join Alan for a tour of the area around the Cathedral and the High Street
- 17.15      Board coach in the Broadway for the journey home (via a pub somewhere)
- 20.00      Arrive back in Maidstone

After dropping us off in The Broadway, the coach will be parked in the Worthy Lane to the north of the city, near the railway station. PLEASE ensure that you take everything you need with you.



## **PLACES TO VISIT**

Times and admission charges are correct to the best of my knowledge. Some of the places listed below will be included (time permitting) during the guided walks.

The Tourist Information Centre is in the Guildhall, The Broadway.

### **CATHEDRAL**

until 6.30pm (£1-50 voluntary contribution towards maintenance)

The Treasury (10.30am - 12.30 pm and 2.30pm - 4.30pm) (free)

Triforium Gallery (10.30am - 1.00pm and 2.30pm - 4.30pm) (£1-00)

The Crypt (tour for public at 2.30pm - if not flooded!!)

### **GREAT HALL**

(Round Table/Queen Eleanor's Garden)

10.00am - 5.00pm (free)

### **WINCHESTER COLLEGE, College Street**

10.00am - 6.00pm (free - access limited to grounds only and chapel)

Guided tours for public at 2.00pm & 3.15pm (Adult £2.00 : OAP/Child £1.50)

### **CITY MILL, Bridge Street (National Trust)**

1.45pm - 4.45pm (50p)

### **CITY MUSEUM, The Square**

10.00am - 5.00pm (free)

### **WESTGATE MUSEUM, top of High Street**

10.00am - 5.00pm (Adult 20p : OAP/Child 10p)

### **HERITAGE CENTRE, 52 Upper Brook Street**

10.00am - 12.30am and 2.00pm - 4.00pm (Exhibition only 25p)

(Exhibition & Audio/Visual Display Adult £1.00 : OAP/Child 50p)

STOP PRESS - a new exhibition on recent excavations in the city opens today which is expected to be attract great interest. The Centre is likely to be open through lunch and until 8.00 pm. Admission charges are also likely to be suspended.

### **WOLVESEY CASTLE, College Street (English Heritage)**

10.00am - 12.45 pm & 2.00pm - 6.00pm (Adult 85p : OAP 65p : child 40p)

(15% discount for those visiting with either of the tours)

### **ST. SWITHIN UPON KINGSGATE**

#### **THE CRUSADES EXPERIENCE, St. John's House, The Broadway**

10.00am - 5.00pm (Adult £2-70 : OAP/Child £1-90)

**CATHEDRAL CLOSE** (including The Deanery, Pilgrims' Hall, Cheyney Court)

**JANE AUSTEN'S HOUSE, College Street** (private house)

**CITY WALL, The Weirs** (path beside River Itchen)

**CITY CROSS, High Street**

**MILITARY MUSEUMS** (Royal Green Jackets, Royal Hampshire Regiment)

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 1990

Meetings will continue to be held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings commencing at 7.30pm.

The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall). The entrance to the Function Room (which is prominently signed) is separate from that to the 'pub', being at the Kent Hall/Arcade end of the building.

### DIARY

**SEPTEMBER 21st**

**\*\*\*\* HISTORY OF NEEDLEWORK TOOLS \*\*\*\***

Mrs Molly Proctor will give an illustrated talk entitled 'The History of Needlework Tools' which is based on her book which was published (by Batsford) this year.

This is NOT a talk about needlework (!) but rather on the history and development of needles, scissors, thimbles, etc and the influence of advances in manufacturing and technology. Mrs Proctor will also pass on some of her experiences in undertaking this historical research (e.g. dealing with libraries, museums/collectors, publishers, etc).

**OCTOBER 19th**

**\*\*\*\* ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THANET \*\*\*\***

David Perkins will give an illustrated talk on 'Recent Archaeological Developments on the Isle of Thanet'.

Mr Perkins is the Director of the Trust for Thanet Archaeology. This was formed in 1988 (replacing the now defunct Isle of Thanet Archaeological Unit) to investigate and protect the archaeological heritage (spanning some 6000 years) of this small corner of Kent.

**NOVEMBER 16th**

**\*\*\*\* NORTHAMPTON - THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MEDIAEVAL TOWN \*\*\*\***

The County Archaeologist, Dr John Williams, of the Planning Department, Kent County Council will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Northampton - The Development of a Mediaeval Town'.

No doubt Dr Williams will be glad to answer any questions regarding his role as Kent's long-awaited County Archaeologist.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

DECEMBER 14th - Christmas 'Party'

JANUARY 18th - Mr Tomlin (Maidstone Borough Architect) on 'The Old Palace, Maidstone'

FEBRUARY 15th - speaker to be announced

### EXCURSION

**OCTOBER 14th**

**\*\*\*\* BATTLE OF HASTINGS REFOUGHT \*\*\*\***

On Sunday, October 14th English Heritage are staging a spectacular re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings at Battle Abbey. Hundreds of Normans and Saxons, including archers, slingers and 30 mounted knights will recreate the battle phase by phase.

Those interested in joining a party to attend the 'battle' (possibly including a preliminary tour of the village and Abbey) should contact me or (better still) come along to the September meeting when further details will be given.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1990/91 became due on the 1st April. Rates remain unchanged from last year:

FAMILY	£1-50	ADULT	£1-00	JUNIOR	£0-50
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A red cross in the margin indicates that your subscription is unpaid.

PLEASE remember to advise me of any change of address (or if you wish to resign).

## M.A.A.G. NEWS

Some members may be unaware of the death on Allen Grove in July. Mr Grove was the Group's first Chairman in 1969 and his passing is a sad loss.

The annual outing to Winchester was again blessed(!) with hot sunny weather. Many thanks to Alan Ward for his untiring work as our guide and to Robin Cook for helping to organise the trip. If the person who left a children's paperback about King Arthur on the coach would like to contact me I will forward it them.

## MEMBERS DISCOUNT ON SHIRE PUBLICATIONS

Members will be familiar with the handbooks produced by Shire Publications covering all aspects of archaeology and history. A discount of 15% may be obtained by ordering any of their titles through the Group. Please contact Albert or myself for a full list of titles or for further details.

## DIGGING HEWS

Little 'digging' has occurred since the last newsletter, although some further work has been undertaken recently at the Cobtree Museum of Rural Life on our Iron Age ditch. A trial trench unfortunately drew a blank but further surveying work will be carried out in the next week or so.

## COURSES

It's enrolment time for Adult Education courses. The following are just a selection:

ARCHAEOLOGY: ROMAN BRITAIN AND THE WESTERN EMPIRE - Tom Blagg (WEA course)  
Weds 7.00-9.00pm (10 meetings from 3rd October) at Aylesford School, Teapot Lane (£24.00)  
Contact: Thelma Willcox (Maidstone 687703)

For the following courses, contact the Adult Education Centre (Maidstone 752165):

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF KENT - John Rhodes  
Thurs 1.30-3.30pm (10 meetings from 4th October) at Maidstone Museum (£29.00)  
(Opportunity to handle & discuss objects from museum collections. 18 places only!!)

DISCOVERING THE HISTORY AROUND YOU - Julia Page  
Tues 10.00-12.00am (10 meetings from 2nd October) at Cornwallis Evening Centre (£29.00)

BEGINNING IN LOCAL HISTORY - Roger Thornburgh  
Tues 7.30-9.30pm (10 meetings from 2nd October) at Cornwallis Evening Centre (£21.75)  
(With particular reference to south Maidstone)

## OTHER EVENTS

Saturday, 20th October - 27th Conference of Building Recorders at Village Hall, Charing (The Barn) commencing 2.15pm. Free (no ticket required).

Saturday, 17th November - KAS one day conference 'Archaeological work in Kent in the Eighties' at the Spa Hotel, Tonbridge. Details from Dr AP Detsicas, Dunelm House, Main Road, Icklesham, Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4AR

Saturday, 1st December - KAS Christmas Buffet Lunch at St. George's Hall, Chatham Dockyard. Tickets £6.50 (pre-booked) from Margaret Lawrence (East Peckham 871945).

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

## MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

### SUNDAY, 14th OCTOBER - BATTLE OF HASTINGS RE-ENACTMENT

I have enclosed a copy of the fact sheet produced by English Heritage for the event - please heed the 'General Notes' regarding suitable clothing and footwear.

#### HOW TO GET THERE

From Maidstone, the best route is probably via the A229 (through Hawkhurst) and A21. Turn right at Johns Cross on to A2100 to Battle.

Enclosed is a map of the town showing the approximate location of the car park (follow the RAC signs).

#### ON ARRIVAL

English Heritage are providing free parking on site, off Powdermill Lane to the south of Battle (follow the RAC signs). See enclosed map.

I have made an made a pre-booking to avoid us having to queue for admission.

If you have not already paid me (I will collect money on the day), the rates are as follows (including 15% group discount):

ADULT	£ 3.40	CONCESSION (OAP/UB40)	£ 2.55	CHILD	£ 1.70
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Since I will have our group ticket, this means that we must meet up to enter en masse. The event is likely to be very popular and it will be advisable to allow plenty of time for the journey (especially through Battle to the car park).

I suggest we meet up at 12.45 pm at the 'straight-through' admission point leading from the car parking area. The 'battle' is due to commence at 2.00 pm.

We should then have sufficient time to find a suitable vantage point and (possibly) to look around the Abbey.

-S

I am planning on attending the 'practice' on Saturday - when I will know more about the organisation of parking and admission.

RICHARD WEEKS (Tel: Maidstone 675981)

# **MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

## **DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 1990**

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm.

The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall). The entrance to the Function Room (which is prominently signed) is separate from that to the 'pub', being at the Kent Hall/Arcade end of the building. To prevent those attending the disco in the main bar from gaining access by this entrance, the management have requested that it is bolted once the meeting starts. Members arriving late can, of course, still gain admittance via the main entrance.

May I wish all M.A.A.G. members a Happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

### **DIARY**

#### **DECEMBER 14th**

#### **\*\*\*\* CHRISTMAS PARTY \*\*\*\***

Robin Cook is kindly arranging for a TV and video machine to be available. If at all possible, a video of the recent Battle of Hastings re-enactment will be shown. Failing this I have a considerable collection of archaeological videos which I can bring along.

Albert Daniels has volunteered, if required, to show some slides of the Group's early 'digs'.

As is customary for our Christmas meeting there will be the usual party. Please feel free to contribute food and/or a bottle. However, owing to the venue, please be DISCRETE when bringing it along. I am counting on everyone to consume all of the evidence or, at least, take it home afterwards!

#### **JANUARY 18th**

#### **\*\*\*\* THE OLD PALACE, MAIDSTONE \*\*\*\***

Mr Tony Tomlin, Borough Architect with the Maidstone Borough Council, will give an illustrated talk on 'The Old Palace, Maidstone'.

I am sure that all members are aware that the 'Old Palace' (or 'Bishop's Palace' if you prefer), in Mill Street is undergoing an extensive and costly 'refit'. Mr Tomlin will discuss the history and construction of this building in the light of the new evidence that this work has uncovered.

In 1989 the Group was engaged by the Maidstone Borough Council/Maidstone Museum to undertake some excavations to identify former ground levels and phases of construction of the Norman 'Keep' adjacent to the 'Dungeon'. This work will be completed next year (see DIGGING NEWS).

#### **FEBRUARY 15th**

#### **\*\*\*\* ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE A27 BRIGHTON BY-PASS \*\*\*\***

Mrs Maureen Bennel, a Field Officer with the Field Unit of the Institute of Archaeology, London, will give a talk entitled 'Archaeological Discoveries on the Route of the A27 Brighton By-Pass'.

#### **MARCH 15th**

#### **\*\*\*\* SCIENCE IN ARCHAEOLOGY \*\*\*\***

John Evans, BSc will give a talk on 'Science in Archaeology'. Mr Evans is a Lecturer in Archaeological Science at the Polytechnic of East London.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

About 80% of members have paid their subscriptions for the current year (1990/91) which became due on the 1st April. I will be issuing an up-to-date membership list with the next newsletter in late February (prior to the AGM in April). If you have yet to pay your subscription then please do so or let me know if you wish to resign from the Group. The current rates are as follows:

FAMILY	£1-50	ADULT	£1-00	JUNIOR	£0-50
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Due to the ever increasing cost of producing and posting newsletters it is likely that the subscriptions will have to rise in April.

## M.A.A.G. NEWS

As they say, first the bad news! The Group's entry for the Pitt-Rivers Award at this year's British Archaeological Awards failed to win first prize for our work on the Roman Villa at Snodland. The good news? The Group has received as a runners up prize a cheque for £250 as a contribution towards the post-excavation work. May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Group, to thank all those who, over many years, put in the hard work that made this award possible. As you will see below, that is not the end of the story!

The 'armchair archaeologists' amongst us will, no doubt, have noted the current spate of TV programmes about archaeology. For those who don't avidly study the Radio and TV Times, the details are as follows:

'Down To Earth' on C4, Tuesdays 8.00-8.30pm, is a weekly magazine programme presented by Dr Catherine Hills which explores archaeological current affairs and recent discoveries.

'Discoveries Underwater' on BBC2, Saturdays 1.55-2.45pm, is a series on underwater archaeology first shown in 1988. A recent programme included film of the excavation of the Dutch East Indiaman 'Amsterdam' near Hastings.

'Now Then' on BBC1, Tuesdays 4.35-5.00pm, is a new six-part series in which two children visit real current excavations and meet a couple of 'time children' from the period under investigation.

On Sunday, October 14th a group of members and friends attended a re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings on the site (and anniversary) of the original battle.

## DIGGING NEWS

By a strange quirk of fate, the Snodland site is also in the news for another reason. On the 16th November, at a joint meeting between the Group, the County Archaeologist, English Heritage and wards (the developers), the future archaeological work required at the site was discussed.

The proposal is that, subject to costings, a professional archaeological group (with our assistance) will be invited to complete the necessary work, to be specified by English Heritage, with the object of producing a joint report. It is likely that fieldwork will commence around Easter, 1991.

Another 'chicken coming home to roost' is the Old Palace in Maidstone (coincidence again?). The Group has been invited to complete our investigations of the Norman building. This will probably be in October-November, 1991.

The C14-date of the antler discovered in the ditch at the Museum of Rural Life has recently been published in Archaeometry. The date, 725 BC (error of 30 years), is Iron Age and seems to be consistent with the associated pottery fragments.

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

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## APRIL NEWSLETTER 1991

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm.

The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall). The entrance to the Function Room (which is prominently signed) is separate from that to the 'pub', being at the Kent Hall/Arcade end of the building. Please note that this door will be bolted once the meeting starts. Members arriving late can, of course, still gain access through the bar via the main entrance.

### DIARY

**APRIL 26th**

**\*\*\*\* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1991 \*\*\*\***

The April meeting to be held in the Function Room, The Arches Inn, Market Buildings, Maidstone on Friday, 26th April at 7.30 pm, will be the Group's Annual General Meeting.

#### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of AGM 1990
3. Chairman's Report
4. Honorary Secretary's Report
5. Honorary Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers
7. Election of Auditor
8. Reports and Election of Representatives
9. Future Activities
10. Any Other Business

Nominations, resolutions and additional items for the agenda should reach me by Thursday, 25th April. All the Officers of the Group, as well as elected Representatives are, as usual, up for re-election.

PLEASE PLEASE give some thought to possible itineraries for the Annual Outing in July (provisional date - Saturday, 20th). If anyone would like to undertake (or help with) planning/organising the outing this year I would be very grateful.

Following the formal business, a video of last October's re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings will be shown. If anyone would like to bring along any slides or objects of interest then please do so.

**MAY 17th**

**\*\*\*\* SAXON SOCIETY IN THE 9TH CENTURY \*\*\*\***

Mr M. Chapman BA will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Saxon Society in the Ninth Century - Political and Social Aspects'.

Despite the rather dry title, this promises to be an exciting evening's entertainment. Mr Chapman is a member of the Wessex Dark Ages Society and will give the talk in Saxon costume! He will also be bringing along numerous items illustrating all aspects of life during the period, including replica weapons, armour and domestic items, such as pottery and a loom for members to examine.

**JUNE 21st**

**\*\*\*\* ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE A27 BRIGHTON BY-PASS \*\*\*\***

Mrs Maureen Bennel, a Field Officer with the Field Unit of the Institute of Archaeology, London, will give a talk entitled 'Archaeological Discoveries on the Route of the A27 Brighton By-Pass'. This lecture is re-arranged from February.

## EXCURSIONS

**SUNDAY, 28th APRIL                \*\*\*\* AFTERNOON VISIT TO CHATHAM/GILLINGHAM        \*\*\*\***

Visit to the Medway Heritage Centre, Chatham and the Royal Engineers Museum, Gillingham. Meet Dock Road car park (opposite Fort Amherst) at 2.00 pm.

**SATURDAY, 4th MAY                \*\*\*\* VISIT TO THE PETRIE EGYPTOLOGY MUSEUM        \*\*\*\***

The Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, University College has a special Saturday morning opening, sponsored by the Friends of the Petrie Museum. There is a talk on "Daily Life in Ancient Egypt". For £3-00 a permit may be obtained to photograph any of the exhibits. The rest of the day may be spent shopping or visiting the other sights (the British Museum is nearby). Travel arrangements yet to be decided - probably by train. Let me know if you are interested and I will forward further details.

**SUNDAY, 12th MAY                                \*\*\*\* BARMING WOODS WALK        \*\*\*\***

walk/ramble in Barming Woods. Meet 10.00 am at the War Memorial opposite The Bull Inn.

Please contact me for further details (e.g. map/directions, transport) for any of the above.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1991/92 became due on the 1st April. The rates will remain unchanged from those of last year:

FAMILY	£1-50	ADULT	£1-00	JUNIOR	£0-50
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Subscriptions should be sent to me (please make cheques payable to M.A.A.G.), alternatively bring it along to one of the meetings. A receipt will be sent with a subsequent newsletter. PLEASE PLEASE remember to advise me of any change of address (or if you wish to resign from the Group).

As mentioned in the last newsletter, I intend to raise the possibility of increasing next year's subscriptions to cover increased costs at the forthcoming AGM.

## M.A.A.G. NEWS

Future meetings of the Group will continue to be held in the Function Room at the Arches Inn (thanks to Robin Cook for his assistance).

Our resident electronics genius (Bert Terry) has fixed up an extension lead for the remote control on our slide projector. This worked perfectly at the March meeting.

## DIGGING NEWS

Future excavation at the Roman villa site at Snodland remains 'in limbo'. The stumbling block appears to be the cost of hiring a professional unit to undertake the work.

Details are awaited from Tony Tomlin of the Maidstone Borough Council regarding the laying of two pipe runs at the Old Palace in Maidstone. It is hoped that initial survey work will commence next month. Further information will be given at the AGM.

## OTHER EVENTS

Saturday, 18th May - K.A.S. Annual General Meeting, Clarendon School, Ramsgate.

Sunday, 19th May - Country Craft Fair, Museum of Rural Life, Sandling.

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



## **MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

### **SATURDAY. 4TH MAY - TRIP TO PETRIE MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY**

The Petrie Museum, Department of Egyptology, University College London, contains a large collection of ancient Egyptian antiquities derived chiefly from the excavations of W.M. Flinders Petrie, his colleagues and successors from 1884 to the present day. Its strength lies in the wealth of archaeological material exhibited in its excavated context to illustrate the development of Egyptian culture, technology and daily life from the Palaeolithic to Roman times. It is reputed to be the best teaching and research collection of its kind in any University.

On Saturday, 4th May the Friends of Petrie Museum are sponsoring a Saturday morning opening. The museum is normally only open on week days.

The museum is open from 10am to 12.30pm. As indicated on the accompanying sheet there is also a talk on "Daily Life in Ancient Egypt". There is no set time for the talk - it is dependent on numbers of those present - but it would be prudent that we attempt to arrive as soon after 10.00am as possible.

There is NO admission charge.

A permit must be obtained to take photographs of the exhibits (£3-00).

### **HOW TO GET THERE**

Travel by train from Maidstone East-Victoria thence by Underground to Euston seems most convenient.

I suggest we catch the train departing Maidstone East at 8.36am (arriving Victoria at 9.44am). A cheap day return costs £7-70 - it may be worth considering getting a ticket including Tube/Bus travel in London (especially if you intend to do some sight-seeing, etc in the afternoon).

We will meet up at the entrance to the London-bound platform. Please allow time to park and obtain your tickets - don't believe all the stories about Southern Region trains always being late!!

For those whose wish to make their own travel arrangements (or who follow on later) I have enclosed a map showing the location of the museum. Access to the University site is from Torrington Place (opposite Dillons Bookshop), the museum is on the second floor of the DMS Watson Building.

### **REST OF THE DAY**

The rest of the day (and travel home) is up to you. The British Museum is only a few hundred yards away and any number of other museums and sights are only a short hop on the Bus or Tube.

Any problems, give me a ring.

**RICHARD WEEKS   Tel:   MAIDSTONE 675981 (Home)   MAIDSTONE 696984 (work)**

# **MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

## **JUNE NEWSLETTER 1991**

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

### **DIARY**

**JUNE 21st                                \*\*\*\*    ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE A27 BRIGHTON BY-PASS    \*\*\*\***

Mrs Maureen Bennel, a Field Officer with the Institute of Archaeology, London, will give a talk entitled 'Archaeological Discoveries on the Route of the A27 Brighton By-Pass'.

**SUNDAY, JULY 21st    \*\*\*\*    ANNUAL OUTING TO WEALD AND DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM    \*\*\*\***

There will be no meeting in Maidstone in July, instead there is the customary coach trip - this year to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton (PTO for full details).

There will be NO August meeting due to holidays.

### **EXCURSIONS**

**TUESDAY, 9th JULY                \*\*\*\*    EVENING VISIT TO OLD BROOK PUMPING STATION, CHATHAM    \*\*\*\***

Old Brook Pumping Station houses a unique collection of working machinery illustrating the Medway's industrial past. A guided visit with the various engines in operation has been arranged for Tuesday evening, 9th July. Meet at the museum at 7.30 for 7.45pm.

The Museum is to be found just off the Brook, Chatham tucked away at the rear of the Pentagon Centre Car Park. If approaching from the High Street pedestrian zone take the footpath adjacent to MacDonalds. Admission is free.

**SATURDAY, 9th AUGUST                \*\*\*\*    EVENING WALK AROUND LOOSE VILLAGE    \*\*\*\***

Meet 7.00pm outside The Chequers, Old Loose Hill, for an informal tour of the village. If required, I can provide further details (e.g. map/directions) or arrange transport.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions for 1991/92 became due on the 1st April. The rates remain unchanged:

FAMILY    £ 1-50                      ADULT    £ 1-00                      JUNIOR    £ 0-50

Subscriptions should be sent to me (please make cheques payable to M.A.A.G.), or bring it along to one of the meetings. A receipt is enclosed for those who have paid. PLEASE remember to advise me of any change of address (or if you wish to resign from the Group).

### **DIGGING NEWS**

The Group will commence work in July at the Old Palace, Maidstone in advance of sewer trenching/drainage work and garden restoration. Operations will then switch to Cobtree Museum, Sandling to continue our investigation of the Iron Age earthworks.

Anyone interested in helping with these 'digs' should contact either Albert Daniels (Tel: 0622 674494) or myself.

The Canterbury Archaeological Trust are in CONSTANT need of volunteers. Work has just started at the St. George's Church site. Contact Alan Ward at C.A.T., 92a Broad Street, Canterbury CT1 2LU (Tel: 0227 462062).

## M.A.A.G. NEWS

The Group's 22nd AGM, held on 26th April, was attended by 19 members. Mr Robin Cook was elected as the Group's Vice-Chairman (in place of Mrs Joan Homewood who had decided to step down). The remainder of the existing officers were re-elected unopposed. The possibility of raising subscriptions was debated. Since these are written into the Group's Rules, it was decided to propose a formal rule change at the next AGM.

## ANNUAL OUTING TO THE WEALD AND DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM - SUNDAY. 21st JULY

It was decided at the AGM that this year's coach excursion should be to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton, near Chichester, West Sussex.

The Museum, situated in about forty acres of beautiful downland and woodland, was established in 1967 to rescue representative examples of vernacular buildings from the South East of England. So far over thirty such buildings have been re-erected on site.

The buildings include a working watermill, nine houses and cottages illustrating the development of buildings and rural life through Medieval times, numerous farm buildings (barns, granaries, etc), a village school, market hall and shops. The buildings may be explored both inside and out, many are authentically furnished and equipped to set them in their correct context.

Over the last ten years, the Museum has been establishing a collection of artefacts representing country crafts and industries, the building trades and agriculture. There are blacksmith's, carpenter's and plumber's workshops, exhibitions of plumbing and water supply, brick and tile manufacture and a new History of Fanning exhibition.

It is recommended that you bring along a packed lunch. This can be supplemented at the small refreshment facility selling drinks, sandwiches and homemade produce (including delicious cakes!). There is also a museum shop.

Our visit coincides with the Museum's annual Rare and Traditional Breeds Show. A 'mini agricultural show' with the judging of cattle, sheep, goats, etc. There will also be demonstrations of crafts, as well as marquees and trade stands.

If time permits, a visit to West Dean gardens and/or Chichester may be included. A full itinerary and 'handouts' will be provided on the day.

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

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

The cost of the trip (including coach AND admission to the museum) will be:

ADULTS	£ 8-00	SENIOR CITIZENS	£ 6-00	CHILDREN	£ 4-00
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For convenience, a slip is enclosed for booking places on the excursion. Please feel free to invite relatives, friends, workmates, etc.

## OTHER EVENTS

Saturday, 6th July - K.A.S. Garden Party, Cooling Castle (K.A.S. Members £5, Children £3, Friends £6)

Saturdays, 6th, 13th & 20th July - Faversham Society Open House Scheme. Admission to historic properties by programme (£2-00). Further details from the Fleur-de-Lis Centre, 13 Preston Street, Faversham ME13 8NS (Tel: 0795 534542)

26th-28th July - Conservation Show, Cobtree Museum of Rural Life, Sandling. Numerous stands, many concerned with building conservation. (Tel: 0622 763936)

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

# **MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

## **SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 1991**

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

### **DIARY**

#### **SEPTEMBER 20th                \*\*\*\* HOW TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE \*\*\*\***

Mr Peter Ewart will give a talk entitled 'Researching the History of a House and its Occupants'. Using various local record sources, Mr Ewart has traced the history of his own house back for some 200 years. He will explain how you could do the same.

#### **OCTOBER 18th                        \*\*\*\* TRAM RIDE THROUGH ROCHESTER \*\*\*\***

Mr Bob Ratcliffe, Chairman of the City of Rochester Society, will give an illustrated talk entitled 'A Tram Ride through Rochester'.

#### **NOVEMBER 15th                        \*\*\*\* PERIWINKLE WATERMILL MUSEUM PROJECT \*\*\*\***

Martin Saffrey, Chairman of the Periwinkle Watermill Museum Project, will talk about the history of the mill and the efforts being made to restore the machinery and construct a new mill building to house exhibitions. A visit will be arranged for next spring.

NOTE: The Group's Christmas 'Party' will be held on Friday, December 13th.

### **EXCURSIONS**

#### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26th                \*\*\*\* GUIDED TOUR OF HEADCORN \*\*\*\***

The Headcorn Local History Society have kindly agreed to arrange a guided tour of the village. Meet at 2.00pm at the Parish Church for an introductory talk and to view an exhibition of photographs of 'Old Headcorn'. The tour will last about 2 hours, followed by tea. All are welcome, there is no charge, although donations to the church and our hosts would be welcomed. There is usually plenty of space in the railway station car park. Please contact me if you require transport.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

A receipt is enclosed for subscriptions paid since the last newsletter. A red cross in the margin means that, according to my records, your 1991/92 subs are outstanding (Family £1-50 Adult £1-00 Junior £0-50 - cheques payable to M.A.A.G. please). An updated membership list will be issued with the November newsletter.

### **M.A.A.G. NEWS**

IMPORTANT - I am moving, but not far! Please note my new address given at the end of this newsletter. Unfortunately I cannot give a phone number yet as I am still saving up to contribute to BT's already vast profits. If necessary, I can be contacted via my parents (Maidstone 675981) or during the day on Maidstone 696984.

Apologies for any confusion caused over the date for the walk around Loose in August.

### **DIGGING NEWS**

In July, Albert kept a watching brief on the A20 high pressure gas pipeline diversion. A periglacial soil was located adjacent to Boxley Abbey and a piece of Roman tap slag. A report is in preparation.

At the Old Palace, Maidstone, following a resistivity survey, excavation has located wall foundations and associated C14th floor tile debris - including two tile fragments inlaid with figures of a king and a crowned lion. These are similar to finds made in the C19th during the refurbishment of All Saints Church. Further work will be undertaken when the line of the new sewer installation has been agreed. On 10th August, to mark National Young Archaeologist's Day, the Group put on displays at the Old Palace and in Maidstone Museum. Thanks to all those who gave up their time to help.

For the last couple of weeks, the Group has been working at Tyland Barn, Sandling which has been acquired by the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation to house an education centre. Fieldwalking produced various iron ploughshares and further investigations have located a four bay cartshed and associated building with a paved yard. This probably pre-dates the existing barn/stable complex which is believed date from the C17th.

Albert will give a resume of the year's excavations at the December meeting. If anyone is interested in 'digging', please contact Albert Daniels (Maidstone 674494) or myself.

STOP PRESS - The Canterbury Archaeological Trust has been awarded the contract for rescue work resulting from the M20 widening.

### COURSES

School of Continuing Education, University of Kent (Tel: 0732 352316)

ANCIENT PEOPLES AND ARCHAEOLOGY: THE MINOANS AND MYCENAE - Dr Alec Detsicas (10 weeks Tue 01 Oct 10.00-12.00noon) at University Centre, Tonbridge

LOCAL HISTORY AND GENEALOGY: USING THE CENTRE FOR KENTISH STUDIES - Duncan Harrington (20 weeks Wed 09 Oct 5.15-7.15pm) at County Hall, Maidstone

THE GLASTONBURY LEGENDS - Geoff Doel & Fran Doel (Sat 09 Nov 10.00am-4.30pm) - a study day at University Centre, Tonbridge

Mid Kent Adult Education Courses (Tel: 0622 677615/752155)

Cornwallis Evening Centre:

DISCOVERING THE HISTORY AROUND YOU - John Butcher (11 weeks Tue 24 Sep 10.00-12.00noon)

BEGINNING IN LOCAL HISTORY - John Butcher (11 weeks Tue 24 Sep 7.30-9.00pm)

PALAEONTOLOGY: JUST A LOAD OF OLD BONES - David Andrew (11 weeks Thu 26 Sep 7.00-9.00pm)  
Maidstone Centre:

HISTORICAL RECORDS & ARCHIVES - Duncan Harrington (20 weeks Wed 02 Oct 10.00-12.00noon)

ARCHAEOLOGY OF KENT - John Rhodes (11 weeks Thu 26 Sep 1.30-3.30pm)

PALAEONTOLOGY: JUST A LOAD OF OLD BONES - David Andrew (11 weeks Tue.24 Sep 7.00-9.00pm)

### OTHER EVENTS

FRIDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER, 2.00-6.00pm & SATURDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER, 10.00am-3.00pm - Centre for Kentish Studies Open Days, County Hall, Maidstone (Archive displays, visits to the strongrooms, displays of rare books, conservation display, free expert advice)

TUESDAY, 22nd OCTOBER - K.A.S. (Medway & Gillingham Branch), talk on 'Human Bones in Archaeology' by Trevor Anderson (Canterbury Archaeological Trust), Guildhall Museum, High Street, Rochester. Commences 7.30pm, meeting open to non-members and guests.

SATURDAY, 26th OCTOBER - K.A.S. One Day Conference on 'Kent Before the Romans', Harvey Hall, Post Graduate Medical Centre, Canterbury. Enquiries to Dr AP Detsicas, Dunelm House, Main Road, Icklesham, Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4AR (S.A.E. please)

SATURDAY, 16th NOVEMBER - C.K.A. Conference on 'Discovering and Reconstructing the Past in Kent', Christ Church College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury. 2.15-5.30pm. £1-00 payable to C.K.A., 5 Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9DL (S.A.E. please)

SATURDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER - K.A.S. One Day Symposium on 'Edward Hasted F.R.S.', Sutton at Hone Village Hall and St. John's Jerusalem nr Dartford. Enquiries to Hon Sec, K.A.S. Library Committee, City Arms House, 127 London Road, Stone, Dartford, Kent DA2 6BH

SATURDAY, 7th DECEMBER - K.A.S. Christmas Buffet at Somerhill, Tonbridge. Enquiries to Mrs Margaret Lawrence, Barnfield, Church Lane, East Peckham, nr Tonbridge, Kent TN12 5JJ

RICHARD WEEKS (HONORARY SECRETARY)

14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, KENT TN12 0EP

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 1991

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

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

### DIARY

#### DECEMBER 13th

#### \*\*\*\* CHRISTMAS PARTY \*\*\*\*

Albert Daniels will review the Group's activities 'on the digging front' during the past year. He will also show some slides of the Cuxton excavation (early 1984 - before my time!!) and of the Palaeolithic flint tools recovered from the gravel deposits at this important site.

Robin Cook has, again, kindly arranged for a TV and video machine to be available and promises to have some interesting 'footage' of the Roman remains at Trier and elsewhere in Germany.

As is customary for our Christmas meeting there will be the usual party. Please feel free to bring along any food and/or drink.

#### JANUARY 17th

#### \*\*\*\* HISTORY OF SNODLAND \*\*\*\*

Dr Andrew Ashbee, long-time M.A.A.G. member and Snodland resident, will give a illustrated talk entitled 'A Look at the History of Snodland and its Church'.

#### FEBRUARY 21th

#### \*\*\*\* MAGIC LANTERN SHOW - A TRIP TO LONDON \*\*\*\*

Mr Gerald Cramp will give a 'Magic Lantern Show' entitled 'A Trip to London'. He will be using original slides from the period 1880 to 1913 of the familiar and not so familiar sights of London.

#### MARCH 20th

#### \*\*\*\* SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED \*\*\*\*

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

A receipt is enclosed for subscriptions paid since the last newsletter. A red cross in the margin means that, according to my records, your 1991/92 subscription is still outstanding.

FAMILY £1-50

ADULT £1-00

JUNIOR £0-50

Cheques payable to M.A.A.G. please. Remember that only paid-up members are eligible to vote at the AGM.

The updated membership list promised in the last newsletter will now be distributed in March with the agenda for AGM 1992. If anyone desperately wants one before that please let me know.

## M.A.A.G. NEWS

There is little to report, except that I can now 'reveal' my new telephone number - it is Staplehurst (STD code 0580) 890042. Also a reminder that if you are moving please remember to inform me of your new address.

For the 'armchair archaeologists' out there, a glance at the Radio Times reveals that the BBC are repeating a couple of interesting series:

'Discoveries Underwater' on BBC2, commencing Thursday, 12th December at 12.30pm. Series on underwater archaeology.

'Living in the Past', on BBC2, commencing Monday 9th December at 12.00noon. Revised repeat about a group of volunteers who build, live and work on a reconstruction of an Iron Age farm for twelve months.

'Byways', on BBC2, commencing Thursday 12th December at 4.30pm. Series on local history and archaeology of the South East, including Flag Fen on Friday, 13th December.

## DIGGING NEWS

In recent weeks, excavations have been undertaken at the Old Palace, Maidstone in advance of the laying of new sewers.

Some 12 metres of trenching was completed prior to the contractors commencing work. This revealed the location of three walls - one comprising a large chunk of fallen masonry. Associated with it were floor tiles manufactured about 1325 and related to the demolition of St Mary's Church in 1395. Two of the tiles were inlaid - one depicting a king holding a sceptre, the other bearing a crowned lion. The 30 metres or so of trenches dug by the contractor to date have also been recorded. Three further walls were located. One substantial wall appears to be the original precinct wall on the north side adjacent to the River Len. The other two walls were only indicated by robber trenches. A small quantity of Roman pottery and some forging slag were also found. Further recording will be undertaken over the next couple of weeks as the work proceeds.

Representations have been made regarding the proposed landfill site at Barming Woods which is a known archaeological find-spot - a grave group was discovered in 1979 (Arch Cant 96 (1980) p396).

## COURSES

Mid Kent Adult Education Courses (Tel: 0622 677615/752155)

Cornwallis Evening Centre:

DISCOVERING HISTORY AROUND YOU - John Butcher (10 weeks Tue 14 Jan 10.00-12.00noon)

BEGINNING IN LOCAL HISTORY - John Butcher (10 weeks Tue 14 Jan 7.30-9.00pm)

Maidstone Centre:

DECIPHERING OLD DOCUMENTS - Duncan Harrington (6 weeks Wed 15 Jan 1.00-3.00pm)

OUR COASTAL HERITAGE - John Vigar (9 weeks Tue 14 Sep 10.00-12.00noon)

Staplehurst Village Centre:

LOCAL HISTORY - Anita Thompson (10 weeks Mon 10.00-12.00noon)

**RICHARD WEEKS (HONORARY SECRETARY)**

**14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, KENT TN12 OEP  
TEL: 0580 890042**

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## MARCH NEWSLETTER 1992

### PLEASE READ THIS:

The date of the March meeting has been brought forward by a week and will now take place THIS Friday, 13th March!! Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

### DIARY

#### **MARCH 13th**

#### **\*\*\*\* EARLY KENTISH RAILWAYS \*\*\*\***

To mark a number of important Kentish railway anniversaries this year, Mr Palmer will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Early Kentish Railways'.

#### **APRIL 17th**

#### **\*\*\*\* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1992 \*\*\*\***

The April meeting to be held in the Function Room, The Arches Inn, Market Buildings, Maidstone on Friday, 17th April at 7.30 pm, will be the Group's Annual General Meeting.

#### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of AGM 1991
3. Vote on Proposed Rule Change
4. Chairman's Report
5. Honorary Secretary's Report
6. Honorary Treasurer's Report
7. Election of Officers
8. Election of Auditor
9. Reports and Election of Representatives
10. Future Activities (Annual Outing)
11. Any Other Business

The following motion has been received, proposed by Mr R. Wallbridge and seconded by Miss L. Button.

That Rule 5 be amended to read as follows:

The annual subscription shall be £3-00 per family, £2-00 per adult person and £1-00 per student and become due on election and subsequently on 1st April each year.

Any other resolutions or additional items for the agenda should reach me by Thursday, 16th April. All the Officers of the Group, as well as elected Representatives are, as usual, up for re-election. I, for one, would gladly 'step aside' if anyone would like to take over the post of Honorary Secretary!

PLEASE PLEASE give some thought to possible itineraries for the Annual Outing in July.

Following the formal business, there will be a quiz and (time and equipment permitting) an archaeological video or two will be shown.

#### **MAY 22nd**

#### **\*\*\*\* HISTORY OF CHATHAM DOCKYARD \*\*\*\***

Mr Philip MacDougall will give an illustrated talk on 'The History of Chatham Dockyard'.

Mr MacDougall is an historical advisor to Chatham Historic Dockyard and has published a number of books and articles dealing with the Royal Dockyards and the Medway towns.



## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1992/93 become due on the 1st April. In view of the proposed rule change to increase the subscriptions (see above) and that those not present at the AGM will be unaware of the outcome of the vote until the next newsletter is published, I intend to leave it to individual member's own discretion whether they wish to pay at the existing rate or the proposed new one (the difference, if necessary, to be treated as a donation).

FAMILY £1-50 (£3-00) ADULT £1-00 (£2-00) JUNIOR £0-50 (£1-00)

Subscriptions should be sent to me (please make cheques payable to M.A.A.G.), alternatively bring it along to one of the meetings. A receipt will be sent with a subsequent newsletter.

PLEASE PLEASE remember to advise me of any change of address (or if you wish to resign from the Group).

## M.A.A.G. NEWS

Future meetings of the Group will continue to be held in the Function Room at the Arches Inn for the forthcoming year (thanks to Robin Cook).

Sandra Blain is preparing a display, including finds made by the Group, at the Cobtree Museum of Rural Life, Sandling.

On a personal note, Linda Button (a fellow member of the Group) and I became engaged in January. Thank you to all those who have expressed their good wishes.

## DIGGING NEWS

In the last month or so, the Group has been involved in two co-operative ventures.

Firstly, with members of the Tonbridge Historical Society, at Moat Platt, a supposed moated manor site at Paddock Wood. Part of the moat was sectioned and drawn. Unfortunately, no sign of the building was found which is presumed to have been removed when the area was subsequently cleared. The site was examined by the County Archaeologist, but plans for any future work have been abandoned due to the poor state of the remains.

Subsequently, field-walking in advance of road works at East Peckham was also undertaken in conjunction with the East Peckham Historical Society, who are currently processing the few significant finds made.

Some further work at the Old Palace, Maidstone is imminent, to attempt to verify a plan of the 15th Century layout of the site. If anyone would like to help could they contact Albert Daniels (Maidstone 674494) or myself.

## OTHER EVENTS

Saturday, 11th April - C.K.A. Conference, Corn Exchange, Rochester - Some Aspects of Archaeology and History in Rochester. Tickets £4-00 (payable CKA), 5 Harvest Bank, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9DL (SAE please)

Saturday, 25th April - K.A.S. Spring Barbecue and tour of Nettlestead Court. Tickets £6-50 or £7-00 (payable KAS), 'Barnfield', Church Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 5JJ

Saturday, 9th May - K.H.F. Annual Conference, Headcorn - Kentish Railway History and tour of Headcorn. Contact D. Coast, 127 Snodhurst Avenue, Chatham, Kent ME5 0TN (SAE please)

Saturday, 23th May - K.A.S. Annual General Meeting, Tonbridge

RICHARD WEEKS (HON. SECRETARY) (TEL: 0580 890042)  
14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT TN12 0EP

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## JUNE NEWSLETTER 1992

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

### DIARY

**JUNE 19th                                \*\*\*\*      EXCAVATIONS AT LONGMARKET, CANTERBURY      \*\*\*\***

Mr Simon Pratt, of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Excavations at the Longmarket, Canterbury and the History of the Site'.

**SATURDAY, JULY 4th                \*\*\*\*      ANNUAL OUTING TO FLAG FEN BRONZE AGE SITE      \*\*\*\***

There will be no meeting in Maidstone in July, instead there is the customary coach trip - this year to Flag Fen, near Peterborough (PTO for full details).

There will be NO August meeting due to holidays.

### EXCURSIONS

**SUNDAY, 12th JULY                \*\*\*\*      AFTERNOON GUIDED TOUR OF FAVERSHAM      \*\*\*\***

The Faversham Society have kindly agreed to arrange a guided tour of the town. We will be met by our guide in the Shopper's car park (signposted) at 2.00pm. The tour will commence with a visit to the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre where an audio-visual presentation and the museum will set the scene.

The cost of the tour will be £1-00 (inclusive of admission to the Heritage Centre), payable on the day. Please contact me if you require transport or a map.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1992/93 became due on the 1st April. As a result of a rule change passed at April's AGM, subscription rates have been increased. The new rates are:

FAMILY	£ 3-00	ADULT	£ 2-00	JUNIOR	£ 1-00
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Subscriptions should be sent to me (please make cheques payable to M.A.A.G.), or brought along to one of the meetings. A receipt is enclosed for those who have paid. PLEASE remember to advise me of any change of address (or if you wish to resign from the Group).

### M.A.A.G. NEWS

The Group's 23rd AGM, held on 17th April, was attended by only 14 members. The fact that this was Good Friday may explain the low turn-out - many apologies for any inconvenience. The proposal to raise subscription rates as notified in the last newsletter was passed unanimously. The sum raised by the previous rates no longer covered the basic costs of running the Group (newsletter, speakers fees, room hire).

Rule 5 should be amended to read as follows:

The annual subscription shall be £ 3-00 per family, £ 2-00 per adult person and £ 1-00 per student and become due on election and subsequently on 1st April each year.

All members should have a copy of the Group's Rules - if you do not please let me know. Membership stood at 95, with 8 new members and 15 removed, due to non-payment of subscriptions or notification of resignation, over the year. The existing officers and representatives were re-elected unopposed.

## DIGGING NEWS

The Group undertook a further excavation at the Old Palace, Maidstone to attempt to corroborate a reconstruction of the site drawn up by the Maidstone Borough Council's Architects Department. This showed a range of buildings parallel to the north wall of All Saints' churchyard. Stone foundations, probably related to a timbered building were located. Finds included a lead weight (3.5 oz) with a floral design. The excavation has been back-filled and reinstated.

The developers have submitted a revised scheme for the Snodland site and tenders for the archaeological investigation of the site are currently being processed.

Anyone interested in becoming a National Trust Archaeological volunteer (helping with surveys and excavations at NT sites in Kent and East Sussex) should contact Mike Freeman, 27 Lambourn Way, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 8PU.

## ANNUAL OUTING TO FLAG FEN BRONZE AGE SITE - SATURDAY, 4th JULY

We will stop en route at St Ives, a picturesque town on the Great Ouse. Its most famous landmark is the C15th stone bridge on which is one of only three surviving bridge chapels in the country. The town centre is designated as an Outstanding Conservation Area and there are 140 listed buildings. The Norris Museum charts the history of the town.

In the afternoon, we travel on to Flag Fen, just SE of Peterborough. This is the site of a 3000 year old man-made timber platform (originally covering some 3 acres) on which was built a Bronze Age village. The waterlogged peat has resulted in exceptional preservation of the wood and other organic material.

The visit starts with a video explaining the discovery of the site, its setting and subsequent excavations which are still in progress. There follows a tour of the site including visits to the excavation and the wood tanks where 3000 year old timber can be handled. There will be ample opportunity to visit the re-created Bronze Age landscape, including a reconstruction of a Bronze Age farm (roundhouse, fields and animals). The subsequent history of the site is represented by an Iron Age roundhouse and a section through a Roman road.

An artificial lake has been created to preserve the waterlogged platform beneath. On this has been 'floated' the visitor centre containing a display depicting year-by-year the progress of excavations and over 300 items of Bronze Age weapons, jewellery and other finds. There is a gift shop and refreshments.

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

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

The cost of the trip (including coach AND admission to Flag Fen) will be:

ADULTS	£ 8-00	SENIOR CITIZENS	£ 6-00	CHILDREN	£ 4-00
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For convenience, a slip is enclosed for booking places on the excursion. Please feel free to invite relatives, friends, workmates, etc.

## OTHER EVENTS

Saturdays, 4th, 11th & 18th July - Faversham Society Open House Scheme. Admission to historic properties by programme (£2-00). Further details from the Fleur-de-Lis Centre, 13 Preston Street, Faversham ME13 8NS (Tel: 0795 534542)

Saturday, 5th September - KAS Excursion to Bedgebury Area. Afternoon visit, £3-00. SAE to Excursion Sec, Dane Court, Adisham, Canterbury CT3 5LA. Places still available.

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# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

ANNUAL OUTING TO FLAG FEN : 4TH JULY 1992

## ITINERARY

This itinerary is intended purely as a guide - weather and traffic make the timings only approximate.

### MORNING

09.00 Leave Maidstone

11.15 Arrive at St. Ives

The coach will park at the bus station which is adjacent to the town centre. Lunch may be obtained in the town or, if the weather is fine, you may like to picnic beside the river. Note that Norris Museum closes between 12.00-14.00.

13.30 Depart for Flag Fen

### AFTERNOON

14.15 Arrive at Flag Fen

There is a 15 minute video explaining the discovery and history of the site, followed by a guided tour (including the area currently being excavated and the wood tanks). Then, ample time to explore the Bronze Age landscape.

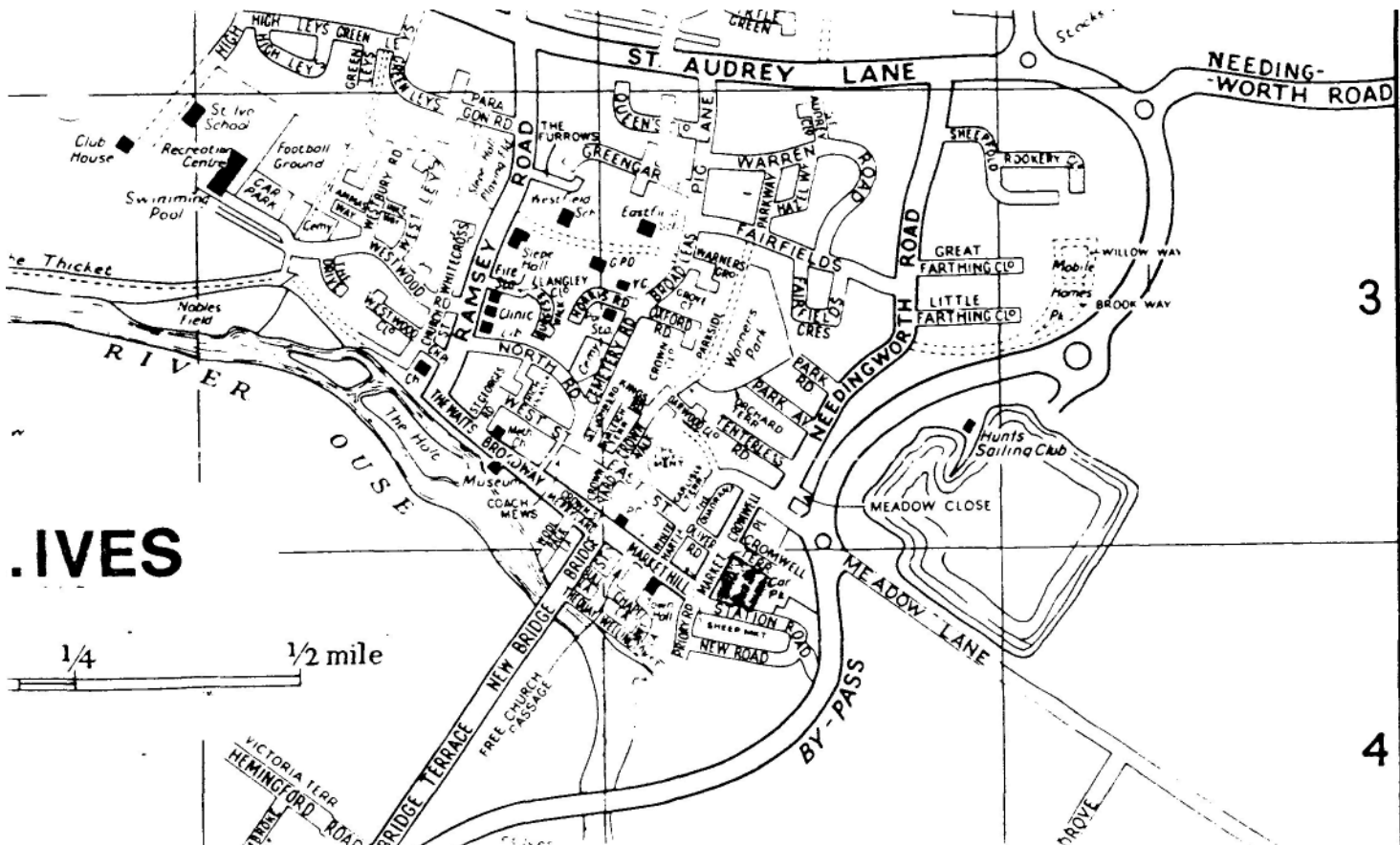
Light refreshments (tea, coffee, etc) may be purchased in the visitor centre.

17.15 Depart from Flag Fen

18.45 Pub stop at Monkham's, Buckhurst Hill, near Loughton, Essex

19.15 Depart for final leg of journey home

20.15 Arrive back in Maidstone



## ST. IVES : HISTORY & PLACES TO VISIT

The town traces its origins to the Saxon settlement of 'Slepe' (meaning 'muddy, low-lying ground by the river'). In the C7th the river could be crossed at a ford (still visible at the S end of Church Street). Slepe grew into a village and was acquired by Ramsey Abbey in the late C10th.

The name changed to St. Ives in c1200 after St. Ivo, a Persian bishop, who died here c600. About 400 years later his remains were unearthed near the E end of the modern town and a priory built on the site. Pilgrims to the priory attracted traders and in 1110 Henry I granted a charter for an Easter fair and 3 years later the first wooden bridge was built.

A charter for a second fair was granted in 1202 and in 1290 a market was established in front of the priory gates. The stalls were gradually replaced by shops and a town grew around the site of the fair. In the C13th the Easter fair was one of the most important in the country, but the Black Death in the 1340's brought its close.

During the C17th & C18th St. Ives grew in importance again when the Ouse became a major waterway for barges to and from Kings Lynn. By the mid C19th a very large cattle market had become established which only declined in the 1920's. In the last 20 years the population has trebled to 13,000. Expansion has been northwards, leaving the historic centre largely unspoilt. It was designated a Conservation Area in 1972.

### PLACES TO VISIT

Times and admission charges are correct to the best of my knowledge. Tourist Information (guide books, maps, etc) may be obtained from the Norris Museum in the Broadway.

**THE PRIORY** - house built 1870 on site of Priory founded in 1017. Only remains are part of the wall of C14th barn demolished in 1858 and forming part of present garden wall.

**THE LANES** - network of alleyways, adjacent to quay, established after Great Fire of 1689.

**FREE CHURCH** - built 1863. 156 foot spire made few feet higher than parish church to assert the strength of Non-conformity and Liberalism in the town.

**RIVER BRIDGE & CHAPEL** - present six arch stone bridge built 1415-1426, although only four pointed arches to N are original. The bridge chapel is one of only three surviving in the country (others at Wakefield and Rotherham) - built at same time as bridge & dedicated to St. Ledger. Before restoration in 1930 it had been a house, shop, lock-up and an inn. Key available from Norris Museum.

**BRIDGE STREET** - see Barton's the Chemists (1729) with traditional shopfront (c1820).

**NORRIS LIBRARY & MUSEUM** - founded after death of Herbert Norris, a local historian, to house his books and manuscripts. Exhibits range from archaeological finds to French POW work from Norman Cross and ice skates and other Fenland material. Open 10.00-12.00 and 14.00-17.00. Admission free.

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH** - Mostly dating from C15th, but fragment of C12th work survives in nave and C13th archway on N side of chancel. Fittings include a Norman font, Elizabethan pulpit and a vast organ built in 1893. Arising from the will of Dr Robert Wilde (died 1675), six boys and six girls play a game of dice for bibles in the church on Whit Tuesday.

**MARKET HILL** - statue of Oliver Cromwell who lived in St. Ives from 1631-6. Erected in 1901, it was originally intended for Huntingdon but local residents were reluctant to accept it.

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 1992

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

++++ SEE DIGGING NEWS FOR DETAILS OF IMMINENT EXCAVATION AT SNODLAND ROMAN VILLA +++++

### DIARY

SEPTEMBER 18th

\*\*\*\* DANISH RAIDS ON NORTH-EAST KENT \*\*\*\*

Mike Freeman, Chairman of the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group, will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Danish Raids on North East Kent'.

OCTOBER 16th

\*\*\*\* EXCAVATION OF A ROMAN CEMETERY \*\*\*\*

Ken Whittaker, Assistant Archaeological Officer (London Region) with English Heritage, will give a lecture entitled 'Excavation of a Roman Cemetery in London'.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 20th Speaker to be announced

DECEMBER 18th Christmas 'Party' (provisional date only)

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

A receipt is enclosed for subscriptions paid since the last newsletter. A red cross in the margin means that, according to my records, your 1992/93 subs are outstanding (Family £3-00 Adult £2-00 Junior £1-00 - cheques payable to M.A.A.G. please). PLEASE remember to advise me of any change of address (or if you wish to resign from the Group).

### M.A.A.G. NEWS

The annual outing on 4th July to St. Ives and Flag Fen was attended by 38 members and their guests. Next year it is hoped that a joint excursion with the Lower Medway Group can be arranged. Thanks to Robin Cook for arranging the pub-stop on the journey back and those who helped to organise the trip. The following weekend about 17 members were treated to an excellent guided tour of Faversham run by the Faversham Society.

Display material was provided for an exhibition at Maidstone Museum for National Young Archaeologists Day on Saturday, 16th August.

### DIGGING NEWS

A report on the Group's work at Tyland Barn has been submitted for this year's Pitt-Rivers award.

For the past few Sundays members of the Group (in conjunction with the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group) under the direction of Ken Whittaker have been excavating at Dode church, near Luddesdown. Readers of the Kent Messenger (21st August) may have seen an article on the church and its new owner, Mr Douglas Chapman. The church is about 900 years old and was restored in the 1900's. No trace of the village of Dode remains, its occupants succumbing to the Black Death in 1348.

The results of an exploratory resistivity survey appear to show a linear feature to the west of the church, although a more extensive survey will be required to confirm this. Excavation was limited to the area immediately north of the church where it is proposed that a building may be sited. A resistivity survey of this area showed little in the

way of subsurface anomalies. Two E-W trenches (10 by 2 metres) were dug - initially by machine to remove the topsoil and then by hand. 1 metre slots dug through hillwash, reaching the underlying chalk at a depth of about a metre, showed no man-made features. However, a rammed flint track was found running parallel with the existing road and also a hearth. Various pottery sherds were found in the topsoil layer.

As mentioned in the last newsletter. Wards have submitted a revised scheme for the Churchfield site in Snodland. The contract for the archaeological investigation of the site has been awarded to the Wessex Archaeological Trust. They propose to commence a full-time excavation on Tuesday, 2nd September for about 10 days. Volunteers are required for Saturday 5th and/or Sunday 6th September. Albert Daniels will be co-ordinating our involvement, so if you are interested in lending a hand over the weekend (or any other day) please give him a ring on Maidstone 674494.

## **COURSES**

School of Continuing Education, University of Kent (Tel: 0732 352316)

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF KENT - John Vigar (10 weeks Mon 28 Sep 1.00-3.00pm) at University Centre, Tonbridge. Fee £27-00

LOCAL HISTORY AND GENEALOGY: USING THE CENTRE FOR KENTISH STUDIES - Duncan Harrington (20 weeks Wed 07 Oct 5.15-7.15pm) at County Hall, Maidstone

PEOPLING THE ANCIENT PAST - Anthony Ward (10 weeks Tue 29 Sep 7.30-9.30pm) at the University Centre, Tonbridge. Fee £27-00

Mid Kent Adult Education Courses (Tel: 0622 677615/752155)

Cornwallis Evening Centre:

THE MAIDSTONE AREA - HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY - John Butcher (11 weeks Tue 22 Sep 3.00-5.00pm)

Maidstone Centre:

HISTORICAL RECORDS AND ARCHIVES - Duncan Harrington (20 weeks Wed 30 Sep 10.00-12.00)

Vinters Evening Centre:

GENEALOGY - FAMILY HISTORY - Michael Weller (12 weeks Thu 24 Sep 7.00-9.00pm)

Staplehurst (CP School):

LOCAL HISTORY OF THE WEALD - Anita Thompson (11 weeks Thu 24 Sep 7.00-9.00pm)

## **OTHER EVENTS**

The K.A.S. have arranged a programme of monthly lectures on Saturday afternoons at 2.30pm at various venues around the county. Tickets are £1-25 (KAS members), £1-50 (non-members), £1-00 (children under 16). Applications for tickets should be made to HGB Coast, 127, Snodhurst Avenue, Chatham, Kent ME5 0TN (with sae) - cheques payable to KAS Lectures A/C.

12th Sept - Ken Gravett on 'Architectural Implications of Shopping' at Hythe Town Hall

10th Oct - Alan Ward on 'Recent Excavations in Canterbury' at Faversham Heritage Centre

14th Nov - Jacqueline Bower on 'Growing Up in the 17th Century' at Westerham Hall

12th Dec - Julia Page on 'The Jigsaw that was Charles Cocks' at Marden Village Hall

Until Saturday, 12th September (10.30am-4.00pm Mon-Sat) - 'Arden 400' an exhibition of life in Faverham over 400 years ago. The Guildhall, Market Place, Faversham.

Admission £1-00 (adults), 50p (children).

Saturday, 24th October (10.00am-5.00pm) - K.A.S. One Day Conference on the Palaeolithic Period at Southborough School, Loose, Maidstone. Tickets £4-00 (KAS members), £5-00 (non-members) and programme from Dr AP Detsicas, Dunelm House, Main Road, Icklesham, Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4AR (sae please)

Saturday, 14th November (2.15pm-5.30pm) - CKA Conference 'Burials of the Past' at Christ Church College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury. Tickets £2-00 (payable CKA) from 5, Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9DL (sae please)

Saturday, 27th November 7.30pm - Kent Potters Association - & talk by Nigel MacPherson Grant on Iron Age and Saxon pottery at Millyard Craft Centre, West Malling. Tickets £5-00. Contact Gill Brown on (0622) 753151.

**RICHARD WEEKS (HON. SECRETARY) (TEL: 0580 890042)**  
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**MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP  
NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 1992**

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

**DIARY**

**NOVEMBER 20th        \*\*\*\*    ARCHAEOLOGY & THE CHANNEL TUNNEL    \*\*\*\***

Richard Cross, a landscape archaeologist for the Canterbury Archaeological Trust will give a talk entitled 'Archaeology and the Channel Tunnel'. Investigations, especially around Folkestone, have provided information about the origins of the present landscape during the formation of the Channel and evidence for almost continuous settlement from the earliest farmers (10000 BC) to the present. See Arch Cant (1988) 106, p1-24.

**DECEMBER 18th                        \*\*\*\*    CHRISTMAS PARTY    \*\*\*\***

Linda Button will show slides of her recent Nile cruise and bring along some of her souvenirs.  
Albert Daniels will review the Group's activities during the past year and show slides of the recovery of the 'Dover Boat'.  
There will also be an 'Identify the Village' competition with a book prize for the winner.  
As is customary for our Christmas meeting, there will be the usual party. Please feel free to bring along any food and/or drink.

**JANUARY 15th                        \*\*\*\*    EXCAVATIONS AT SCADBURY MANOR    \*\*\*\***

Alan Hart of the Orpington and District Archaeological Society (ODAS) will talk about their excavations at the mediaeval and Tudor moated manor house at Scadbury, Chislehurst. The earliest record of the site dates from 1254. Most of the foundations of the various buildings survive and the moat is intact.

The dates of future meetings are **February 19th** and **March 19th, 1993**.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

A receipt is enclosed for subscriptions paid since the last newsletter. There are still some 1992/93 subs outstanding. (Rates: Family £3-00 Adult £2-00 Junior £1-00 - cheques payable to M.A.A.G. please).

**DIGGING NEWS**

Excavations by the Wessex Archaeological Trust at Snodland have been completed. A joint publication incorporating the Group's excavations is planned. A watching brief concerning building work at Lady Bessie's Cottage, Boughton Monchelsea, within the ditch of Boughton Camp, is being carried out.

**EVENTS**

**K.A.S. Monthly Lectures:**

- 14th November** - Jacqueline Bower on 'Growing Up in the 17th Century' at Westerham Hall  
**12th December** - Julia Page on 'The Jigsaw that was Charles Cocks' at Marden Village Hall

**Other events:**

- 14th November** - CKA Conference 'Burials of the Past' at Christ Church College, Canterbury  
**27th November** - Kent Potters Association 'Iron Age & Saxon Pottery' at Millyard Craft Centre, West Malling. Contact Gill Brown on (0622) 753151.

**RICHARD WEEKS (HONORARY SECRETARY)**

**14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, KENT TN12 0EP**



# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 1993

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

### DIARY

#### **FEBRUARY 19th**

#### **\*\*\*\* WEALDEN IRON INDUSTRY \*\*\*\***

Jeremy Hodgkinson, Chairman of the Wealden Iron Research Group (WIRG) will give an illustrated talk on the Wealden Iron Industry which had such an important place in the economy of the South East for 2000 years. This was especially true during the first half of the Roman occupation and in the Tudor and early Stuart period when the Weald was the predominant iron-producing area in the country.

#### **MARCH 19th**

#### **\*\*\*\* MAIDSTONE AND LOOSE \*\*\*\***

One of the Group's members, Miss Jenner, will give a talk intriguingly entitled 'Early One Morning' which concerns the area around Maidstone and especially Loose.

#### **APRIL 23rd**

#### **\*\*\*\* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1993 \*\*\*\***

The April meeting to be held in the Function Room, The Arches Inn, Market Buildings, Maidstone on Friday, 23rd April at 7.30 pm, will be the Group's Annual General Meeting.

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of AGM 1992
3. Chairman's Report
4. Honorary Secretary's Report
5. Honorary Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers
7. Election of Auditor
8. Reports and Election of Representatives
9. Activities (Annual Outing)
10. Any Other Business

Any resolutions or additional items for the agenda should reach me by Thursday, 15th April. All the Officers of the Group, as well as elected Representatives are, as usual, up for re-election. An 'injection of new blood' is probably well overdue, especially concerning the organising of meetings and outings. If no-one is prepared to take-on the role of Chairman or Honorary Secretary then perhaps someone may like to consider volunteering for this task.

An item which will be discussed is the problem of declining attendances at meetings and possible remedies. Suggestions are another venue (but where?), another 'quieter' evening (Wednesday has been mooted), better talks (subjects?, speakers?), start digging (where?), more outings (where?). Any constructive ideas would be welcomed. It is YOUR Group, so help us improve it.

Following the formal business, arrangements for a 'fossil hunt' at Folkestone led by Richard Weeks will be discussed. Examples of the fossils to be found there will be on display. The exact date has yet to be decided - dependent on suitable tides - but a Saturday or Sunday in early May is favourite. If you would like to attend this field trip I strongly urge you to come along to the AGM as it may precede the next newsletter.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1992/93 become due on the 1st April.

FAMILY £3-00

ADULT £2-00

JUNIOR £1-00

Subscriptions should be sent to me (please make cheques payable to M.A.A.G.), alternatively bring it along to one of the meetings. A receipt will be sent with a subsequent newsletter.

PLEASE PLEASE remember to advise me of any change of address (or if you wish to resign from the Group).

## M.A.A.G. NEWS

The rather poor attendances at recent meetings has been noted above. Maidstone on a Friday evening has become rather 'boisterous' and parking places tend to be at a premium. One solution (which has been raised before) is to change to another evening. The Arches Inn does not, at present, have any entertainment on Wednesday evenings. For this reason, I have not booked any meeting dates beyond April's AGM so that discussion can take place and the decision of the membership reached. Opinions will be canvassed at the February and March meetings, with the final decision being made at the AGM.

In addition to the 'fossil trip' mentioned above, a visit to the Periwinkle Water Mill (combined with the Court Lodge at Milton and the Dolphin Barge Museum) is planned for a Saturday afternoon in May.

This year's coach outing will be a joint venture with the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group. This is essentially an exercise to combat falling attendance (again). The proposed date is the Saturday, 10th July and the venue, Fishbourne Roman Palace en route to Portsmouth. As yet, nothing is finalised (and changes may be possible). The results of negotiations with the LMARG will be presented at the AGM.

## DIGGING NEWS

A small scale excavation in advance of building work at Lady Bessie's Cottage, Boughton Monchelsea, within the ditch of the Belgic 'oppida' of Boughton Camp, is planned.

Albert Daniels has been investigating a 'shell midden' in the cliffs at Pegwell Bay. C14 dating will be required to ascertain its age - finance for this is being sought.

Albert is also working on the reports for the Group's 'recent' excavations - that on Rochester Northgate is all but complete.

## OTHER EVENTS

KAS Monthly Lectures:

13th March - Sarah Pearson on 'Medieval Houses in Kent' at Tenterden Town Hall

17th April - Donald Sykes on 'The Architectural Heritage of Kent' at Wye College

Both lectures start at 2.30pm (Admission £1-25 KAS members, £1-50 non-members)

6th March - KAS Conference 'Aspects of Kentish History and Archaeology' at Shoreham Village Hall. Tickets £10-00 KAS members, £11-00 non-members from Joy Saynor, 28 High Street, Shoreham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 7TD (SAE please)

29th May - CKA Conference 'The Roman Invasion and Conquest of Britain' (Richborough Castle tour (morning), illustrated lectures at Guildhall, Sandwich (afternoon). Tickets (£4-00 all day, £1-20 morning, £3-00 afternoon) from CKA, 5 Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9DL (SAE please)

**RICHARD WEEKS (HON. SECRETARY) (TEL: 0580 890042)**

**14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT TN12 0EP**

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## MAY NEWSLETTER 1993

### PLEASE READ THIS

The Group's meetings will continue to be held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of the Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall). **HOWEVER**, for the next two meetings we shall meet on a **WEDNESDAY** evening, commencing at the usual time of 7.30pm. See M.A.A.G. NEWS.

### DIARY

**MAY 26th                      \*\*\*\*      RECENT EXCAVATIONS BY THE LOWER MEDWAY GROUP      \*\*\*\***

Peter Dawson will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Recent Excavations by the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group'.

**JUNE 23rd                                      \*\*\*\*      THE WORK OF A REGISTRAR      \*\*\*\***

Mr Skinner, a retired registrar of Maidstone, will give a talk on the work of a registrar, together with much useful information for those interested in family history.

**SATURDAY, 10th JULY                      \*\*\*\*      ANNUAL OUTING TO FISHBOURNE & PORTSMOUTH      \*\*\*\***

There will be no meeting in Maidstone in July, instead there will be the customary coach outing - this year to Fishbourne Roman Palace and Portsmouth (PTO for further details).

There will be NO August meeting due to holidays.

### EXCURSIONS

**FRIDAY, 25th JUNE                                      \*\*\*\*      EVENING WALK AROUND WEST MALLING      \*\*\*\***

Albert Daniels will lead an evening stroll around West Malling village on Friday, 25th June. Meet at 7.00pm outside the Bear public house in the High Street. If anyone requires, or can offer, transport please give me a ring.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1993/94 became due on the 1st April. The rates are unchanged from last year:

FAMILY    £3-00	ADULT    £2-00	JUNIOR    £1-00
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Subscriptions should be sent to me (please make cheques payable to MAAG), or bring it along to one of the meetings. A receipt is enclosed for those who have already paid. PLEASE advise me of any change of address (or if you wish to resign from the Group).

### M.A.A.G. NEWS

The Group's 24th AGM, held on 23rd April, was attended by 20 members and was chaired by Robin Cook (Albert was in Nottingham attending a conference on behalf of the Group).

The main topic for discussion was the venue and day for future meetings in the wake of my comments about declining attendances in the last Newsletter. It was generally agreed that the current venue was extremely good value (and well equipped) but that noise from the Friday night disco downstairs was a problem. The town centre also tended to be rather boisterous on Fridays. It was decided that, by way of an experiment, the next two meetings will be on the fourth **WEDNESDAY** of the month. The situation will be reviewed at the June meeting and a vote taken whether to continue

meeting on Wednesdays or to revert to Friday (or alternate between the two?). The management of the Arches Inn have been very amenable in allowing us to do this, rather than booking for the whole year. I would be grateful for any feedback (favourable or otherwise) concerning the change of evening to help assess the experiment.

In the absence of any nominations (again), the existing officers and representatives were re-elected unopposed.

Finally, my wife and I would like to thank you all for the Portmeirion cups and saucers given to us as a wedding present. We both enjoyed our wedding day (and our honeymoon in Madeira) immensely.

### **DIGGING NEWS**

Recent field work has been limited. In February an excavation was carried out at Lady Bessies Cottage, Boughton Monchelsea. Watching briefs were carried out at West Malling Airfield and College Avenue, Maidstone. Reports have been prepared for the above and work is continuing on those for the Old Palace, Maidstone, Snodland and Northgate, Rochester.

Excavation of solid C13th walls and foundations is currently under way at Christchurch College in Canterbury under the direction of Paul Bennett of C.A.T.

Future work by the Group will include resistivity surveys at Kemsing and Murston Church and, with luck, excavations at The Old Forge, Cuxton, Dode Church (with LMARG) and the Museum of Kent Rural Life. For details of forthcoming fieldwork, please contact Albert Daniels (Maidstone 674494) or come along to the meetings.

### **ANNUAL OUTING TO FISHBOURNE ROMAN PALACE & PORTSMOUTH - SATURDAY. 10th JULY**

For this year's outing we shall be joined by members of the Lower Medway Group.

Our first stop will be at Fishbourne, one of the largest Roman residences excavated in Britain. The 1st Century AD 'Palace' has many fine mosaic-floored rooms. Items of everyday Roman life are displayed in the site museum and an audio-visual programme tells the story of the site. There is a cafeteria and picnic area.

We then continue on to Portsmouth, home of the Royal Navy. Here you may wish to visit the Mary Rose, HMS Warrior 1860 or HMS Victory and the Royal Naval Museum in the historic dockyard. Portsmouth also boasts a number of other museums including the Charles Dickens Birthplace Museum, as well as lots of shops.

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

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

The cost of the trip (including coach AND admission to Fishbourne) will be:

ADULTS	£8-00	SENIOR CITIZENS	£6-00	CHILDREN	£4-00
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Please contact me for further details or to book places. Make cheques payable to MAAG and state where you intend to meet the coach.

### **OTHER EVENTS**

Saturday, 19th June - KAS one day Study Course on Samian Pottery - Dr AP Detsikas. Mid-Kent Professional Centre, Loose Road, Maidstone (£4-00). Contact me for a form. Saturdays, 3rd, 10th & 17th July - Faversham Society Open House Scheme. Admission by programme (£3-00). Contact Fleur-de-Lis Centre, 13 Preston Street, Faversham, Kent.

**RICHARD WEEKS (HON. SECRETARY) (TEL: 0580 890042)**  
**14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT TN12 0EP**

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 1993

PLEASE NOTE: AFTER A BRIEF FLIRTATION WITH WEDNESDAYS, MEETINGS HAVE REVERTED TO FRIDAYS

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

### DIARY

SEPTEMBER 24th \*\*\*\*\* EXCAVATION OF A 4000 YEAR OLD TOWN IN BAHRAIN \*\*\*\*\*

Martin Hicks of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust will give an illustrated talk about a recent expedition to excavate a 4000 year old town in the middle of the desert in Bahrain.

OCTOBER 22nd \*\*\*\*\* OLD PALACE, MAIDSTONE - PART II \*\*\*\*\*

Mr Tony Tomlin, Borough Architect with the Maidstone Borough Council, will give a talk entitled 'The Old Palace, Maidstone: The Structure'. This is a follow-up to Mr Tomlin's previous lecture, in January 1991, and will explain the structure of the building and the history of its construction based on evidence from the recent restoration work.

NOVEMBER 19th \*\*\*\*\* SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED \*\*\*\*\*

NOTE: The provisional date for the Group's Christmas 'Party' is Friday, December 17th.

### EXCURSIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6th \*\*\*\*\* REGENCY HASTINGS \*\*\*\*\*

An afternoon walk around 'Regency Hastings' has been arranged. This will be led by Mr Paul Read, Conservation Officer for Hastings Borough Council. Meet at 2.00pm at the Stables Theatre, The Bourne, Hastings. The walk will conclude with a tour of St Mary in the Castle Church and an opportunity to view its recently restored roof. Tea will be provided here and there will a fee of £ 1-00. If you require a map or help with transport then please contact me.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

A receipt is enclosed for subscriptions paid since the last newsletter. Members whose 1993/94 subscriptions are still outstanding should send them to me.

(Family £ 3-00 Adult £ 2-00 Junior £ 1-00 Cheques payable to M.A.A.G. please)

### M.A.A.G. NEWS

The annual outing on 10th July to Fishbourne and Portsmouth was attended by 43 members of the Maidstone and Lower Medway Groups and their guests. The turn-out was considerably up on that of previous years and, for once, it was possible to cover all the costs of the outing.

Many members will already be aware that Mr Paul Oldham, a founder member of the Group, was elected Mayor of Maidstone in May. One of Paul's aims for his Mayoral Year is to promote the study and conservation of Maidstone's past. We wish him a happy and very successful term of office. Paul has kindly invited the Group to meet at the Town Hall and this is planned for early in 1994.

As noted above, the recent experiment with meetings on Wednesday evenings has been discontinued. Although the room (and town centre) were much quieter, the majority of those members who attended the June meeting expressed the wish to return to our normal Friday evening meetings.

## DIGGING NEWS

Things have been quiet on the digging front over the summer. However, work has now started on the final stage of the A229 Maidstone Spine Road from the Bridge Gyratory System to the Running Horse Roundabout. This will entail excavation of the Mount Roman Villa which lies about 200 metres north-west of Maidstone East Station. The Canterbury Archaeological Trust are responsible for the archaeological work and the Group has volunteered its services. Work will commence following the removal of the 20 feet or so of overburden covering the site. Coincidentally, the latest volume of *Archaeologia Cantiana* contains an article by David Kelly about partial excavation of the villa by the Maidstone Group in the 1970s (*Arch Cant* (1992) 110, pp177-235). More details about the arrangements will be given as they become available. For information about current digs please contact Albert Daniels (Maidstone 674494) or come along to the meetings.

Excavations have commenced at St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks where a new parish room is to be built beneath the nave of the 800 year old church. The excavation will be directed by Mike Webber of the Oxford Archaeological Unit. Work will continue for about three months Tuesday to Friday (Saturdays from 25th September) and volunteers are required to excavate burials and to process finds. Please contact Mrs Margaret Carpenter (0732 455336) or Mike Webber on site.

## COURSES

Certificate in Archaeology. 2 year (part-time) course starting in October. Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm. Fee: around £ 200 (subject to review). For further information, contact University Centre, Avebury Avenue, Tonbridge, TN9 1TG. Tel: (0732) 352316

School of Continuing Education, University of Kent (Tel: 0634 345359)  
HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL ENGLAND - Alan Ward (20 weeks Tue 28 Sep 7.00-9.00pm) at Adult Education Centre, Rochester, Eastgate. Fee £ 58-00

University of Kent Courses, 1993. At University Centre, Tonbridge:  
ARCHAEOLOGY OF ROMAN BRITAIN - Alec Detsicas (20 weeks Tue 28 Sep 10.00-12.00noon) £58  
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION - Frances Williams (9 weeks Thu 30 Sep 10.00-12.00noon) £29  
INTRODUCTION TO EGYPTOLOGY - Frances Williams (18 weeks Thu 30 Sep 1.00-3.00pm) £58  
ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND - Alan Ward (20 weeks Fri 1 Oct 7.30-9.30pm) £58  
At Centre for Kentish Studies, Maidstone:  
LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY - Duncan Harrington (20 weeks Wed 6 Oct 5.15-7.15pm) £62

## OTHER EVENTS

The K.A.S. have arranged a programme of monthly lectures on Saturday afternoons at 2.30pm at various venues around the county. Tickets are £ 1-50 (KAS members), £ 2-00 (non-members). Applications for tickets should be made to HGB Coast, 127, Snodhurst Avenue, Chatham, Kent ME5 0TN (with sae) - cheques payable to KAS Lectures A/C.  
25th September - Ken Gravett on 'Architectural Implications of Shopping' at the Camden Centre, Tunbridge Wells  
16th October - William Alexander on 'A Farming Century' at the St Lawrence Community Centre, Sidcup  
6th November - Jayne Semple on 'Old Soar' at Plaxtol Village Hall

Saturday, 9th October (10.30am-5.00pm) - KAS One Day Conference on 'Nautical Archaeology around Kent' at the Library, Bryant Road, Strood. Tickets (£ 5-00 KAS members, £ 8-00 non-members) and programme available from Dr AP Detsicas, Dunelm House, Main Road, Icklesham, Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4AR (sae please).  
Saturday, 23rd October (10.30am-5.00pm) - C.B.A. Conference 'Romans in the South East' at Medway Hall, Angel Centre, Tonbridge. Tickets (£ 5-00 in advance, £ 6-00 on the day). Details from 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD (sae please).  
Saturday, 13th November (2.15pm-5.30pm) - CKA Conference 'Recent Excavations and Research in SE England' at Christ Church College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury. Tickets £ 2-00 (payable CKA) from 5, Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9DL (sae please).

RICHARD WEEKS (HONORARY SECRETARY)  
14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, KENT TN12 0EP

# **MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

## **Regency Hastings - A Guided Walk**

**2.00 pm, Saturday, 6th November 1993**

The walk will be led by Mr Paul Read, Conservation Officer for Hastings Borough Council.

Meet at 2.00pm on Saturday, 6th November at the Stables Theatre, The Bourne, Hastings.

The walk will conclude with a tour of the recently restored St. Mary in the Castle Church where tea will be provided.

Fee for the walk (and tea) will be £ 1-00 per person.

A map showing the location of the Stables Theatre and car parks in the town is enclosed.

For further information, please contact Richard Weeks (0580 890042) or Albeit Daniels (0622 674494).

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 1993

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of the Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

### DIARY

#### NOVEMBER 19th \*\*\*\*\* SAXON SHORE FORTS \*\*\*\*\*

Alan Ward, of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, will give an illustrated talk on 'The Saxon Shore Forts'

No doubt he will also update us on his recent excavations and especially those for which volunteers are required.

#### DECEMBER 17th \*\*\*\*\* PREHISTORIC LANDSCAPES/XMAS PARTY \*\*\*\*\*

Steve Dockerill, formerly a stalwart member of the Group and now a lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Bradford will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Prehistoric Landscapes of the Northern Isles'.

As is customary for our Christmas Meeting there will be the usual party. Please feel free to bring along any food/drink.

#### JANUARY 21st \*\*\*\*\* ROMAN KENT \*\*\*\*\*

Cliff Ward, Chairman of the Orpington and District Archaeological Society will give a talk on Roman Kent.

### ADVANCE WARNING

#### FEBRUARY 11th \*\*\*\*\* MEETING/RECEPTION AT THE TOWN HALL \*\*\*\*\*

At the kind invitation of the Mayor of Maidstone, Mr Paul Oldham, February's meeting will be held at the Town Hall. There will be a short illustrated talk or quiz, followed by a reception. Further details will be given in the next newsletter.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

A receipt is enclosed for subscriptions paid since the last newsletter. There are still some 1993/94 subscriptions outstanding.

FAMILY £3-00      ADULT £2-00      JUNIOR £1-00

Subscriptions should be sent to me (please make cheques payable to MAAG), or bring it along to one of the meetings.

PLEASE advise me of any change of address (or if you wish to resign from the Group).

### M.A.A.G. NEWS

There was a very good turn-out for the guided walk around Regency Hastings on 6th November. Some 20 members enjoyed a very interesting and informative tour on what was a rather cold and grey day. The visit to St Mary in the Castle Church which is currently being restored was undoubtedly the highlight.



Next year, 1994, is the Group's 25th Anniversary and it occurred to me whether we should take the opportunity to raise the profile of the Group. Membership has been falling, albeit slowly, over the past few years - probably for a number of reasons (competition with other leisure pursuits, lack of any large-scale excavations, etc). For the Group's 20th Anniversary in 1989 we held an exhibition in Maidstone Museum which did generate a not inconsiderable number of new members.

I would be very interested to receive any ideas or suggestions from members as to how the Group should mark its Silver Jubilee (if indeed we should at all).

### **DIGGING NEWS**

Following an initial tidying-up exercise a couple of months ago, it is planned to resume work at 'the butcher's shop' in the High Street, Charing on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> November. The shop is the only half-timbered building in the High Street and is just south of Pett Lane which leads to the Church and Archbishop's Palace.

The scope of the work required is to be specified by the County Archaeologist this week and is likely to include building recording, together with some excavation in the rear courtyard. For further details, please come along to the November meeting or contact Albert Daniels (Maidstone 674494).

Although work has commenced on the portion of the A229 Maidstone Spine Road between the Bridge Gyrotory System and the Running Horse Roundabout (or Interchange!), archaeological investigation is not expected to start until about mid-January. Excavations, by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, are expected to continue for about 2 months. To keep abreast of developments, come along to the meetings or contact Albert.

Some members have helped with the excavation currently being carried out at St. Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks. This was recently featured on Meridian's early evening news programme.,

Albert reports that recent work involving the exhumation of lead coffins is only for those with strong stomachs I

### **EVENTS**

Thursday, 2nd December - 'The Medway Tunnel and its Archaeology' at The Dockyard Church, The Historic Dockyard, Chatham. Tickets from Jenny Hope, Medway (0634) 812551. Price £ 3-50. Refreshments available.

#### **KAS Monthly Lectures:**

The lectures take place on Saturday afternoons starting at 2.30pm at various venues around the county. Admission £ 1-50 (KAS members) or £ 2-00 (non-members). Tickets available at the door or in advance from

Mr HGB Coast, 127 Snodhurst Avenue, Chatham, Kent ME5 0TN

Cheques payable to KAS Lectures A/C (with SAE please).

11th December - Ann Nevill on 'The London of Dickens' at Strood Library, off Gun Lane, Strood.

8th January - Shirley Black on 'Kentish Newspapers' at St. Mary's Church Hall, Ashford

19th February - Philip Lawrence on 'Fashion, Fighting and Faith in Medieval England' at Bapchild and Tonge Village Hall, near Sittingbourne.

RICHARD WEEKS (HON. SECRETARY) (TEL: 0580 890042)  
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# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 1994

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### DIARY

#### **FEBRUARY 11th                      \*\*\*\* MEETING /RECEPTION AT THE TOWN HALL \*\*\*\***

At the kind invitation of the worshipful the Mayor of Maidstone. Councillor Paul Oldham February's meeting will be held across the road at the Town Hall. Meet outside the Town Hall at 7.20pm for 7.30pm start. There will be a photographic quiz with a small prize, followed by a reception and tour.

#### **MARCH 18th    \*\*\*\* THE MEDIEVAL ARCHER \*\*\*\***

Many members will remember a lecture in May 1991 by a young man who dressed up as a Saxon and brought along replica armour, weapons and domestic items. At the request of more than one member, Mr Chapman will present a new lecture on 'The Medieval Archer' based on the English archer in medieval warfare from early Medieval times to the Tudor period. He informs me that there is less 'dressing up' but he has numerous slides and will bring along examples of bows, arrows, armour and helmets for members to examine and, no doubt, for the youngsters to try on.

#### **APRIL 22nd    \*\*\*\* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1994 \*\*\*\***

The April meeting to be held in the Function Room, The Arches Inn, Market Buildings, Maidstone on Friday, 22nd April at 7.30 pm, will be the Group's Annual General Meeting.

#### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of AGM 1993
3. Chairman's Report
4. Honorary Secretary's Report
5. Honorary Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers
7. Election of Auditor
8. Reports and Election of Representatives
9. Future Activities
10. Any Other Business

Any resolutions or additional items for the agenda should reach me by Thursday, 21st April. All the Officers of the Group, as well as elected Representatives are, as usual, up for re-election. An injection of 'new blood' is undoubtedly overdue and I, for one, would gladly 'step aside' if anyone would like to take over the post of Honorary Secretary or, at least, to arrange speakers for meetings and excursions.

PLEASE PLEASE give some thought to possible itineraries for the Annual Outing in July. Also this year is the Group's Silver Jubilee and it would be nice to celebrate it in some way. If you have any ideas then come along to the meeting or let me know in advance and I will raise them on your behalf.

If anyone would like to give a short talk about any research they are undertaking or even perhaps show some slides of archaeological holiday destinations after the formal business then please contact me. Otherwise a quiz or other entertainment will be arranged by 'the management'.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1994/95 become due on the 1st April. Rates remain unchanged.

FAMILY £3-00

ADULT £2-00

JUNIOR £1-00

Subscriptions should be sent to me (please make cheques payable to M.A.A.G.), alternatively bring it along to one of the meetings. A receipt will be sent with a subsequent newsletter. PLEASE PLEASE remember to advise me of any change of address.

## DIGGING NEWS

As promised in the last newsletter excavations started on the Mount Roman Villa on the 2nd February. The Canterbury Archaeological Trust are undertaking the work with Mark Houlistan as the site director. A two week initial investigation is planned, followed by up to six weeks further work depending on results. Although there have been several previous 'digs' on the site (including those by the Group in the 1970's under Alec Miles and David Kelly) this is the first (and possibly only) opportunity to uncover the whole site and make sense of conflicting plans.

Volunteers are welcome during the week although access to the excavation entails crossing a very busy construction site. Boots will be required (hard hats and reflective jackets can be provided). Work will also take place on Sundays (when the JCBs and earthmovers have a rest) with volunteer labour.

Access to the site is via the old main gate of the barracks (just north of the Royal Mail sorting office). Parking is available on what was the parade ground. The site is adjacent to the tow path walking southwest towards the railway bridge. A good view can also be obtained from the tow path itself without having to enter the barracks.

If you are interested in helping with the excavation please contact Albert Daniels (Maidstone 674494) for further details. Armchair 'diggers' can find an account of previous work on the villa by David Kelly in *Archaeologia Cantiana* 110 (1992) p177-235.

Following on from the Mount 'dig', Albert informs me that two other sites await our attention. An opportunity to excavate a possible medieval well in Charing High Street (adjacent to 'the butchers') and a Roman building at East Farleigh first discovered in 1938. The latter in a hop garden which is to be planted with Christmas trees.

## EVENTS

Saturday, 19th February - KAS monthly lecture 'Fashion. Fighting and Faith in Medieval England (based on brasses)' by Philip Lawrence at Bapchild and Tonge Village Hall. Starts 2.30pm. Admission £1-50 (KAS members) or £2-00 (non-members)

Saturday, 12th March - KAS monthly lecture 'The Story of Leather' by Roy Thomson at St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone. Starts 2.30pm. Admission £1-50 or £2-00.

Saturday, 19th March - C.K.A. Conference, Angel Leisure Centre, Tonbridge - '30 Years of Archaeology in Kent'. To commemorate 30th anniversary of Council for Kentish Archaeology. Tickets £5-00 (all day) £2-00 (morning only) £3-00 (afternoon only).

Cheques payable CKA with SAE please from 5 Harvest Bank, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9DL  
March 29th-April 2nd '1381' - a play based on the Peasant's Revolt at the Archbishops' Palace. Tickets £6-00 (£4-00 concessions) from the Palace. Tel (0622) 663006

Saturday, 16th April - KAS monthly lecture 'Revising the Buildings of England. Writing the Buildings of Wales' by John Newman (author of the two 'Pevsner' volumes on Kent) at The Assembly Room, Tonbridge Parish Church. Starts 2.30pm. Admission £1-50 or £2-00.

Saturday, 14th May - K.H.F One Day Conference at Wye College. Morning lectures on Wye and the College with a choice of afternoon excursions. Tickets £6-00. Programmes and booking forms available at meetings or from me.

RICHARD WEEKS (HON. SECRETARY) (TEL: 0580 890042)

14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT TN12 0EP

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## MAY NEWSLETTER 1994

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on: Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of the Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

### DIARY

**MAY 20th**

**\*\*\*\* KENTISH FOLKLORE & CUSTOMS \*\*\*\***

Mr Gordon Newton, producer of the Rochester Sweeps Festival, will give an illustrated talk on various local customs and traditions (including Morris Dancing and the Sweeps Festival) which are actively upheld by groups throughout the county. Mr Newton has also made a special study of the 'Green Man' and will discuss its significance to-day.

**JUNE 17th**

**\*\*\*\* THE DOVER BOAT \*\*\*\***

Keith Parfitt of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust will give a talk on the famous Bronze Age boat discovered in Dover in October 1992 by a workman with a JCB. Members may have seen that a trust has recently been set up to raise the estimated £1.3 million required to preserve this almost unique vessel. This is a meeting not to be missed!

**SATURDAY, JUNE 18th**

**\*\*\*\* GUIDED WALK AROUND CHARING \*\*\*\***

A guided walk around Charing village, where the Group has been undertaking excavations recently, has been arranged. Meet at 2.00 pm outside the church. If anyone requires, or can offer, transport please give me a ring.

**SATURDAY, JULY 9th**

**\*\*\*\* ANNUAL OUTING TO STOWMARKET \*\*\*\***

There will be no meeting in Maidstone in July, instead there will be the customary coach trip - this year to the Museum of East Anglian Life at Stowmarket, Suffolk (PTO for further details).

There will be NO August meeting due to holidays.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions for 1994/95 became due on the 1st April. Rates remain unchanged.  
FAMILY £3-00      ADULT £2-00      JUNIOR £1-00

Subscriptions should be sent to me (please make cheques payable to M.A.A.G.), or bring it along to one of the meetings. A receipt will be sent with a subsequent newsletter. PLEASE remember to advise me of any change of address (or if you wish to resign).

### **M.A.A.G NEWS**

The Mayor, Councillor Paul Oldham, held a reception at the Town Hall on April 16th to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the Group. This was attended by many members of the Maidstone and Lower Medway Groups who were active in the 1970's.

The Group's 25th AGM, held on 22nd April was attended by 18 members. In the absence of any nominations (again), the existing officers were re-elected unopposed. Roger Wallbridge replaces Clive Law as the Group's CBA representative.

Uncertainty over plans for the refurbishment of the Arches Inn has caused some disruption in the planning of meetings. Fortunately, the proposed alterations will be restricted to downstairs, creating a cafe/bar area. This change in use should mean that loud music from the bar will no longer affect our Friday evening meetings.

After the formal business, Roger Wallbridge displayed some copies of antique maps and these were sold to aid Group funds. Albert Daniels triumphed in the quiz, narrowly beating Jess Obee for the book token prize.

#### DIGGING NEWS

Excavations at the Mount Roman Villa in Maidstone have been completed. Members of the Group (unfortunately outnumbered by those from societies from much further afield, e.g. Dover) assisted the Canterbury Archaeological Trust over 6 weekends.

In the past couple of weeks, resistivity and auger surveying have been undertaken at Highstead Farm, near Rodmersham to investigate a possible bank and ditch.

The report on the Group's excavations at the Old Palace, Maidstone has been completed and the finds lodged in Maidstone Museum.

For details of forthcoming excavation work (due to recommence on June 12th - probably at Charing) please contact Albert Daniels (0622 674494).

#### ANNUAL OUTING TO MUSEUM OF EAST ANGLIAN LIFE AT STOWMARKET - SATURDAY, 9th JULY

This year's outing will be to Stowmarket to visit the Museum of East Anglian Life.

The museum occupies a 70 acre riverside site in the centre of Stowmarket. There are displays on agriculture, crafts, social life and industry in East Anglia. All the buildings, except the 13th Abbot's Hall Barn, have been moved onto the site and include a watermill, windpump, smithy, industrial workshop, farmhouse and chapel. The Bobby Building houses craft workshops, steam gallery, video displays, working machinery and Industrial Heritage exhibition. There is a nature trail, local breeds of farm animals (including a working Suffolk Punch horse) and three Burrell steam traction engines.

The museum has a tea room or you may like to bring a picnic or find somewhere to eat in the town (just two minutes walk away and where you may browse round the market).

Please contact me for further details and to book places on the outing. Family, friends, etc are all welcome. Please support the outing.

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

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

It is hoped to include refreshment stops mid-way on both legs of the journey at Witham.

The estimated time of arrival back in Maidstone is about 8.30 pm (honest!).

Cost of the trip (all inclusive, coach, museum admission & coffee) will be:

ADULTS	£10-00	SENIOR CITIZENS	£8-00	CHILDREN (16 or less)	£6-00
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#### EVENTS

Saturday 21st May - KAS AGM 11.00 am at Dartford Campus of University of Greenwich, Oakfield Lane, Dartford. Conducted tour of Bexley in the afternoon.

Saturday 17th May & Sunday 18th September - Open days at Scadbury Moated Manor, Chislehurst. Guided tours every 15 minutes from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Admission free BUT limited parking close to site by ticket only (Mr M Meekums, 27 Eynsford Close, Petts Wood BR5 1DP)

**RICHARD WEEKS (HON. SECRETARY) (TEL: 0580 890042)**  
**14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT TN12 0EP**

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 1994

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

### DIARY

**SEPTEMBER 16th                                \*\*\*\*    ARCHAEOLOGY OF EARLY MEDIEVAL BOATS    \*\*\*\***

Richard Cross of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust will give an illustrated talk about the archaeology of early medieval boats and the Cinque Ports.

**OCTOBER 21st                                        \*\*\*\*    MAIDSTONE MUSEUM    \*\*\*\***

Claire Mason, Keeper of Human History at Maidstone Museum, will give an illustrated talk entitled 'A brief guide to Maidstone Museum and its collections'.

**NOVEMBER 18th                                        \*\*\*\*    CONSTRUCTION OF OASTHOUSES    \*\*\*\***

Mr Robin Walton will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Oasts - their construction and use from the 16th to the 20th Century'.

**DECEMBER 16th                                        \*\*\*\*    CHRISTMAS MEETING    \*\*\*\***

Advance warning of the date for your diaries - further details in the next newsletter.

### EXCURSIONS

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15th                                \*\*\*\*    MEDIEVAL HASTINGS WALK    \*\*\*\***

An afternoon walk around 'Medieval Hastings' has been arranged. Like last year's walk around 'Regency Hastings' this will be led by Mr Paul Read, Conservation Officer for Hastings Borough Council. Meet at 2.00pm at the Stables Theatre, The Bourne, Hastings. The walk will again conclude with tea at St Mary in the Castle Church and an opportunity to see how the conservation project is progressing. The fee for the walk (and tea) will be £ 1-00. If you require a map or help with transport then please contact me.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

A receipt is enclosed for subscriptions paid since the last newsletter. Members whose 1994/95 subscriptions are still outstanding should send them to me (cheques payable to M.A.A.G. please).

FAMILY    £ 3-00

ADULT    £ 2-00

JUNIOR    £ 1-00

### M.A.A.G. NEWS

A full coach of members and their guests enjoyed an entertaining day (I hope) at the Museum of East Anglian Life at Stowmarket on 9th July. Many thanks to Robin Cook for arranging the 'comfort' stops at Witham and to Sandra Blain for suggesting the visit.

### DIGGING NEWS

Digging has been limited to assisting with other people's excavations - notably those at the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Dover and Newark.

The report on the excavations at Snodland Roman villa has been received from the Oxford Archaeology Unit. This can be studied at the Group's forthcoming meetings.

A new exhibition 'Romans Next Door' opens at Maidstone Museum from 10th September about the Mount Roman Villa recently investigated by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust with the assistance of several local groups, including our own.

Albert has plans for a Group project to record the ledger slabs in All Saints' Church. This will entail surveying, drawing, photography and documentary research. If you would like to help, please contact Albert Daniels on (0622) 674494. Albert can also give information about on-going excavations in the county.

### COURSES

Archaeology Certificate Courses:

GCE A Level (day) and GCSE (evening) Archaeology at Canterbury College. Enquiries to Wyn Jones, Programme Manager, Canterbury College, New Dover Road, Canterbury.

Tel: (0227) 766081

Certificate in Local Archaeology (day) at Christchurch College, Canterbury. Enquiries to Dr Sean Greenwood, Christchurch College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury.

Tel: (0227) 782264

University of Kent Courses, 1994. At University Centre, Tonbridge:

THE MINOANS AND MYCENAE - Alec Detsicas (20 weeks Tue 27 Sep 10.00-12.00noon) £ 60

KENT IN THE ERA OF THE CIVIL WAR - G Hornby (10 weeks Thu 6 Oct 7.30-9.30) £ 30

ARCHAEOLOGY OF LATER ANGLO SAXON AND EARLY MEDIEVAL ENGLAND - Alan Ward (10 weeks Fri 30 Sep 7.30-9.30pm) £ 30

At Centre for Kentish Studies, Maidstone:

LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY - Duncan Harrington (20 weeks Wed 2 Nov 5.15-7.15pm) £ 65

### OTHER EVENTS. LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

K.A.S. lecture programme on Saturday afternoons at 2.30pm at various venues around the county. Attendance is open to all, tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. Tickets are £ 1-50 (KAS members), £ 2-00 (non-members). Apply to HGB Coast, 57 Shirk Oak Park, Woodchurch, Kent TN26 3PX (with SAE) - cheques payable to KAS Lectures A/C. 24th September - Michael Moad on 'Rochester Museum, its History and Collections' at Strood Library, Strood, Rochester

8th October - Mary Scott on 'Phoenix from the Ashes (Reconstruction of Uppark for the National Trust) at Borough Green Village Hall

5th November - John Whyman on 'Broadstairs in Old Picture Postcards' at Hilderstone Adult Education Centre, St Peter's Road, Broadstairs

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th September - Scadbury Moated Manor, Chislehurst Open Days. Tours at 15 minute intervals from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Admission free. Limited parking close to site available by ticket only - apply to Mr M Meekums, 27 Eynsford Close, Petts Wood BR5 1DP (SAE please and state day required)

Saturday, 8th October - C.B.A. Conference on the theme of Anglo-Saxons at the Boys Grammar School, Maidstone. Further details from Mrs S Broomfield, 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD (SAE please). Tel: (0732) 838698 nearer the date.

Saturday, 14th October - K.A.S. Fieldwalking Day School at Smeeth, near Ashford. Further details from Albert Daniels (0622) 674494.

Saturday, 29th October - KAS One Day Conference on 'Church Archaeology' at Bradbourne School, Sevenoaks. Further details from Dr AP Detsicas, Dunelm House, Main Road, Icklesham, Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4AR (SAE please).

Saturday, 12th November (2.15pm-5.30pm) - CKA Conference 'Major Archaeological Discoveries in SE England' at Christ Church College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury. Includes talks on recent work at the London Amphitheatre site, Verulamium and Springhead. Tickets £ 2-00 (payable CKA) from 5, Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9DL (sae please).

**RICHARD WEEKS (HON. SECRETARY) (TEL: 0580 890042)**  
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# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 1994

The Group's meetings, with the exception of that in JANUARY, will continue to be held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall). The Function Room (which is upstairs) has a separate entrance to the pub.

May I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

### DIARY

#### **DECEMBER 16th                      \*\*\*\*    PARISH CHURCHES/EGYPT/XMAS PARTY    \*\*\*\***

The entertainment will be of the 'home grown' variety. Richard Weeks will give a short illustrated talk on parish churches. This talk was partially inflicted on members in September. By request his wife, Linda, will show some slides of her recent visit to Egypt. Pearl Davies has also agreed to bring along a couple of videos of Egyptian temples and the light show at Karnak, together with some of her souvenirs.

As is customary for our Christmas meeting there will be the usual party. Please feel free to bring along (discretely!) any food and/or drink to share.

#### **JANUARY 20th                      \*\*\*\*    ALL SAINTS' CHURCH    \*\*\*\***

Christopher Morgan-Jones, vicar of All Saints', will give a guided tour of All Saints' church and talk about its history. Meet at 7.30 pm at the entrance below the tower.

#### NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE

Work on recording the ledger slabs will start the following morning - see Digging News

#### **FEBRUARY 17th                      \*\*\*\*    THANET ARCHAEOLOGY    \*\*\*\***

David Perkins, Director of the Trust for Thanet Archaeology, will give an illustrated talk on recent excavations in Thanet.

The Isle of Thanet probably has the greatest concentration of archaeological remains in the county, especially those covering the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods. Numerous exciting discoveries (barrows, coin hoards, cemeteries, settlements, etc) have been made in the last few years as readers of Archaeologia Cantiana and the archaeological press will be aware.

#### **MARCH 17th                      \*\*\*\*    SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED    \*\*\*\***

Advance warning of the date for your diaries - further details in the next newsletter.

### EXCURSIONS

A guided tour of Charing village is being arranged for the Spring (probably a Saturday afternoon in March or early April). This will include a visit to the C13th Church, the Courtyard and Great Hall of the Archbishop's Palace, followed by a perambulation of the medieval High Street. Details of the date and cost (including tea) will be given in the next newsletter.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

A receipt is enclosed for subscriptions paid since the last newsletter. There are still some 1994/95 subscriptions outstanding.

FAMILY    £ 3-00

ADULT    £ 2-00

JUNIOR    £ 1-00

Please send subs to me (cheques payable to MAAG) or bring them along to a meeting.



## M.A.A.G. NEWS

Apologies for the delay in producing the current newsletter. This has primarily been due to the problem of finding suitable speakers. The number of people who owe Albert a favour is rapidly diminishing! If anyone can provide any suggestions, or would consider giving a short talk themselves, please let me know.

About 20 members and their guests enjoyed a walk around 'Medieval Hastings', concluding at St Mary in the Castle for tea, on a fine sunny afternoon in October.

## DIGGING NEWS

In November, members of the Group undertook some fieldwork, on behalf of the KCC Highways Department and the County Archaeologist, to determine the location of a Roman road at Chart Sutton. The road had been disturbed during initial work to improve the drainage on the bridleway between Amberfield and Luck's Lane.

By means of probing and limited excavation in wet conditions, it was shown that the road is between 2.4 and 3 metres wide, constructed of ragstone about 200 mm thick with evidence of a gravel surfacing or repairs. The course of the road appears to follow the existing bridleway and adjacent boundary fence. This is considered to be due to a combination of the change in gradient and land slippage.

A report and recommendations has been submitted to the County Archaeologist.

Albert undertook a watching brief at Bearsted golf course due to stripping and landscaping of the 12th tee, adjacent to Hockers Lane. The only finds were C20th. An adjacent electricity cable trench showed evidence of peg tile manufacture which was confirmed by the presence of nearby clay quarry pits.

It is intended to commence work at All Saints' to record the ledger slabs on Saturday, 21st January. Meet at 10.00 am at the entrance below the tower.

The project will entail surveying the location of the slabs, recording their inscriptions by drawing, photography and, possibly, rubbings, together with subsequent documentary research. The length of the project has yet to be determined, being dependent upon the number of slabs present, the level of detail to be recorded and access to the church (dodging weddings, etc).

If you would like to assist, or have any experience of such work, please contact Albert Daniels on (01622) 674494.

## COURSES

### OTHER EVENTS, LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

K.A.S. lecture programme on Saturday afternoons at 2.30pm at various venues around the county. Attendance is open to all, tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. Tickets are £ 1-50 (KAS members), £ 2-00 (non-members). Apply to HGB Coast, 57 Shirk Oak Park, Woodchurch, Kent TN26 3PX (with SAE) - cheques payable to KAS Lectures A/C.

17th December - Paul Hastings on 'Parish Government in Kent' at Bapchild Village Hall

14th January - Vicky Golding on 'Building Stones of Kent' at Cathedral Education Centre, Canterbury

18th February - Margaret Roake on 'Discoveries from Estate Records from NW Kent' at St Mary's Parish Hall, Stone, near Dartford

18th March - Robin Craig on 'Thanet Shipping Trade, 1680-1780' at St Mary's Church Hall, Dieu Stone Lane, Dover

28th/29th January - Prehistory of London Conference at Museum of London (details from me)

**RICHARD WEEKS (HON. SECRETARY) (TEL: 01580 890042)**  
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# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## MARCH NEWSLETTER 1995

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn, Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

Like a number of other establishments in the town at the moment, The Arches Inn will be closing for refurbishment in the near future. Meetings will continue to be held in the Function Room, although the 'pub' itself (and its attendant noise) will be closed.

### DIARY

**MARCH 17th**

**\*\*\*\* BUILDING STONES OF KENT \*\*\*\***

Vicky Golding and her husband, who is a geologist, have made a serious study of Kent building materials and their use. Readers of *Arch Cant* will have seen the recent paper by Worssam & Tatton-Brown in volume CXII on Kentish Rag and other Kent building stones.

**APRIL 21st**

**\*\*\*\* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1995 \*\*\*\***

The April meeting to be held in the Function Room, The Arches Inn, Market Buildings, Maidstone on Friday, 21st April at 7.30 pm, will be the Group's Annual General Meeting.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of AGM 1994
3. Chairman's Report
4. Honorary Secretary's Report
5. Honorary Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers
7. Election of Auditor
8. Reports and Election of Representatives
9. Future Activities
10. Any Other Business

Any resolutions or additional items for the agenda should reach me by Thursday, 20th April. All the Officers of the Group, as well as elected Representatives are, as usual, up for re-election. An injection of 'new blood' is undoubtedly overdue and I, for one, would gladly 'step aside' if anyone would like to take over the post of Honorary Secretary or, at least, to arrange speakers for meetings and excursions.

PLEASE PLEASE give some thought to possible itineraries for the Annual Outing in July. Last year's trip to the Museum of East Anglian Life at Stowmarket was well supported.

After the formal business, I will give the slide show on Parish Churches which was held over from the Xmas meeting. If anyone else would like to give a short talk or, perhaps, share some of the 'holiday' slides then please let me know.

**MAY 19th**

**\*\*\*\* EDUCATION & ARCHAEOLOGY \*\*\*\***

Marion Green, the Education Officer with the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, will give an illustrated talk on 'Education and Archaeology'.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

A receipt is enclosed for subscriptions paid since the last newsletter. Subs for 1995/96 become due on 1st April. The rates remain unchanged:

FAMILY £ 3-00

ADULT £ 2-00

JUNIOR £ 1-00

Please send subs to me (cheques payable to MAAG) or bring them along to a meeting.

## M.A.A.G. NEWS

As noted earlier, meetings will continue to be held in the Function Room, while The Arches Inn is closed for refurbishment. Rumour has it that this will put an end to the Friday night discos.

On Saturday, 6th May, the Lower Medway Group are organising an afternoon visit to Bodiam Castle including a guided tour. The cost, which is dependent upon numbers, will be £ 2-00 (adults) and £ 1-00 (children). Members of the Group are invited to attend - for details contact Miss J Sanders (01634 849477) or myself by the 7th April.

## DIGGING NEWS

Since mid-January, members of the Group have been recording the ledger slabs, i.e. the stone memorial slabs on the floor, in All Saints' Church, Maidstone.

A plan of the location of all the inscribed slabs, which number just over 300, has been produced and, to date, about 90% have been initially recorded on forms. Most, if not all, will need to be checked (especially those which have become badly worn), prior to producing final copies and indexes by surname, etc for 'publication'.

Most of the slabs date from the late C17th to the mid C19th, Some have an interesting history, having been reused more than once. Some slabs have coats of arms, others are in Latin which require translation. Where inscriptions have become worn, rubbings, low angle lighting or touch have to be used. Where conditions permit, photographs have been taken of all the inscribed slabs. Unfortunately, presumably during the restoration of the church in the 1880s, many of the slabs at the west end of the nave were cut up to produce a neat 'crazy paving' effect. Reference to the Parish Registers may help elucidate some of these partial inscriptions, as well as those which are only partially legible through wear. Rubbings and drawings are being made of the brasses and there are also some interesting Medieval floor tiles to be recorded.

Work will continue for at least the next two Saturdays and probably beyond that. Since the church is not normally open on Saturday (entry by the vestry door), it is advisable to check with Albert (01622 674494) or myself first, rather than turning up 'on spec'. A good torch, pen or pencil and something to kneel on are useful things to bring along.

## COURSES

### OTHER EVENTS. LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

K.A.S. lecture programme on Saturday afternoons at 2.30pm at various venues around the county. Attendance is open to all, tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. Tickets are £ 1-50 (KAS members), £ 2-00 (non-members). Apply to HGB Coast, 57 Shirk Oak Park, Woodchurch, Kent TN26 3PX (with SAE) - cheques payable to KAS Lectures A/C.  
18th March - Robin Craig on 'Thanet Shipping Trade, 1680-1760' at St Mary's Church Hall, Dieu Stone Lane, Dover

29th April - Tom Hollobone on 'The Lowy of Tonbridge' at The Assembly Room, Tonbridge Parish Church

Saturday, 8th April - CKA Conference, Queen Elizabeth's School, Faversham on 'Aspects of Maritime Archaeology in Faversham and Kent'. 11.00am to 5.30pm. Tickets £ 5-00 (all day) or £ 3-00 (morning or afternoon only). Cheques payable to CKA with SAE please from 5 Harvest Bank, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9DL

Saturday, 22nd April - Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Kent, Medway Adult Education Centre, High Street, Rochester - a forum on 'The Implementation and Effects of PPG16'. 11.00am to 5.00pm. Details & tickets (£ 2-00) from CRAK, 5 Harvest Bank, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9DL

Saturday, 13th May - KHF One Day Conference at Southlands Community College, New Romney on 'The Sixth Continent or Romney Marsh'. Morning lectures at College with choice of afternoon excursions. Tickets £ 7-00. Programmes & booking forms available from me.

**RICHARD WEEKS (HON. SECRETARY) (TEL: 01580 890042)**  
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# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## JUNE NEWSLETTER 1995

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at The Arches Inn (now renamed Brookes Cafe Bar!), Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. The Arches Inn is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

Note that the next meeting is THIS Friday. Apologies for the delay in publishing the newsletter.

### DIARY

**JUNE 16th**

**\*\*\*\* SAXON CHURCHES IN THE MEDWAY AREA \*\*\*\***

David Carder will give an illustrated lecture on 'Saxon churches in the Medway area'. David, who is a member of the Group, has been researching the subject in some detail and will explain the various characteristic features used to identify Saxon churches.

**SATURDAY, 8th JULY**

**\*\*\*\* ANNUAL OUTING TO OXFORD \*\*\*\***

There will be no meeting in Maidstone in July, instead there is the customary coach trip - this year to the city of Oxford (PTO for full details).

For those who attended the AGM in April, please note that the date has had to be changed due to a clash with the last day of the Kent County Show. Apologies for any inconvenience that this may have caused.

**SATURDAY. 12th AUGUST**

**\*\*\*\* VISIT TO BRATTLE FARM MUSEUM \*\*\*\***

Housed in the old cowsheds and oast house of an ancient moated farm, the museum is the extensive personal collection of Brian and Anita Thompson. It deals mainly with wide-ranging, aspects of country life, including rural crafts, trades and agricultural by-gones, many manufactured by local firms.

Meet at 2.00 pm at the museum for an introductory talk. A drink of tea (or cider if you prefer) will be provided at the end of the visit. Admission £1-50 (pay on day).

Directions: Travel south on Hastings Road (A229) to Staplehurst. Turn right into Pinnock Lane just after the Elf petrol station (about 300 yards past the church). After about 600 yards, turn right into Five Oak Lane, the museum is 300 yards on the right. Look out for the brown museum signs. A map can be provided if required.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

A receipt is enclosed for subscriptions paid since the last newsletter. Subs for 1995/96 become due on 1st April. The rates remain unchanged:

FAMILY £ 3-00

ADULT £ 2-00

JUNIOR £ 1-00

Please send subscriptions to me (cheques payable to M.A.A.G.) or bring them along to a meeting. You may wish to consider paying subs in advance for future years - some members already do this. PLEASE PLEASE remember to inform me of changes of address.

Reminders for outstanding subs will be sent with the next newsletter.

### M.A.A.G. NEWS

The Group's 26th AGM held on 21st April was attended by 22 members. In the absence of any nominations, the existing officers and representatives were re-elected unopposed.

The refurbishment of the Arches Inn has now been completed and it has now changed its name (again) to Brookes Cafe Bar!

## DIGGING NEWS

The recording of the ledger slabs at All Saints' Church, Maidstone has now (almost) been completed. The information obtained now needs to be checked and collated, prior to producing transcripts and indexes by surname, etc for 'publication'. If you need an excuse to visit All Saints', there is a flower festival on 22nd/23rd July.

## ANNUAL COACH OUTING TO OXFORD - SATURDAY. 8th JULY

This year's outing will be to Oxford - the 'City of Dreaming Spires'.

Within one square mile alone the city has more than 600 buildings of architectural and historical interest, dating from the C12th onwards. Oxford University consists of 42 different colleges and halls sited in various parts of the city.

Most of the significant buildings are connected with the University; the Bodleian Library's collection of rare manuscripts makes it second only to the Vatican Library in Rome; the Ashmolean Museum is the oldest and one of the finest museums and art galleries in Britain.

The Oxford Story exhibition, created by the team behind York's 'Jorvik' Viking Centre, contains Europe's longest indoor 'dark' ride. Seated at a 'Scholar's desk' you are taken on a journey through the University's past from medieval times to the present.

In addition, of course, there are all the other museums, shops (including Blackwells book shops) to take in. A map and handout will be provided on the day.

The outing includes a walking tour taking you inside many of the Colleges featured in the TV series 'Inspector Morse' and the recent film 'Shadowlands'. Duration is about 90 minutes and involves less than one mile of walking!

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

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

The estimated time of arrival back in Maidstone is about 8.00 pm.

The cost of the trip (including coach and guided walking tour) will be:

ADULTS	£10-00	SENIOR CITIZENS	£8-00	CHILDREN	£6-00
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Please contact me for further details or to book places (cheques payable to M.A.A.G.).

## COURSES

Local History & Genealogy: Using the Centre for Kentish Studies - Duncan Harrington.  
2 x 10 weekly meetings: Wed 5.15 - 7.15 pm from 11 Oct & 10 Jan at County Hall.  
Contact University Centre at Tonbridge: 01732 352316

## OTHER EVENTS, LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th June - 'Edenbridge: 100 Years'. Exhibition in Edenbridge Primary School to celebrate centenary of Edenbridge Town Council. Entry free.

Saturdays 1st, 8th & 15th July - Faversham Society Open House Scheme. Admission by programme, £3-00 (£3-50 by post) from Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NS

13th, 14th & 15th July - Kent County Show at Detling to include KAS exhibition.

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th September - Scadbury Moated Manor, Chislehurst 'Open Days'  
Guided tours every 15 minutes from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Admission free.

**RICHARD WEEKS (HON. SECRETARY) (TEL: 01580 890042)**  
**14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT TN12 0EP**

## Outing to Oxford - Saturday, 8th July 1995

11.45am (approx)	Arrive in Oxford. Coach will drop us at the Martyr's Memorial, Magdalen Street East.
2.00pm	Meet 'Spires & Shires' Guides at Martyr's Memorial for guided walk lasting about one and a half hours (fee included in cost of trip).
5.30pm	Board coach at Martyr's Memorial for trip home.
8.15pm (approx)	Arrive back in Maidstone

[illegible]

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 1995

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at Brookes Cafe Bar (formerly The Arches Inn), Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. Brookes Cafe Bar is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

Note that the next meeting is THIS Friday.

### DIARY

#### SEPTEMBER 15th                      \*\*\*\* MOTE ESTATE IN MAIDSTONE HISTORY \*\*\*\*

Paul Oldham will give a talk entitled 'The Mote Estate in Maidstone History'. This will include discussion of Mote House, the Marsham family and Lord Romney and his impact on the history of Maidstone.

#### OCTOBER 20th                      \*\*\*\* IDEN MANOR & STAPLEHURST \*\*\*\*

Mrs Anita Thompson will give a talk on 'Iden Manor and the village of Staplehurst'. Mrs Thompson is the curator of Brattle Farm Museum at Staplehurst and those members who came along on the visit in August will have been impressed by her knowledge and enthusiasm.

#### NOVEMBER 17th                      \*\*\*\* THE SEALED KNOT \*\*\*\*

A member of the Colonel Samuel Jones Regiment of the Sealed Knot will give a talk about The Sealed Knot Society and Maidstone's involvement in the English Civil War. It is hoped that he will be able to bring along examples of costume and weaponry of the period for members to examine.

#### DECEMBER 15th                      \*\*\*\* CHRISTMAS MEETING \*\*\*\*

Advanced warning of the date for your diaries - further details in the next newsletter.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

A receipt is enclosed for subscriptions paid since the last newsletter. Subs for 1995/96 became due on 1st April. The rates remain unchanged:

FAMILY    £ 3-00

ADULT    £ 2-00

JUNIOR    £ 1-00

Please send subscription to me (cheques payable to M.A.A.G.) or bring them along to a meeting. You may wish to consider paying subs in advance for future years - some members already do this. PLEASE PLEASE remember to inform me of changes of address. Reminders for outstanding subs will be sent with the next newsletter.

### M.A.A.G NEWS

40 members and their guests enjoyed an interesting day (I hope!) in Oxford on 8th July. The low turn-out resulted in a loss being sustained which will entail a 'raiding' of the Group's funds. Many thanks to Avice Harms for organising the transport.

In August, a small number of members visited Brattle Farm Museum in Staplehurst which was opened especially for us.

August also saw the 90th birthday of our oldest member, Les Dietz. A birthday card signed by as many members as my wife could muster was sent on behalf of the Group.

### DIGGING NEWS

To my knowledge no 'digging' was undertaken by the Group over the summer.

The recording of the ledger slabs at All Saints' Church, Maidstone remains to be completed. Please contact our Chairman, Albert Daniels, on Maidstone 674494 if you would like to help with the All Saints' project and for information on 'digs' on-going in the county.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A workshop on Garden Archaeology for young archaeologists is being held at Maidstone Museum, St. Faith's Street on Saturday, 16th September - National Archaeology Day! Albert requires a few volunteers to help with a demonstration of resistivity surveying.

### WANT TO BE A FLINT KNAPPER?

The Lower Medway Group have organised a 'Flint Knapping Day' on Saturday, 14th October at Diss in Norfolk. By the end of the course you should be able to make a bi-faced axe and an arrowhead. The cost is £12-50 (plus petrol contribution if sharing transport). If you are interested write to Mike Freeman, 27 Lambourn Way, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 8PU. I will bring along some application forms to the next meeting.

### COURSES

SoCE Courses (for more information phone 01227 823507/823156)

**Local History & Genealogy: Using the Centre for Kentish Studies** - Duncan Harrington. 20 weekly meetings: Wed 5.15-7.15 pm from 11 Oct at County Hall. £70-00

**Abbeys & Priors: An Introduction** - John Vigar. 20 weeks: Thu 10.00-12.00 noon from 28 Sep at Maidstone Adult Education Centre. £66-00

**Kent's Lost Villages** - Joy Saynor. 20 weeks: Mon 9.30-11.30am from 25 Sep at Maidstone Adult Education Centre. £66-00

University Centre, Tonbridge:

**The Archaeology of Roman Britain** - Alec Detsicas. 20 weeks: Tue 1.00-3.00pm from 03 Oct. £66-00

**The Earliest Dynasties of Ancient Egypt** - Frances Williams. 10 weeks: Thu 10.00-12.00 noon from 05 Oct. £33-00

### OTHER EVENTS. LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

September - 'Unlocking The Past' - events (lectures, exhibitions, open days, etc) throughout the month run by KCC Arts & Libraries to raise awareness of it's collections and archives. Details from Maidstone/Springfield Libraries or County Hall.

Saturday 16th September - **Garden Archaeology** workshop for youngsters (aged 7-17). Two sessions, 10.30-12.30pm and 2.00-4.00pm. Admission free but places must be booked. Also lunchtime lecture on Garden Archaeology by Chris Currie, 1.00-2.00pm. Both at Maidstone Museum. Phone 01622 954497 to book for these events.

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th September - **Scadbury Moated Manor, Chislehurst Open Days**. Tours at 15 minute intervals from 2.00 to 4.00pm. Admission free. Limited parking close to site available by ticket only - apply to Mr M Meekums, 27 Eynsford Close, Petts Wood BR5 1DP (SAE please and state day required)

Saturday, 7th October - KAS One Day Conference on '**Linear Archaeology in Kent**' at Wye College. Includes talks on fieldwork in advance of road, rail and pipeline works). Tickets £6-00 (MAAG/KAS) or £8-00 on door. Further details from Dunelm House, Main Road, Icklesham, Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4AR (SAE please)

Saturday, 14th October (10.30am-5.30pm) - One Day Conference on **Parochial Libraries** with special reference to Kent & SE England at County Hall, Maidstone. Tickets £5-00. Further details from Dr Nigel Yates, Centre for Kentish Studies, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent. Tel: 01622 694363

Saturday, 11th November (2.15-5.30pm) - CKA Conference on '**Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Kent**' at Christ Church College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury, talks on excavations at St. Nicholas's Church, Sevenoaks, Thanet Way & Gravesend. Tickets £2-00 (payable CKA) from 5, Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9DL (with SAE)

**RICHARD WEEKS (HON. SECRETARY) (TEL: 01580 890042)**  
**14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD. STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT TN12 0EP**



# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 1995

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at Brookes Cafe Bar (formerly The Arches Inn), Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30pm. Brookes Cafe Bar is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

Note that the next meeting is **THIS** Friday. For those who can't come along may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

### DIARY

#### DECEMBER 15th

#### \*\*\*\* CHRISTMAS MEETING \*\*\*\*

Our Chairman, Albert Daniels will be providing the entertainment. This will include a retrospective of some past excavations and his views on good and bad taste in architecture. Roger Wallbridge will also tell us about his recent holiday in the Middle East. Contributions from other members would be welcomed.

There will be the customary party, so please feel free to bring along food/drink.

#### JANUARY 19th

#### \*\*\*\* THE OYSTER COAST \*\*\*\*

Mark Harrison will give an illustrated talk entitled 'The Oyster Coast'. This relates to the fieldwork he has been carrying out on the foreshore around Whitstable and the archaeological remains and fossils that are being eroded out of the cliffs.

#### FEBRUARY 23rd

#### \*\*\*\* ASPECTS OF ROMNEY MARSH \*\*\*\*

Mr Palmer, who has spoken to the Group on a number of previous occasions, will give an illustrated talk on 'Aspects of Romney Marsh'.

NOTE that the January and February speakers may have to be interchanged. Please contact me for further details.

#### MARCH 22nd

#### \*\*\*\* POTTERY KILNS IN THE MEDWAY ESTUARY \*\*\*\*

Ian Jackson of the Upchurch Archaeological Research Group will give- an illustrated talk on 'Pottery Kilns in the Medway Estuary'.

### DIGGING NEWS

The recording of the ledger slabs at All Saints' Church, Maidstone has now been completed. A fine plan has been produced by Roger Wallbridge and the data sheets are currently being typed up and indices prepared. Material will be on display at the December meeting. Thank you to all those members who assisted in the project.

### COURSES

#### CKS STUDY DAYS

Sat 17 Feb 1996 : 10.30-16.30 The Parish Chest. Deals with parish documents other than registers of baptisms, marriages and burials.

Sat 16 Mar 1995 : 10.30-16.30 The Poor Law. Deals with the development and operation of the Old Poor Law and the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834.

Both Study Days will be held in the searchroom of the Centre For Kentish Studies, County Hall, Maidstone. Fee £ 20 per person per day (incl tea/coffee/light lunch). Contact Mrs Linda Harvey 01622 694363 to reserve places.

RICHARD WEEKS (HON. SECRETARY) (TEL: 01580 890042)  
14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT TN12 0EP

# **MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

## **APRIL NEWSLETTER 1996**

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at Brookes Cafe Bar (formerly the Arches Inn), The Market Buildings, Maidstone on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30 pm. Brookes Cafe Bar is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

### **DIARY**

**APRIL 26th**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1996**

The April meeting to be held in the Function Room, Brookes Cafe Bar, The Market Buildings, Maidstone on Friday, 26th April at 7.30 pm, will be the Group's Annual General Meeting.

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of AGM 1995
3. Chairman's Report
4. Honorary Secretary's Report
5. Honorary Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers
7. Election of Auditor
8. Reports and Election of Representatives
9. Future Activities
10. Any Other Business

Any resolutions or additional items for the agenda should reach me by Thursday, 25th April.

All the Officers of the Group, as well as the elected Representatives are, as usual, up for re-election. The present 'committee' has been in place for some time now and an injection of 'new blood' with fresh enthusiasm and ideas is long overdue. If anyone is interested in taking over the post of Honorary Secretary or, at least, assisting in some of the duties (like editing the newsletter and/or arranging speakers and excursions) then please give me a ring to discuss what is involved.

Please give some thought to possible itineraries for the Annual Outing in July. It has been suggested that this year we should have a joint outing with the Lower Medway Group on Saturday, 13th July visiting Butser Iron Age Farm, near Petersfield and, if a guide can be arranged, Boxgrove Quarry, near Chichester (where the remains of early man were recently found), as well as nearby Boxgrove Priory. If you have a better idea then let me know.

After the formal business, Albert Daniels will give a short illustrated (if his camera has not let him down again!!) talk on excavations at the medieval Grench Manor, Gillingham "from the contractor's point of view".

Albert has also agreed to conduct a book auction with the proceeds going to Group funds. Please bring along any unwanted books (on any subject, but no magazines). Any unsold books will be offered to a local charity of Albert's choice.

**MAY 24th**

### **ISLE OF SHEPPEY**

Simon Pratt of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust will give an illustrated talk on the archaeology and history of the Isle of Sheppey.

**JUNE 21st**

### **KENT CHURCHES**

Following on from his recent excellent talks on Anglo-Saxon churches and architecture, David Carder will give an illustrated talk on 'Kent Churches'.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions for 1996/97 become due on 1st April. It has been decided to keep the present rates unchanged for another year.

FAMILY	£3-00	ADULT	£2-00	JUNIOR	£1-00
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Subscriptions should be sent to me (please make cheques payable to M.A.A.G.), alternatively bring it along to one of the meetings. A receipt will be sent with a subsequent newsletter. PLEASE PLEASE remember to advise me of any change of address.

## **DIGGING NEWS**

Although the Group is not currently carrying out any 'digging', one of the finest urban excavations to be held in Kent is presently being undertaken in Dover in Town Wall Street on the site of an old petrol station. The site comprises a medieval street and buildings of Norman and medieval date. The 13 week excavation, which started earlier in the year, is due to continue until May. Volunteers are required - the dig is open all week (excepting Saturdays). If you are interested, please contact Keith Parfitt (Dover Archaeological Group) on (01304) 852502.

The Group is to host two study days during the summer, provisional dates are:

Saturday, 22nd June : Resistivity Surveying at Tovil Scout HQ

Saturday, 6th July : Ledger Slab Recording at All Saints' Church, Maidstone

Further details will be given in the next newsletter.

## **EVENTS, LECTURES & CONFERENCES**

KAS Lecture:

Saturday, 11th May - 'The Archaeology of Ightham Mote' by Peter Leach in the medieval Great Hall of Yaldham Manor, Wrotham at 2.30 pm. Tickets must be obtained in advance, £4-00 (KAS members) & £5-00 (non-members) with SAE to Mr Terry Lawson, Lynwood, 102 Lower Vicarage Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN24 9AP.

CKA Spring Conference - Chatham's Historic Dockyard

Saturday, 20th April - 11.00 am - 1.00 pm Guided tour of EITHER Fort Amherst OR Dockyard Museum. 2.15 pm - 5.30 pm Illustrated lectures in the Dockyard Church. Tickets £5-00 (All day), £1-75 (Morning only), £3-50 (Afternoon only). Apply to CKA, 5 Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9DL (payable to CKA with SAE please - remember to state which tour is required)

KHF One Day Conference at the Angel Leisure Centre, Vale Road, Tonbridge

Saturday, 4th May - 10.00 am - 1.00 pm Lectures, 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm Choice of visits to one of six local places of interest. Application forms are available from me, or contact Miss Frances Oxley (0181 3001511)

"Meet the Romans" at the Roman Painted House Dover

Saturday, 15th June : Take the kids to see a Roman soldier (with armour, weapons, etc) and a Roman lady

Faversham Society Open House Scheme (now in its 28th year)

Saturday afternoons, 6th, 13th & 20th July. Entry to premises by programme (£3-50 or £4-00 by post) from the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, Preston Street, Faversham. Phone (01795) 534542

## **COURSES**

CKS Study Days to be held in the searchroom at the Centre for Kentish Studies, County Hall, Maidstone from 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm. Tutor: Dr Jacqueline Bower. Fee: £8-00 per session (including afternoon tea)

Monday, 13th May - Advanced Palaeography (early C 16th & C17th handwriting)

Monday, 10th June - Probate Records

For further information, contact Mrs Linda Harvey (01622) 694363

Information Day at the University Centre at Tonbridge on part-time certificates and diplomas

Saturday, 27th April - Archaeology (10.00 am - 4.00 pm), Local History (10.00 am - 12 noon)

For more information, phone (01732) 352316

**RICHARD WEEKS (Honorary Secretary) Tel: (01580) 890042**  
**14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, KENT TN12 0EP**

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## JUNE NEWSLETTER 1996

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at Brookes Cafe Bar (formerly the Arches Inn), The Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30 pm. Brookes Cafe Bar is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

### DIARY

**JUNE 21st**

#### **ARCHAEOLOGY OF KENT CHURCHES**

Following on from his recent excellent talks on Anglo-Saxon churches and architecture, David Carder will give an illustrated talk on archaeological aspects of Kent Churches.

**SUNDAY, 14th July**

#### **ANNUAL OUTING TO BOXGROVE & BUTSER**

There will be no meeting in Maidstone in July, instead there will be the customary coach trip. As noted in the last newsletter this will be a joint outing with the Lower Medway Group. We will visit Boxgrove Quarry (near Chichester) for a guided tour of the excavations and then following a picnic stop at nearby Boxgrove Priory, the afternoon will be spent at Butser Ancient Farm (near Petersfield). Please note that to accommodate the visit to Boxgrove, the outing will be on **Sunday** (and NOT Saturday as stated in the last newsletter) - apologies for any inconvenience that this may have caused. PTO for further details.

### M.A.A.G. NEWS

For once the AGM held on April 26th held a few surprises. Not least that the existing officers of the Group were NOT simply re-elected *nem con* as usual!

After 15 years Albert Daniels has finally managed to 'retire' as Chairman (he was elected on Wednesday 29th April 1981 according to the Group's Minutes Book). However, I trust that he will continue in his role as 'Archaeological Director' for some considerable time as I myself have been elected as Chairman (after 9 years as 'Hon Sec' - according to the Minutes Book I 'was pushed (just a little) into excepting[sic] the job...'). Consequently, this will be my LAST newsletter! The role of Honorary Secretary has now passed to Sarah Guise who will be the new 'editor'. Josephine Sanders has volunteered to assist by taking on the task of arranging speakers for meetings and planning future excursions. Both Sarah and Jo are also currently officers of the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group. Please give them your support.

Robin Cook remains as Vice-Chairman and Jess Obee as Honorary Treasurer. However, Jess will now also take on the role of 'Subscriptions Secretary'. In order to carry out this 'handover', I need to be sure who the members of the Group are! Unfortunately, it is sometime since I carried out an exercise to chase up those who have defaulted on their subscriptions. Members who have recently paid their 'subs' should find an enclosed receipt. Those who paid their 'subs' last year but from whom I have yet to receive this year's subscription will see a red cross in the margin! For the remaining names on my 'membership database', who risk being 'deleted', I have enclosed a separate paper slip. Of these only those who return the slip and their subscription to me by 31st July will be included on the membership list that I will pass to Sarah for the distribution of future newsletters.

There will be further details of the 'administrative changes' (including addresses/phone numbers of the new officers) in the next newsletter.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1996/97 became due on 1st April. It has been decided to keep the present rates unchanged for another year. **Please see M.A.A.G. News for important information about subscriptions.**

FAMILY	£3-00	ADULT	£2-00	JUNIOR	£1-00
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Until the next newsletter is distributed, subscriptions should be sent to me (cheques payable to M.A.A.G.).

### DIGGING NEWS

On the 11th May, a trial trench was dug in the courtyard of the Cutbush Almshouses, College Road, Maidstone in advance of the proposed relocation of the remains of Thomas Robert Cutbush, his wife and her nephew (together with the vault-stone) from Holy Trinity Church. The site is adjacent to a ragstone gable wall of an existing

building with corbels possibly indicating the existence of some form of roof. Subsoil was reached at a depth of about 1.8m. There were no exceptional finds - transfer-printed china, glass and clay pipe stems.

The 'typing up' of the ledger slab inscriptions from All Saints' Church has almost been completed. Albert plans to enter this work for the Pitt-Rivers awards this year!

On Saturday, 22nd June the Group is to host a study day on Resistivity Surveying at Tovil Scout HQ. Contact Albert (Tel: 01622 674494) if you would like to help.

After many false starts the Kent Archaeological Society (in association with the Trust for Thanet Archaeology) have organised a training excavation on a 'promising' Roman site at Minster-in-Thanet. The dates are 31st August to 14th September. The dig will be directed by Dave Perkins MSc, MIFA. Participants must be aged 16 years or above. For further information on the site, training, accommodation arrangements and fee, contact David Bacchus, Telford Lodge, Roebuck Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 1UD (Tel: 01634 843495).

### **COACH OUTING TO BOXGROVE & BUTSER ANCIENT FARM - SUNDAY 14th JULY**

Boxgrove hit the national headlines early this year with the opening of a new exhibition at the Natural History Museum (and a Horizon TV programme) on the 480,000-year-old remains (including a shin bone and two teeth, being the oldest human fragments yet found in Britain) that have been excavated in the Boxgrove sand and gravel quarry over a period of 10 years and at a cost of more than £1m. The Boxgrove people also left a litter of flint hand-axes and animal bones that have been preserved in an almost undisturbed state, enabling their way of life to be deduced in great detail. We will be given a full guided tour of the site.

We will stop for a picnic lunch at Boxgrove Priory. Here are the remains of the Guest House, Chapter House and church of a C12th priory. Then it is on to Butser Ancient Farm near Peterfield for the rest of the afternoon.

Butser Ancient Farm is a presentation of an Iron Age farm settlement providing an open air laboratory for an internationally renowned experimental archaeology research project to interpret and recreate some of the building and agricultural processes of 2000 years ago. The farm runs the largest prehistoric crop trial programme in Europe, keeps rare breeds of cattle, sheep, goats and fowl and has the largest roundhouse ever rebuilt. A guided tour of the farm is available as an 'optional extra' (cost £2), please indicate on booking slip if you want this.

The coach will pick up at the following places and times (approx): (Return home by 8.00 pm)

08.30 am Senacre School (Sutton Road)	08.40 am Old Palace (Maidstone)
08.45 am London Road (Buckland Lane)	08.50 am Larkfield (Wealden Hall)
09.10 am Walderslade (commuter car park off Junction 3 of M2)	

It is important that you bring a **packed lunch** (and tea) as there are no refreshment facilities at either Boxgrove or Butser. Also wear (or bring) **'stout' shoes** especially for Boxgrove where the ground will be 'uneven'.

The cost of the trip is given on the enclosed booking slip. Please use this to reserve places (or ensure that you make your requirements clear, i.e. how many places and where you will board the coach). All are welcome, please feel free to invite friends, etc.

### **EVENTS. LECTURES & CONFERENCES**

Faversham Society Open House Scheme (now in its 28th year)

Saturday afternoons, 6th, 13th & 20th July. Entry to premises by programme (£3-50 or £4-00 by post) from the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, Preston Street, Faversham. Phone (01795) 534542

Kent History Seminars - Dr Shirley Black - held at 33 Tudor Drive, Otford, Kent TN14 5QP. Fee £9 per day (includes light lunch). Phone 01959 522755 for further details.

Saturday, 17th August - Softest Clothing : The Woolen Industry in Kent

Saturday, 21st September - New Lands for Old

Saturday, 14th & Sunday 15th September - Excavations at Scadbury Moated Manor, Chislehurst. Guided tours every 15 minutes from 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm. Slide show, refreshments and book stall

### **COURSES**

For details of part-time certificates and diplomas in archaeology and local history at the University of Kent (starting October 1996) phone 01227 823507.

**RICHARD WEEKS (ex-Honorary Secretary) Tel: (01580) 890042**  
**14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, KENT TN12 0EP**

## COACH OUTING TO BOXGROVE & BUTSER ANCIENT FARM - SUNDAY 14th JULY

### (LOWER MEDWAY and MAIDSTONE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUPS)

Boxgrove hit the national headlines early this year with the opening of a new exhibition at the Natural History Museum (and a Horizon TV programme) on the 480,000-year-old remains (including a shin bone and two teeth, being the oldest human fragments yet found in Britain) that have been excavated in the Boxgrove sand and gravel quarry over a period of 10 years and at a cost of more than £1m. The Boxgrove people also left a litter of flint hand-axes and animal bones that have been preserved in an almost undisturbed state, enabling their way of life to be deduced in great detail. We will be given a full guided tour of the site.

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

(Return home by 8.00 pm)

08.30 am Senacre School (Sutton Road)

08.40 am Old Palace (Maidstone)

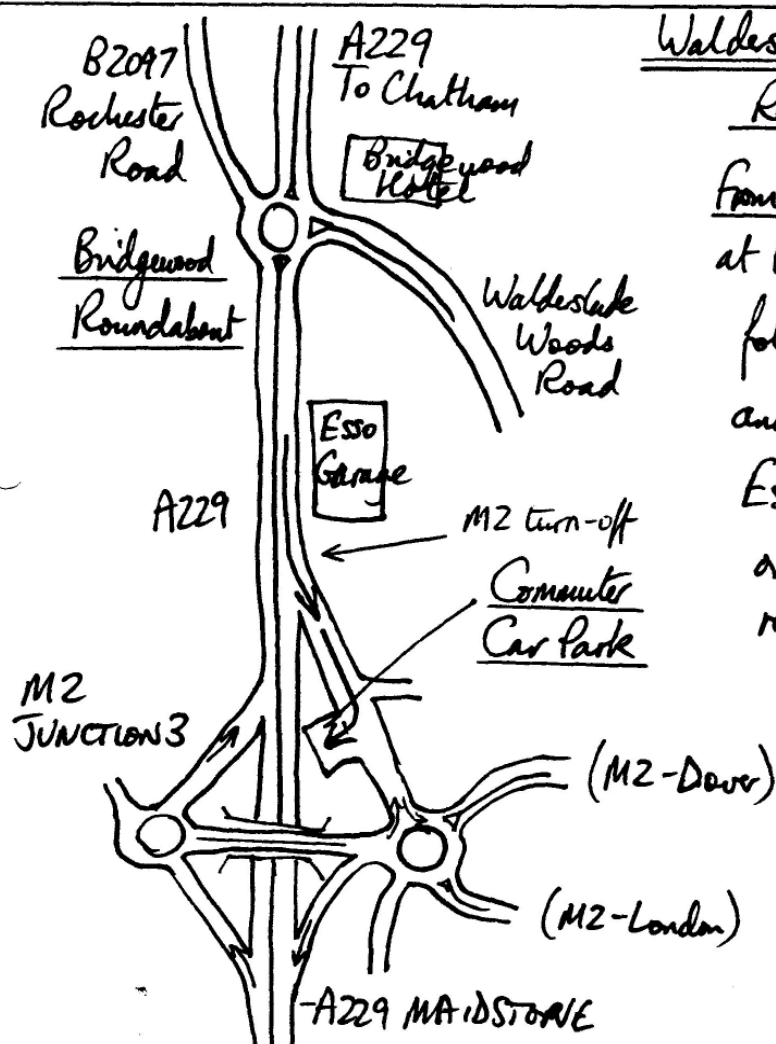
08.45 am London Road (Buckland Lane)

08.50 am Larkfield (Wealden Hall)

09.10 am Walderslade (commuter car park off Junction 3 of M2)

It is important that you bring a **packed lunch** (and tea) as there are no refreshment facilities at either Boxgrove or Butser. Also wear (or bring) 'stout' shoes especially for Boxgrove where the ground will be 'uneven'.

Further details from: J. Sanders (01634) 849477



Walderslade Pick-Up 9-10 am.

### Recommended Routes

From Rochester, Chatham, Walderslade  
at the Bridgewood Roundabout follow the A229 for Maidstone and branch left (for M2) after Esso Garage. Car park is on the right (before you reach the roundabout).

### From Maidstone

(ignore the complicated M2 junction 3. Go to the Bridgewood Roundabout and double-back towards Maidstone. Then as above.

# **MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

## **SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 1996**

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at Brookes Cafe Bar (formerly the Arches Inn), The Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30 pm. Brookes Cafe Bar is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

### **DIARY**

#### **SEPTEMBER 27th**

#### **INFLATION - A ROMAN PROBLEM**

Mr Edmund Redfern will give an illustrated talk about Roman coins entitled 'Inflation - A Roman Problem'.

#### **OCTOBER 18th**

#### **CHATHAM'S SECRET GARDENS**

Barbara Marchant will give an illustrated talk about garden archaeology entitled 'Chatham's Secret Gardens'.

#### **NOVEMBER 22nd**

#### **LOWER MEDWAY ARCHAEOLOGY**

Peter Dawson of the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Recent Archaeological Investigations in the Lower Medway Area'.

#### **DECEMBER 20th**

#### **CHRISTMAS MEETING**

Advanced warning of the date for your diaries - further details in the next newsletter.

N.B. Josie Sanders is currently arranging speakers for next year. If you have any suggestions or, better, if you would be willing to give a short talk yourself (say at the Christmas meeting) please let us know.

### **M.A.A.G. NEWS**

#### **OBITUARY**

We have some sad news for this newsletter; Leslie Dietz, one of our Members has recently died. The M.A.A.G. sent some flowers and Maurice and Margaret Randall attended his funeral on behalf of the Group. Maurice has written the following tribute to

#### **LESLIE**

Many of you will remember an elderly gentleman of the Maidstone Group not so very long ago. He was a regular member at the meetings and looked forward to the annual outings, which he thoroughly enjoyed. Sadly, Leslie passed away in his sleep on Sunday, 24th August at a Folkestone Nursing Home at the grand age of 91 years. Leslie will be remembered by the Group for his lively personality, his mental alertness and physical ability for his age.

He was a very interesting person with an inquiring mind and was a keen follower of the Group's activities. He was also a local historian with his great knowledge of Kent's towns and villages. He was educated at the Simon Langton Grammar School, Canterbury, and his early working life was disrupted by the depression years, but latterly he was employed as a fireman/security officer at the Reed Paper Mills at Tovil until he was 63 years of age when he was asked to retire. He then secured a position with the K.C.C. at the Archives Department at the Wrens Cross building, where he retired again at 70 years of age!

Leslie was also a musician all his life from aged 13 to 90 years, and enjoyed playing the tenor horn with the East Peckham Silver Band, his last open air performance being on the bandstand on the Folkestone Leas only last year. Leslie was devoted to his wife Lilian who is at present in Maidstone Hospital after being seriously ill and is now waiting to go into a nursing home. Leslie loved his three daughters Marguerita, Iris and Rosemary and was a dear granddad. It is indeed a sad loss for his family and his friends.

He was truly a remarkable character.

Maurice Randall

#### **SUMMER OUTING**

This year's joint outing with the Lower Medway Group to Boxgrove and Butser Ancient Farm was very successful and the coach was full. Thanks to Josie Sanders for organising the Butser visit and the LMARG.

At Boxgrove we were met by the Assistant Director, Simon Parfitt, and then given a guided tour of the site by one of the Site Supervisors. The geology and environmental context of the site were explained and we watched a number of young archaeologists meticulously excavating and recording finds before visiting the site 'museum' to see a display of some of the finds and reconstructions of life at Boxgrove 500,000 years ago. A colour site guide is now available at £3.00. A copy will be on view at the next meeting.

We then visited Butser Ancient Farm and were given a guided tour by Peter Reynolds, who gave us a lively commentary during a tour of the site explaining the aims of the Ancient Farm and the experimental archaeology that was being carried out there - including a reconstruction of a Roman villa.

### MAIDSTONE FIGHT 1648

Members will hopefully remember Philip Barham of the Sealed Knot who recently gave a talk about Maidstone's involvement in the Civil War. Following the talk he was determined to find out more about the battle of Maidstone. The result is a booklet entitled 'Maidstone Fight 1648' which is available to members of the Group at the reduced price of £2.50. A copy will be available at the next meeting for inspection.

### DIGGING NEWS

There is little to report really. Albert has been involved in a number of 'watching briefs' and is currently in correspondence over the proposed relocation of the remains of Thomas Robert Cutbush.

The current issue of *Archaeologia Cantiana* CXV (1995) contains a paper by Vaughan Birbeck of Wessex Archaeology on 'Excavations on a Romano-British Villa at Churchfields, Snodland, 1992-94', pp 71-120.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Prior to the handing over a membership list to the new Secretary Sarah Guise, reminders and 'final demands' were sent out with the last newsletter. For those whose subscriptions are still owing, the rates are:

FAMILY	£3-00	ADULT	£2-00	JUNIOR	£1-00
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Subscriptions for the current year (1996/97) should be sent to Richard Weeks (cheques payable to M.A.A.G.).

### EVENTS. LECTURES & CONFERENCES

Saturday, 5th October - KAS (Mid-South Kent Area) Meeting including a talk on 'Surveying for Bloomery Sites' by Jeremy Hodgkinson of WIRG at 2.00pm in Benenden Memorial Hall on the Green.

Saturday, 19th October - KAS One Day Conference on The Anglo-Saxons in Kent (Dark Ages or Discovery?) at St Pauls Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone 10.00am - 5.00pm. Tickets £4.00 (KAS members), £5.00 (non-members or at the door) from Dunelm House, Main Road, Icklesham, Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4AR (sae please).

Saturday, 9th November - Maidstone Parochial Library Trust conference and exhibition at County Hall, Maidstone. £5.00 (including coffee & tea) or £10.00 (including buffet lunch). Further details and booking forms (which must be returned by 25 October) from Keeper of the Maidstone Parochial Library, Centre for Kentish Studies, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ. Tel: 01622 694363.

Saturday, 9th November - The Later Defences of Kent at Christ Church College, North Holmes Road, Canterbury (2.00 to 5.30pm). Tickets £2.00 (payable to CKA) from 5 Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9DL (sae please)

### COURSES

For details of part-time certificates and diplomas in archaeology and local history at the University of Kent (starting October 1996) phone 01227 823507.

A Certificate in Local Archaeology offered by Christ Church College Canterbury is to be held at Eastgate Adult Education Centre, Rochester. Application forms from the Admissions Office (01227 767700). Details of the above and other adult educational courses, etc are available at meetings.

**RICHARD WEEKS (Chairman)      Tel: (01580) 890042**  
**14, THE QUARTER, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, KENT TN12 0EP**  
**SARAH GUISE (Honorary Secretary)**  
**17, HANOVER ROAD, COXHEATH, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME174QG**



**MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP  
DECEMBER 1996 NEWSLETTER**

+++Seasons greetings to all members +++

**1997 Programme of meetings**

With the prospect of a new year overleaf you will find a programme of meetings for the year ahead. Note the altered start times of the January and May meetings. Also you will see that there is no speaker arranged so far for the November meeting. If you have any suggestions for speakers or would like to give a talk yourself please let us know.

**Outings**

Apart from the Annual Outing in July, it may be possible to arrange further outings, depending on the level of interest. Suggestions include:

A tour of the former Officers' Gardens at Chatham Dockyard, with Barbara Marchant  
A tour of the historic buildings of Sheppey  
A tour of Lenham, including the church and great barn  
A day school at Butser Ancient Farm on "Constructing a Roman Villa"

Please let us hear your interest on the above or your thoughts on any other outing which may appeal.

**Kent History Federation Quarterly Meeting**

Pat Brooks attended the meeting on 7th December at County Hall. There is one piece of good news to report amid the gloom of budget cuts. Funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund will cover the repair, conservation and boxing of over 600 Tithe maps held at the Centre for Kentish Studies.

The University of Kent is reorganising its continuing education scheme. Among other changes, Archaeology is to be moved to the Department of Classics. A formal diploma can now be earned at Local History level through the W.E.A.

The KAS reported that the dig at Abbey Farm Minster was very successful.

**RICHARD WEEKS (Chairman) Tel: (01580) 890042  
14 The Quarter, Cranbrook Road, Staplehurst, Kent, TN12 0EP  
SARAH GUISE (Honorary Secretary) Tel: (01622) 747029  
17 Hanover Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent ME 17 4QG**

## **Maidstone Area Archaeological Group 1997 Programme**

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held on Friday evenings at the Function Room, Brookes Cafe Bar (formerly the Arches Inn), Market Buildings, Maidstone (opposite the Town Hall), starting at 7.30 pm.

**17 January** Cast in the Same Mould - Kent's Historic Buildings and How They Decay. An illustrated talk by Charles Bain-Smith of the Kent Building Preservation Trust. **Note later start time of 7.45.**

**21 February** Egyptology - Evidence for Health Factors. An illustrated talk by Joyce Filer of the British Museum

**21 March** Hops and Hoppers. An illustrated talk by Margaret Lawrence

**18 April** Annual General Meeting followed by :  
Medieval Churches - from another angle. An illustrated talk by David Carder

**16 May** Behind the Scenes at Maidstone Museum  
Claire Mason, Keeper of Human History, will give a talk and guided tour. **Meet at the Museum in St Faith's Street at 7.00 pm.**

**20 June** Queenborough Castle, Isle of Sheppey. An illustrated talk by David Hughes

**July** Annual Outing - to be arranged

**August** No meeting

**19 September** The Historic Environment of the Maidstone Area. A talk by Michael Parkinson, Building Conservation Officer, Maidstone Borough Council.

**17 October** Members' Evening  
Includes a talk on The Life of Oliver Cromwell by David Ottway

**21 November** To be arranged

**19 December** Christmas Social and Quiz

**MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**  
**APRIL 1997 NEWSLETTER**

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at Brookes Cafe Bar, The Market Buildings on Friday evenings at 7.30 pm, unless otherwise stated on the programme.

1997/98 subscriptions become due on 1st April 1997 and remain unchanged:

Family subscription £3.00; Adult £2.00; Junior £1.00. Cheques payable to MAAG.

NOTE As agreed at the 1996 AGM subscriptions should be sent direct to the Hon.

Treasurer, Mr J. Obee, 115 Old Tovil Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6QE. (Any sent to Richard already will be forwarded).

**Maidstone Area Archaeological Group**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**To be held on Friday 18th April 1997**  
**Function Room, Brookes Cafe Bar, Maidstone at 7.30pm**

**Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 1996 AGM
3. Chairman's Report
4. Archaeological Director's Report
5. Hon Secretary's Report
6. Hon Treasurer's Report
7. Election of Officers
8. Election of Auditors
9. Reports and election of Representatives
10. Discussion of change of venue/meeting day
11. Future activities
12. AOB

Following the formal business, Richard will give an illustrated talk on "The geology of Maidstone - a shopper's view". (Apparently this assumes Richard gets the slides back in time, otherwise he will come up with an alternative talk!)

**May Meeting:** 16 May Behind the Scenes at Maidstone Museum. Claire Mason will give a talk and guided tour. **Meet at the Museum in St Faith's Street at 7.00 pm.**

**FUTURE M.A.A.G. MEETINGS**

We would like to canvas members for their opinion on whether they are happy to continue the meetings as they stand or whether in 1998 you would prefer to meet another evening during the week and/or at another venue in future.

In keeping with this season of elections a form is attached to this newsletter for you to return to Richard (address on the form) before the AGM if you cannot attend on 18th April.

## **EVENTS, LECTURES AND CONFERENCES**

**KAS Day School. Kent Churchyards - their monuments and gravestones.** Will take place on Saturday 19th April 1997 at The Barn (next to the Church), Charing. 10.40 am to 16.10 pm. Admission £6. Apply for tickets no later than 12th April from Mr John Owen, Monksmead House, Throwley, Kent, ME13 OFF. 0171 704 9196. Cheques payable to the Kent Archaeological Society

**KAS - What's in a name?** Paul Cullen on the place-names of East Kent with an account of his findings, emphasising those of archaeological significance. Ashford Parish Church Hall on Saturday 19th April at 2.30 pm.

**Archaeology in the Near East.** A British Museum open day for sixth formers and year 11 students on Wednesday 23rd April at 10.15. Contact BM Education Service 0171 323 8511/8854. Free.

**Information Day for part-time certificates and diplomas** with University of Kent. At the University Centre, Avebury Avenue, Tonbridge on Saturday 26th April. 01732 352316

**Life and death in ancient Egypt.** A study day at Benenden Hospital on Saturday 10th May starting at 9.30 am. £17.50 (£15.00 concessions). Contact Sue Clegg 01580 240333 ext 2252/2387

### **KAS - Archaeologists sent to the Tower!**

Graham Keevil, director of the excavations of the Tower of London will report on the exciting finds there on Saturday 10 May at 2.30 pm in St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone.

**The Local history of family names.** The 1997 Phillimore Lecture given by Dr David Hey at the Stationers' Hall, London Saturday 7th June at 1.30 pm

**Centre for Kentish Studies Cream Tea Afternoon.** Saturday 14th June at County Hall, 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. Will include a talk on Ightham Mote by Alison Cresswell. Friends £1.50; General £3.00. Tickets from Sarah Terry, CKS, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ. 01622 694460.

**Faversham Society Open House Scheme** will take place this year on Saturdays 5th, 12th and 19th July. Contact the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre (01795 534542) for details.

**KAS Training Excavation 1997.** The second training excavation on the site of the Roman Villa at Abbey Farm, Minster in Thanet is planned for the two weeks from Saturday 2nd August. Further information available from David Bacchus, Telford Lodge, Roebuck Road, Rochester. 01634 843495

**Sarah Guise (Hon Sec), 17 Hanover Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 4AG.  
Tel: 01622 747029**

## **MAAG MEETINGS IN 1998**

**NAME:** .....

At the Annual General Meeting a discussion will take place to decide, in principle, whether the location and/or date of our Group Meetings should be changed for next year. It would be helpful if you could please answer the following:-

- 1) Are you content with the meetings continuing on Friday evenings at Brooke's Cafe Bar?

**YES / NO**

- 2) If 'NO', please let us know why; e.g. Lack of parking facilities / Being in Maidstone on a Friday night after dark / Any other reason:-

- 3) **Change of Evening:**

Would you prefer a different evening?

**YES / NO**

Please number the following nights from 1 to 6, with 1 being your preferred choice.  
If any night would be impossible for you to attend, cross it through:-

MONDAY	
TUESDAY	
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	
FRIDAY	
SATURDAY	

- 4) **Change of Venue:**

**YES / NO**

We would look for a venue that had its own parking, perhaps with tea and coffee making facilities; a village hall would be ideal, and if you know of any suitable halls near Maidstone please let us know and we will investigate them. Any increase in subscriptions that may arise from changing the venue would be voted on at next year's AGM, but we'd be interested to know in advance how you would feel about this:-

Would you be prepared to pay extra subscriptions to change venue?

**YES / NO**

Would you prefer to keep the subs as they are and pay extra  
on the door when attending meetings?

**YES / NO**

Please return this form to: Richard Weeks, MAAG Chairman, 14 The Quarter, Cranbrook Road, Staplehurst, Kent, TN12 0EP as soon as possible. It would be helpful if you could please return this questionnaire before the 18th April if you cannot attend the AGM.

**Please add any other comments or suggestions overleaf.**

Thank you!

# MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

## JUNE NEWSLETTER 1997

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at Brookes Cafe Bar (formerly the Arches Inn), The Market Buildings on Friday evenings, commencing at 7.30 pm. Brookes Cafe Bar is at the High Street end of The Market Buildings (opposite the Town Hall).

### DIARY

#### **FRIDAY, 6th JUNE**

#### **VISIT TO CHATHAM DOCKYARD GARDENS**

Following her talk on 'Chatham's Secret Gardens' last October, Barbara Marchant has arranged for us to visit the Commissioner's House garden and three of the Officers' Terrace gardens. These gardens are not normally open to the public. The cost of the tour will be £2-50 per person (payable on the day). Entrance to the dockyard will be via the old brick arched gate (with the crest above it) off Dock Road - parking will be in the dockyard. Please aim to arrive at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

Since we need to provide an estimate of numbers, if you plan to attend could you please phone either Avice Harms (01634 861714) or Richard/Linda Weeks (01580 890042) **before** Tuesday 3rd June (leave a message on the answerphone if necessary).

#### **FRIDAY, 20th JUNE**

#### **TALK ON QUEENBOROUGH CASTLE**

David Hughes will give an illustrated talk on Queenborough Castle, Isle of Sheppey.

#### **SATURDAY, 5th JULY**

#### **ANNUAL OUTING TO ST ALBANS**

There will be no meeting in Maidstone in July, instead there will be the customary coach trip. As last year this will be a joint outing with the Lower Medway Group. Guests and other non-members are very welcome. We will visit the historic city of St Albans. See below for further details.

### M.A.A.G. NEWS

The AGM held on 18th April was attended by 18 members. Two dozen questionnaires concerning changing the location and/or date of Group Meetings have been received so far. Thanks to those who also suggested possible venues - these are being investigated. It is not too late to return your questionnaire! It has been proposed that an Extraordinary General Meeting be held in November in order to decide on the location/date of next year's meetings and also to authorise any necessary increase in the subscriptions so that they can be implemented next April. The results of the questionnaire and options for new venues will be provided in a subsequent newsletter.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1997/98 became due on 1st April

FAMILY	£3-00	ADULT	£2-00	JUNIOR	£1-00
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Please send cheques (payable to M.A.A.G.) to Hon. Treasurer, Mr J Obee, 115 Old Tovil Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6QE.

### COACH OUTING TO ST ALBANS - SATURDAY 5th JULY

I am indebted to David Carder for the following information:

St Albans is one of Britain's most historic cities, being based on the Roman town of *Verulamium*, which had, in turn, succeeded a Belgic settlement of the late 1st century BC. *Verulamium* was the third largest British Roman town, and was, uniquely in Britain, a *municipium*, whose citizens had the same rights as Roman citizens. It was sacked by Boudicca in AD61, but subsequently rebuilt. The walls enclosed about 200 acres.

Alban was a Roman soldier who was martyred in the 3rd or 4th century AD for his Christian beliefs, and who became the first British saint. A shrine was established in his memory in c.400, and Offa founded a Benedictine Abbey there in 793 which lasted until the Dissolution in 1539. It became a cathedral in 1877.

Many remains from the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods survive, and can be seen in the city's museums or simply by wandering around.

**We plan to arrive at around 11am for a visit to the excellent Verulamium Museum, which houses several fine mosaics, re-created Roman rooms, glassware, kitchenware, and a coffin burial.** The museum is set in a 100-acre park where you can see a bath suite with hypocaust, and sections of Roman wall. After that, you are free to visit the numerous historic attractions, listed below, or do some shopping (Saturday is market day) until the coach departs at 5pm. Lunch is available in the Cathedral refectory, numerous cafes and pubs, or bring a picnic and sit in the park.

**Roman Theatre** : Famous semi-circular theatre, of c. AD155, in use for over 200 years. It could hold 6000 spectators for entertainment, animal shows and, later, classical theatre. It was unique in Britain in having a stage. (£1-50 Adult, 50p child or OAP).

**Cathedral** : Built in 1077-88 on the site of the Saxon Abbey, the fabric contains much re-used Roman brick. Magnificent nave, at 275 feet the longest surviving medieval nave, with wall paintings on the massive Norman arches. Presbytery with the oldest wooden vault in England, with 13C paintings. Stone reredos of 1484. Splendid brass to Abbot de la Mare, c.1360. The climax is perhaps the shrine to St Alban, c.1320, reconstructed from over 2000 pieces in 1872, overlooked by an oak watching loft and painted ceiling.

**Abbey Gateways** : *Abbey Gateway* : Massive 3-storeyed structure, c.1360, and the sole surviving monastic building. Used as a jail from 1553-1869 and subsequently a school. *Wax House Gate* : Remains of archway with houses above, 15C.

**Museum of St Albans** : Relates the post-Roman local history, and has a superb collection of trade and craft tools. Admission free.

**Curfew (Clock) Tower** : 77ft tower, 1402-11. Can be climbed for 25p (adult), 10p (child).

**Kingsbury Watermill** : Tudor mill with Georgian facade, containing 16C-18C machinery and a museum with agricultural equipment. Restaurant. 85p (adult), 45p (child).

**Medieval Inns** : *Fighting Cocks* : Claimed as one of the oldest inns in England, this timber-framed building probably occupies the site of a boat-house of the Saxon Abbey. *Fleur-de-Lys* : c.1430, rebuilt in 16C and 17C with a courtyard. *White Hart* : 15C.

**Medieval Churches** : *St Michael*, Saxon with doom painting, brasses, and monument to Sir Francis Bacon, who lived nearby; *St Stephen*, Norman; and *St Peter*, mainly 15C.

**Medieval and Georgian Streets** : French Row, Fishpool Street, and Holywell Hill

**Royal National Rose Society Gardens** : 1700 varieties of rose, set in 20 acres (3 miles by public transport).

The coach will pick up at the following places and times (approx): (Return home c 7.30pm)

08.30 am Senacre School (Sutton Road)	08.40 am Old Palace (Maidstone)
08.45 am London Road (Buckland Lane)	08.50 am Larkfield (Wealden Hall)
09.10 am Walderslade (commuter car park off Junction 3 of M2)	

The cost of the trip (which includes entrance to the Verulamium Museum) is given on the enclosed booking slip. Please use this to reserve places - all are welcome. Ensure that you make your requirements clear, i.e. how many places and where you will board the coach. Last year's trip was oversubscribed so **please book early**.

## **EVENTS, LECTURES & CONFERENCES**

Faversham Society Open House Scheme : Saturday afternoons, 5th, 12th & 19th July. Entry to premises by programme from the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, Preston Street, Faversham. Phone (01795) 534542

Saturday, 5th July - 'Mutiny and the Navy - Nore' one-day conference. The Dockyard Chapel, Chatham Historic Dockyard. £12-00 (£7-00 unwaged). Cheques payable to 1797 Committee and send to 44 Lindley Avenue, Southsea, PO4 9NU

KAS Training Excavation (2nd season) at Minster-in-Thane Roman villa site : 2nd-15th August. Enrolment details from David Bacchus, Telford Lodge, Roebuck Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 1UD. Tel: 01634 843495

Saturday, 13th & Sunday 14th September - Excavations at Scadbury Moated Manor, Chislehurst. Guided tours every 15 minutes from 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm. Slide show, refreshments and book stall

**SARAH GUISE (Honorary Secretary) Tel: (01622) 747029  
17, HANOVER ROAD, COXHEATH, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME17 4AG**

## **MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP AUGUST 1997 NEWSLETTER**

The Group's meetings are held in the Function Room at Brookes Cafe Bar, The Market Buildings on Friday evenings at 7.30 pm, unless otherwise stated on the programme.

### **19 September**

The Historic Environment of the Maidstone Area  
Michael Parkinson, Conservation Officer, Maidstone Borough Council

### **17 October**

Members' Evening and The Life of Oliver Cromwell by David Ottway followed by a talk by Robin Cook entitled "Scotch Mist"

### **21st November**

Will be an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING to discuss Group subscriptions and a venue for the monthly meetings. Your vote counts!

The next newsletter will summarise the results of the questionnaire sent to all members earlier this year.

Following the business of the evening Henry Middleton will give a talk on the Carriage Museum and its founder.

### **Visit to Lenham Saturday 20th September**

A booking form is attached for all those who wish to go on this excellent tour arranged by MAAG member Brian Clark. Please return form and cheques to Josie Sanders by 12th September.

### **Outing to St Albans**

The annual outing to St Albans was greatly enjoyed by the 40 MAAG and LMARG members and their guests who went on this trip. Many thanks to Avic Harms for organising the coach and the visit and Josie Sanders for marshalling the members of the Lower Medway group. Also to David Carder for his invaluable map and handout which aided a walk round the City. The superb Verulamium Museum, the Roman amphitheatre and the Abbey were among the most impressive sites visited in this interesting City.

### **Chatham Historic Dockyard Gardens**

On a warm evening in June members of the Group were given a fascinating tour by the Chatham Dockyard Gardens Group of the restored Commissioner's House gardens, including the ice house, and a number of the gardens in Officers' Terrace, which had been excavated revealing features that could be identified on a 1774 model of the Dockyard.



## Events

### **Scadbury**

On Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September the archaeological excavations at the medieval moated manor of Scadbury, Chislehurst, will be open to the public. The first guided tour will be at 2.00pm, and thereafter every fifteen minutes until 4.30pm. Free admission. Those requiring car parking will require a ticket and should apply to Mr M Meekums, 27 Eynsford Close, Petts Wood, BR5 1DP enclosing an SAE and stating for which day it is required.

### **Bradbourne House**

On Sunday 14th September Bradbourne House and Hatton Fruit Garden, East Malling, will be open from 2.00pm until 5.00pm.

### **St Augustine: AD597 and all that!**

On Saturday 8th November a series of lectures to commemorate the 1400th anniversary of St Augustine's landing in Kent will be hosted by the CKA at Christ Church College, Canterbury. £2.00. Tickets from CKA, 5 Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 9DL (include SAE)

## Holiday travels

I am sure many of us will have seen sites of historic or archaeological interest during the summer months, or even physically got into a trench and dug! It's always interesting to hear news from members so please send me items for the newsletter.

This summer I was fortunate enough to visit the United States of America and drove through Virginia to Jamestown and Williamsburg. Jamestown was the first permanent (successfully so) colony in the USA. Three ships landed in May 1607 and created a settlement in a swampy wilderness. Jamestown remained the capital of Virginia until about 1700 when the colonists finally abandoned the swamp and moved inland to Williamsburg.

Today Jamestown is a large archaeological site with the church (on the site of the one in which Pocohontas married John Rolfe) and the first "highway." constructed by the settlers running past it. In the last year excavations have revealed the first wooden fort erected in 1607/8; a triangular wooden palisade with a bastion at each corner, sitting on an earth rampart surrounded by a dry moat. It is not dissimilar in design to the fort illustrated by the Time Team when they visited Maryland, further north, last year.

Williamsburg is a treat for anybody interested in 18th century architecture with 88 of the original buildings surviving and others superbly reconstructed to the original plans. From brickwork to weatherboarding, much care has been given to authenticity, right down to the wallpaper, printed specially from the blocks still housed by Perry and Co in London. Needless to say it needed the money of a Rockefeller to enable such accuracy. The town is a pleasure to walk around, with visitors able to walk into whichever building they choose and enjoy.

It was fascinating visiting this area of Virginia and see what is really an overseas extension to part of English history.

**Sarah Guise (Hon Sec), 17 Hanover Road, Coxheath, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 4AG. Tel: 01622 747029**

**LENHAM - SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 1997**

Mr Brian Clark, a member of Maidstone Area Archaeological Group, has kindly agreed to give the Group a tour of Lenham Village, which will include a visit to the Tithe Barn.

The Mothers Union will be providing tea, after which Mr Clark will show us around the Church.

/

We meet Mr Clark in the car park, which is opposite the United Reformed Church in Maidstone Road at 2.30pm.

The cost will be £4.00 each.

Miss J Sanders  
Activities Organiser

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**Booking for Outing to Lenham - 20 September 1997**

Name ..... Tel No.....

Address .....

.....

I would like to book..... places for the tea and tour of Lenham Village and Church and  
enclose a cheque for £.....

I would like a lift/I can give a lift to..... person(s)

Please make the cheque payable to J Sanders and return the form to Miss J Sanders, 302 The  
Tideway, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3PS by Friday 12th September 1997

## **MAIDSTONE AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

### **December 1997**

Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Christmas Meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**, not Friday 19<sup>th</sup>.

Albert Daniels will conduct a book auction in aid of Group funds. Please bring along any unwanted books (on any subject, but no magazines). Any unsold books will be offered to a local charity of Albert's choice.

Albert will also give a short talk on the Group's work at All Saints, Maidstone and Sarah Guise will show a few slides of excavations in Jamestown, Virginia.

Short contributions from other Members would be welcomed.

There will be the customary party, so please feel free to bring along food/drink.

### **Programme of Meetings for 1998**

Indoor meetings up to and including March are at 7.30 pm on Fridays at the Function Room, Brooke's Cafe Bar, Market Buildings, Maidstone (opposite the Town Hall). The arrangements for the AGM in April and subsequent indoor meetings may change (see report on November Meeting below).

**16 January** The Royal Military Canal Fred Booth

**20 February** Fortress America - the first 200 years Geoff Harvey

**20 March** The Development of Ladies Costume 1300-1650, as depicted on monumental brasses Philip Lawrence

**17 April** Annual General Meeting followed by Kentish Churches as influenced by Geology  
David Carder  
VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED

Outings and visits will be arranged and announced in the Newsletter.

### **November Meeting**

As advertised in the last newsletter, an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group was held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1997 and 18 Members attended. The Group is indebted to Mr Norman Soutter for coming to our rescue at literally a moment's notice on the night and arranging for the meeting to be held in an impressive room at The Maidstone Club, Earl Street, Maidstone (the former residence of Andrew Broughton).

Mr Henry Middleton gave us a very interesting talk about the life of Sir Garrard Tyrwhitt-Drake and his foundation of Maidstone's Carriage Museum. Following this, the Members spent about an hour discussing the Group venue and subscriptions.

Questionnaires completed by Members earlier in the year gave their preferences of evening and copies of a summary of these were distributed. Several potential meeting places had previously been suggested and investigated. Venues had been shortlisted by cost and by availability and this list included Detling School Hall, which Robin Cook is investigating; the meeting decided to await these findings before deciding on a venue.

One suggestion was to hold meetings on Wednesdays and Fridays of alternate months because some Members find it impossible to attend meetings on Fridays. After discussion it was decided not to pursue that idea at this time because it was felt that to change the venue and the evening at the same time might be too complicated.

Next the Members considered the cost. It was realised that if we were to move we would have to pay more than we do for Brooke's Cafe' Bar (£90 p.a.). The Hon Treasurer, Jess Obee, reported that to date this year £88 had been received in subscriptions, although some Members had paid in advance and a substantial number (about 20) of Members had yet to pay for 1997/98 (reminder with this newsletter!!). It was anticipated that by April 1998 about £150 will have been spent on speakers' fees.

Three suggestions were put forward:

1. Reduce the number of meetings held each year
2. Keep subscriptions the same and have a £1 per person charge on the door for Members attending meetings
3. An increase in subscriptions, as they had not been increased since 1992 when they were doubled from £1 for a single Member and £1.50 for a family to £2 and £3 respectively

The first suggestion was quickly discarded because those present did not want to lose meetings.

The second suggestion was considered, but the vote was not unanimous. The concern was raised that, although they would be getting more for their money than those who did not attend meetings, Members would be paying a lot more than they do now and some might decide to miss some meetings because of it. The attendance of Members at meetings would remain variable.

Increasing the subscriptions was felt to be the best method of ensuring a steady income.

<b><u>Proposed by:</u></b> David Carder	That the annual subscription for Membership be increased
<b><u>Seconded by:</u></b> David Ottway	

Carried unanimously

The discussion then centred around the amount of increase. The first suggestion made was £5 for an individual and £7 for a family, but this was generally felt to be too much of a jump. We only want to be able to cover our costs, not make a profit out of our Members.

<b><u>Proposed by:</u></b> David Carder	That the subscriptions be increased to £4 for an individual
<b><u>Seconded by:</u></b> Avicé Harms	and £6 for a couple or family

Carried unanimously.

A formal resolution to adopt the increased subscription rates (Rule 5) will be voted on at the Group's AGM in April 1998.

Other suggestions were that non-Members could attend meetings for £1, a raffle could be held (if someone volunteered to do it!) and there could be a charge for tea and coffee. More publicity could attract more Members, which would also help.

It was agreed that it would be useful to have programmes produced in card form showing the dates of meetings and speakers for the year, as Josie Sanders is booking speakers in advance. The cards could include contact names and telephone numbers and could be used for publicity purposes. They will also be given to Members as a reminder of the dates for each forthcoming year. We could have a competition to design a logo. (See below) If anyone has access to or contacts with design and printing facilities we would be pleased to hear from you.

## **Digging News**

One hundred acres of woodland at Hollingbourne has been offered to the Group for surveying. Albert Daniels expects to receive details this week. Field work can commence from 1<sup>st</sup> February 1998. Prior to that archives research will need to be undertaken. Volunteers will be required for both aspects of the work. If you want to help, come along to the next couple of meetings or contact Albert (01622 67494) in the New Year.

## **The Maidstone Fight**

Following a suggestion from one of our Members to Paul Oldham, there is a possibility that the Sealed Knot will commemorate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Maidstone Fight in the summer of 1998. Maidstone Borough Council have entered into negotiations with the Society. Watch this space - more details will follow when they are known.

## **Logo Competition**

In order to promote and to raise awareness of the Group's activities, it has been suggested that we have a Group logo to appear on the Group's stationery and other publicity material. We are therefore running a competition to encourage Members to submit entries. The winning entry will be chosen by the Members present at the February 1998 meeting, when a small prize will be presented to the winning entrant.

Competition rules are as follows :

1. Each Member may submit up to two entries.
2. Each entry shall be presented on one side of a single sheet of paper, with the name and address of the entrant ON THE BACK. Entries may include a description beneath the logo using a maximum of 25 words.
3. Entries must be given or sent to the Chairman so as to be received by 31st January 1998.
4. Entries will be judged by the Members at the February 1998 meeting. Each Member shall have ONE vote. The Chairman shall only vote in the event of a tie.
5. Members shall not vote for their own entry.
6. Entries shall be kept anonymous by the Chairman until the result is decided.
7. Family Members shall count as a single member for the purpose of this competition.
8. Copyright of the winning logo shall be vested in the Group.
9. Logos shall be designed to be clearly legible when reproduced within a one-inch by one-inch square.
10. The decision of the Chairman in the interpretation of the Rules, and any necessary modifications thereto, shall be final.
11. Members submitting entries shall be deemed to have agreed to the Rules.

We look forward to a good number of entries, and an interesting meeting in February.

SARAH GUISE

HON SECRETARY, 17 HANOVER ROAD, COXHEATH, MAIDSTONE, KENT TEL: 01622 747029

## **Results of Survey:**

24      Questionnaires returned

Wednesday - Impossible : 5    Difficult: 2

Friday      - Impossible : 4    Difficult: 8

Overall      -    7 prefer Wednesday                  13 prefer Friday

but - Those who find Fridays impossible or difficult can attend on Wednesdays

and - Those who find Wednesdays impossible or difficult can attend on Fridays

There were some members who preferred Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, but who will be able to attend on a Wednesday or Friday.

## **Suggestion:**

Alternate meetings at Brooke's Cafe Bar if they are willing to accommodate us:

Wednesday	February 18th October 14th	April 15th December 16th	June 17th
Friday	January 16th September 18th	March 20th November 20th	May 15th

We might be able to regain some lost members in this way by being more flexible. The town centre might not be so crowded in the middle of the week as it is at the end, though we would still have the problem of parking some distance away and having to walk through the town centre, so would not be addressing one of the concerns expressed in the survey. It might be easier to park for our Christmas Do if it's not on a Friday night!

Tea and coffee can be provided at Brooke's at a small cost.

If it's too short notice to consider changing evenings for next year for whatever reason, perhaps this suggestion could be discussed at the AGM after consultation with The Brooke's management to see if it would be possible, and any change could then take place on a trial basis for one year from January 1999 if there was general agreement from the membership.

## **Shortlist by Cost**

	<b>Place</b>	<b>Per Meeting £</b>	<b>Annual Cost £</b>
1)	Detling School Hall* (Robin Cook to Investigate)	Cheap?!	
*school hall with partition : 50' x 20' : car parking : next to a pub			
2)	St. Phillips Maidstone	15.00	150.00
3)	Methodist Hall Maidstone	18.00	180.00
4)	St. Faith's Church Hall Monckton's Lane & Downswood Centre**	20.00	200.00

\*\*no public transport after 7.30 p.m.

## **Shortlist by Known Availability**

	<b>Place</b>	<b>Meeting Cost £</b>	<b>Available</b>
1)	Detling		
2)	St. Faith's	20.00	Friday
3)	Methodist Hall	18.00	Tuesday
4)	Downswood	20.00	Tuesday
5)	Vinters	22.25	3rd Wednesday in month

## **To Reduce Costs:**

Reduce number of meetings  
Double membership fee  
Pay on door (but only six people might turn up!!)



# **Maidstone Area Archaeological Group**

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## **APRIL 1998 NEWSLETTER**

The Group's meetings are to be held in the School Hall, The Street, Detling on the third Friday in the month at 7.30 pm, unless otherwise stated on the programme.

**THE 1998 AGM WILL BE HELD A WEEK LATER THAN USUAL, ON FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL and a vote on a change in annual subscription charges will be taken**

As agreed at the 1996 AGM subscriptions should be sent direct to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr J. Obee, 115 Old Tovil Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6QE. (Any sent to Richard already will be forwarded).

**Maidstone Area Archaeological Group  
Annual General Meeting  
To be held on Friday 24th April 1998  
School Hall, The Street, Detling at 7.30pm**

### **Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 1997 AGM
3. Chairman's Report
4. Archaeological Director's Report
5. Hon Secretary's Report
6. Hon Treasurer's Report
7. Election of Officers
8. Election of Auditors
9. Reports and election of Representatives
10. Discussion & vote on annual subscription charges
11. Future activities
12. AOB

The AGM will be followed by Richard Weeks running a quiz on British costume through the ages.

### **NEW VENUE FOR MEETINGS**

As you can see from the top of this newsletter our future venue will be the School Hall in Detling. See the attached sheet for details.



## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

15<sup>th</sup> May 1998 Robin Cook is giving a talk entitled "Scotch mist"

19<sup>th</sup> June 1998 Richard Weeks talks about the "Development of the dwelling house"

JULY - Annual outing

AUGUST - no meeting

## **RESULT OF LOGO COMPETITION**

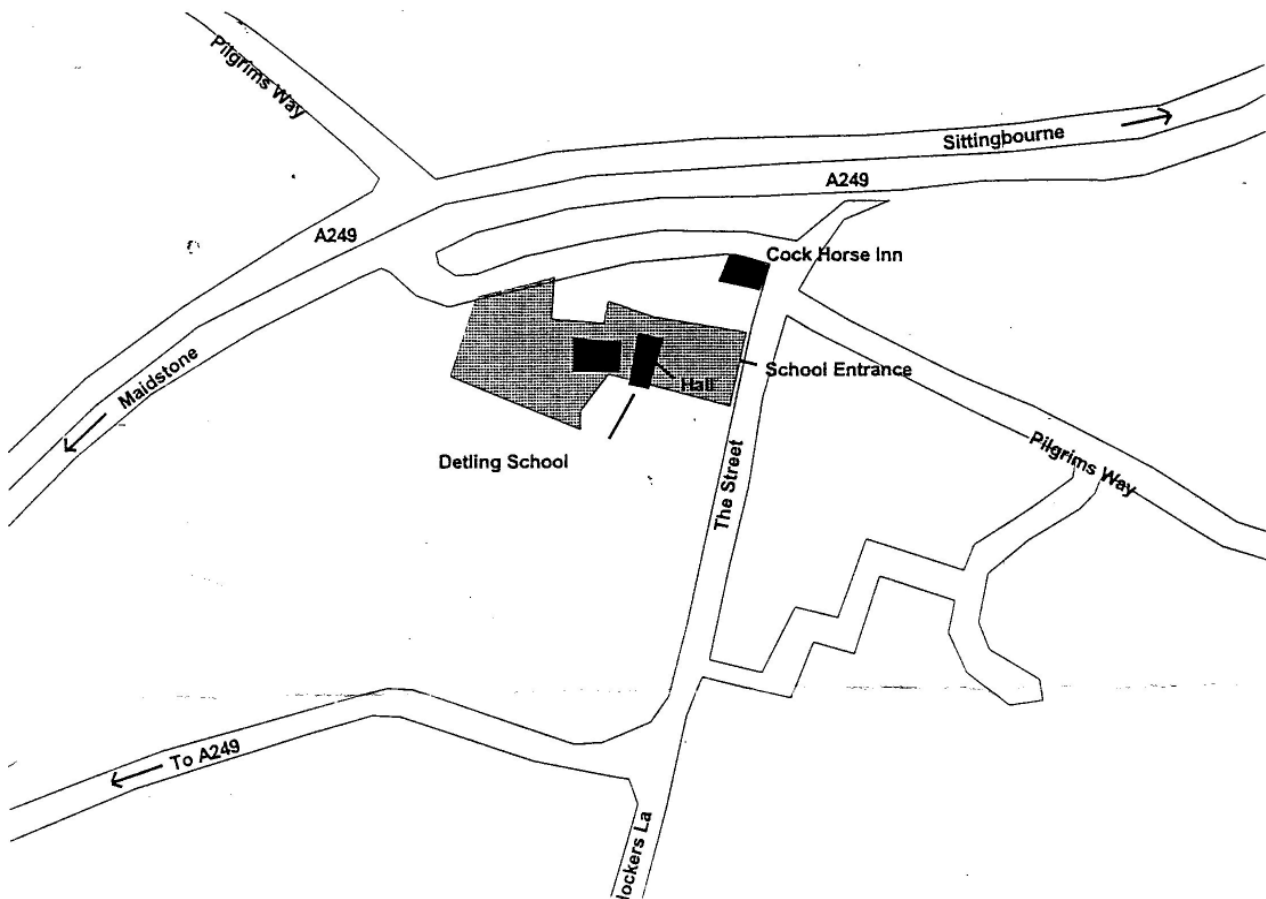
Congratulations to Josephine Sanders on winning the competition to find a logo for MAAG. You can see a portrayal of her design on the newsletter heading and it certainly states clearly what MAAG represents. Thank you to all other participants for your contributions to the competition.

## **1998 SUMMER OUTING**

It is time again to ask you to offer suggestions on where the Group can visit this summer, after such an enjoyable outing to St Albans last year. Please let Josephine Sanders if there is a place you feel would make a good outing.

## **ARTHUR HARRISON**

Arthur Harrison, one of the last outstanding local archaeologists, died this month. Anybody who ever had the privilege of digging with Arthur will remember his humour, his knowledge and enthusiasm, making each excavation so enjoyable.



### **New Venue for MAAG Meetings**

Meetings will be held in the School Hall at Detling CE Primary School. The first meeting will be the 1998 AGM on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> April commencing at 7.30pm. The date has been moved from the 17<sup>th</sup> as this is in the school holidays and the caretaker, Mr Roy Monk, is away. Although he does have a 'deputy', for our first meeting, I thought it important that Mr Monk was around to 'show us the ropes' (or at least where the light switches, loos, etc are!!).

The map above shows the location of the school. The entrance is off of The Street as indicated. Walk across the playground, the entrance to the Hall is more or less in the middle of the stone buildings in front of you (a bit to the right of the clock).

The Hall is probably a bit smaller than the Function Room at Brooke's. It can accommodate about 40 people. Chairs and tables are plentiful. The room has gas heating (which will be switched on in advance of our arrival when necessary). An urn is to be provided so that we can make tea/coffee if we want.

The school does not have a car park, so that parking is on the road in the village. If you do not have your own transport and require a 'lift' to Detling, please contact me and I will try and arrange something.

No doubt there will be some 'teething' problems but I am sure we will be happy in our new 'home'.

**Note:** It is not yet known whether a projection screen is available at the Hall. If you have a suitable screen that could be used if needed could you please give me a ring as soon as possible.

**Richard Weeks (01580 890042)**



# Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



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## Newsletter, May 1998

### Dear Fellow Members

As you may be aware, Sarah Guise has temporarily relinquished the post of Newsletter Editor for reasons explained below, and so I am acting as Editor for the time being.

Remember that this Newsletter is for Members by Members, so I would make the usual plea for members to let me have any information that may be of interest to others - see my address at the end. This could be a short article, notice of an event, an interesting Internet site, or simply letting others know where you have been on holiday - after all, they might be interested in getting the "low-down" from you.

To start the ball rolling, I have recently spent a long weekend analysing domestic buildings in Cambridgeshire, and during July I will be helping to run a Summer School looking at medieval buildings in the Bristol area. In April I attended an excellent 2-day conference tracing the archaeology of Sussex chronologically from prehistoric times to the present day, a format which one hopes that Kent will follow one day.

**BEST WISHES** to Sarah and Chris Guise whose first baby is due any day now (late May). We look forward to receiving junior membership forms for the new arrival in the near future, and hope that Sarah will soon be able to resume her archaeological activities !

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our member Paul Oldham, who became the new President of the Kent Archaeological Society on 16th May.

David Carder

### MAAG 1998 Programme

Josephine Sanders has arranged the following meetings for the remainder of 1998. **Indoor meetings are now held at the School Hall, The Street, Detling (map in last Newsletter) on Fridays at 7.30 pm.**

<b>Friday, 19th June</b>	<b>The Development of the Dwelling House</b> Mr Richard Weeks
<b>Saturday 4th July</b>	<b>Annual Outing - Coach trip to Colchester</b> - details enclosed
<b>August</b>	No meeting
<b>Friday 18th September</b>	<b>The History of Windmills and Watermills</b> Mr Paul Jarvis, Chairman of the Kent Mills Group
<b>Friday 16th October</b>	<b>The Wealden Iron Industry</b> Mr Brian Herbert, Wealden Iron Research Group
<b>Saturday 17th October</b>	<b>Visit to the Isle of Sheppey</b> - details in next Newsletter
<b>Friday 20th November</b>	<b>The Development of Ladies' Costume 1300-1650</b> (as depicted on monumental brasses) - Mr Philip Lawrence
<b>Friday 18th December</b>	<b>Christmas Social</b>

For your diaries, the first three indoor meetings in 1999 are on Fridays 15th January, 19th February, and 19th March.

**If you've not yet been to our new venue, then do come along.** It is a nice quiet spot with reasonably easy parking, and you can have refreshments at the end - it *would help if you would bring a mug please* ! If you're not sure how to get there, just give me or Richard a call.

### **Annual Outing to Colchester - 4th July 1998**

Our annual outing this year is a coach trip to **Colchester**, and will include admission to the excellent **Castle Museum**, which traces the early archaeology and history of the town.

I spent several days in Colchester last year, and can thoroughly recommend this trip. There are many historic buildings, good **museums with free admission**, and the usual facilities of a large town in a historic setting.

Detailed information sheets with maps will be given to participants, but please contact one of the Committee Members if you have any queries. **Guests are welcome.**

A booking form, giving further details, is included with this Newsletter, and we have been able to maintain the prices at last year's levels. **These outings are always popular and represent very good value, so book now !**

### **Highlights of the Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM was held on 24th April and involved wide-ranging discussions on a number of topics, to the extent that there was no time for the usual short talk afterwards.

One key topic was the proposed increase in subscriptions, which was agreed unanimously (see notice below), allowing us to maintain the quality and variety of the indoor programme.

All the existing committee members were re-elected, with the exception that Sarah Guise is temporarily leaving the committee and is replaced by David Carder, who will act as Newsletter Editor until Sarah is able to resume. The Committee thus now comprises : Richard Weeks (Chairman), Robin Cook (Vice-Chairman), Jess Obee (Treasurer), Josephine Sanders (Meetings Organiser), and David Carder (Acting Newsletter Editor).

### **Subscription Reminder**

Subscriptions are now due for the year beginning 1st April 1998. Despite the increase, they still represent very good value for money and remain lower than for most other similar groups - remember that you have free admission to 10 indoor meetings, regular newsletters, and the opportunity to partake in excavations and other Group activities. Cheques should be sent to Jess Obee (address at end) or payments made to Jess or Richard at one of the meetings. Annual subscription rates are :

<b>Individual Membership</b>	<b>£ 4</b>
<b>Family Membership</b>	<b>£ 6</b>
<b>Junior Membership</b>	<b>£ 2</b>

### **Events**

The best way to find out about what is going on is to come along to an indoor meeting, where the latest information is laid out for members. Events include :

#### **Digging**

- **Lesley Feakes and Dana Adler** are organising a training dig at Highsted (near Sittingbourne) during the first two weeks of August. Lesley believes that this may be an Iron Age settlement site, and has found artefacts nearby dating from the Neolithic through to the Roman periods. Details from Lesley on (01622) 850275.
- **Albert Daniels** can provide the latest information on current and future excavations, which often occur at short notice. If interested, contact Albert on (01622) 674494.

**4th July The Cinque Ports.** Study day at the University of Kent at Canterbury. Details : (01227) 764000 ext.3507. Apply by 20th June. £22 or £11 (concessions).

**4th, 11th, and 18th July Faversham Open House Scheme.** Each year the people of Faversham let complete strangers into their houses and public buildings ! A programme (£4) gains you admission and contains comprehensive details of all the open buildings. Whilst it can be bought on the day, my tip is to get it in advance so that you can plan ahead, since not every building is open on each Saturday. You can get a programme through the post by sending £4.95 to The Faversham Society, Fleur de Lys Centre, 13 Preston Street, Faversham ME13 8NS (01795) 533261. (<http://freespace.virgin.net/catmur.neame>)

**25th & 26th July National Archaeology Days**, organised, by the Young Archaeologists' Club. MAAG will be putting events at Maidstone Museum. If you want more information, or particularly if you would like to help in any way, contact Albert Daniels on (01622) 674494. (<http://britac3.britac.ac.uk/cba/cba/nads98.html>).

**12th & 13th September Heritage Open Days.** A weekend when buildings normally closed to the public are opened free of charge. Last year several councils, notably Tonbridge and Malling, pulled out all the stops - I visited St Leonard's Tower (inside) and Douce's Manor at West Malling, and an old forge in Tonbridge. Maidstone, by contrast, did ... nothing ! **So come on, Maidstone** - as County Town you should be setting the pace. Contact Tourist Information Centres nearer the time, (<http://www.civictrust.org.uk/herit.htm>).

**12th & 13th September Scadbury Manor Open Days.** Excavated medieval site in Chislehurst. Details from Mr M Meekums, 27 Eynsford Close, Petts Wood, Kent BR5 1DP (with SAE).

**18th to 20th September Third Romney Marsh Conference** at the University of Kent, Canterbury. 13 papers and an optional field trip. Details from Mrs D Beck, 27 Station Road, Lydd, Kent (with SAE).

**19th & 20th September Heritage Open Days (Greater London).** Details from mid-August from Tourist Information Centres. (<http://www.archdialogue.demon.co.uk/OHIntro.htm>).

**24th October Roman Kent and Beyond.** Fieldwork conference at Christ Church College, Canterbury Details from Mrs S Broomfield, 8 Woodview Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD; tel. 01732 838698.

**14th November Aspects of Pre-History in SE England.** CKA conference with 3 lectures at Christ Church College, Canterbury 2.00 - 5.30. Tickets £3.00 (cheque to "CKA" plus SAE) from CKA, Angle Kin, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP.

**Saturday Day Schools in Practical Archaeology.** This looks like an excellent series of day schools starting on September 5th and run by the Kent Archaeological Field School at Faversham, all at £25. Full details and dates on (0181) 987-8827 or (0585) 700-112. Subjects: *Archaeological Field Survey; Field-Walking and Map Analysis; Iron-Age & Roman Pottery; Landscape Archaeology; Drawing Archaeological Finds; Recording Wooden Ships; and Recording Vernacular Buildings.*

**Hands-On Ancient Technology Courses** run by AMTeC Co-op at Chatham Dockyard are intended for small numbers (around 8) of professionals and are therefore tend to be expensive, but would appeal to those with a special interest in metal-, wood-, and glass-working. Details on (01634) 832627. ([danagb@msn.com](mailto:danagb@msn.com))

**If you know of any interesting local talks or other events, please let me have the details and they will be announced at indoor meetings and/or included in future Newsletters. If you can recommend speakers for future meetings, please contact Josephine Sanders.**

### **Other Groups' Programmes**

Members may be interested in meetings held by other local groups, who may make a small charge for non-members. **Please confirm details with the contact given before travelling any great distance since they may need to change their programme at short notice.**

This time we feature our friends and neighbours in Rochester, the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group (LMARG). Several MAAG members are also members of LMARG (me included), and MAAG's programme organiser, Josephine Sanders, also organises their programme, so, like us, they can be assured of a range of interesting and varied indoor meetings. Josephine can provide up-to-date information at a MAAG meeting or by telephone - Medway (01634) 849477.

Except as stated, LMARG meet on Mondays at 8pm. at the Friends Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester (opposite the public library) and MAAG members are very welcome to attend.

**22nd June            The History of Chatham Dockyard** - Peter Dawson

*(Note : at Chatham Dockyard Museum. - entry via main gate)*

**27th July            The Geo-Archaeology of the Medway Tunnel** - Tim Allen

**8th September    First-Century Salt Production in the Medway** - Ian Jackson

### **MAAG Custom Items**

The new logo gives MAAG a clearer sense of identity, and the Committee will be looking at ways of using it to promote the Group, including a pocket-sized programme card for members. The logo is ideal for badges, and I will have some samples available at the June meeting - so come along and let us have your thoughts on these and other customised items.

### **The Internet and Email**

I know that one or two of you, like me, have access to the Internet and/or email, and you will have noticed email and Internet addresses in some of the Newsletter notices.

If you send me an email message (david.carder@thefree.net) I will confirm receipt and add you to my email mailing list so that you will receive updated information in advance of the next Newsletter. Let me know of any interesting Internet sites you have come across - there are now many sites with archaeological and historical interest, and even the KAS are now talking about "non-paper publishing"!

If you want to try the Internet **free of charge**, you can have an hour's session at Springfield Library - book in advance on Maidstone 696511/696508. Here are some archaeological sites :

**British Archaeological Association (BAA)** : <http://britac3.britac.ac.uk/cba/baa/>

**Canterbury Archaeological Trust** : <http://www.hillside.co.uk/arch/index.html>

**Colchester Archaeological Trust** : <http://peipa.essex.ac.uk/cat/links.html>

**Council for British Archaeology (CBA)** : <http://britac3.britac.ac.uk/cba/>

**Current Archaeology** : <http://www.compulink.co.uk/~archaeology/>

**English Heritage** : <http://www.eng-h.gov.uk/>

**Internet Archaeology** : <http://intarch.ac.uk/>

**Internet links** : <http://joshua.micronet.it/utenti/dmeozzi/England/.Inglese/ArcSites.html>

**UK Index** : <http://www.ccc.nottingham.ac.uk/~aczkdc/ukarch/ukindex.html>

### **Deadline for Next Newsletter**

**Deadline for the next Newsletter, due in early September, is 31st August.**

### **MAAG Contacts**

**Newsletter contributions** : David Carder, 91 Ballens Road, Chatham ME5 8PA  
(01634) 681896 (answering machine); email david.carder@thefree.net

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

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

## **MAAG Annual Outing to Colchester - Saturday 4th July 1998**

Following last year's enjoyable outing to St Albans, Maidstone Area Archaeological Group are organising a coach outing to Colchester. **Guests are very welcome.**

The prices include group admission to the excellent **Castle Museum**, which traces the early history and archaeology of the town. The other museums are also housed in historic buildings and are **free**.

Colchester, is arguably Britain's oldest recorded town (the other contender being St Albans, where we went last year). In the late Iron Age, about AD10, Cunobelin, the king of south-east Britain, built his capital there and it became the most powerful settlement in Britain. Under the Romans it became the effective 'capital' of Britain before the rise in importance of London and is famous for having been burnt to the ground during the great native uprising in AD60 under Boudicca (Boadicea), Queen of the Iceni tribe.

There are still considerable remains from the Roman era onwards, including :

- Extensive standing sections of the **Roman walls**, with the impressive **Balkerne Gate**, at 107ft. across the largest surviving Roman gateway in Britain.
- The Saxon tower of **Holy Trinity** church, built about AD1000, with its triangular-headed doorway. The church now houses a **museum of town and country life**.
- The massive Norman **Castle keep**, now reduced to only half its original height, which was the largest ever built in Europe !
- The ruined Norman **St Botolph's Priory** with its decorated west front.
- The 15C **gateway of St John's Abbey** with stone and flint flushwork.
- Medieval **All Saints' Church**, now the **Natural History Museum**.
- **Tymperleys**, a fine 15C timber-framed house, now a **clock museum**.
- **Holytrees**, a fine Georgian house of 1718, now housing a **museum of toys, costume, and decorative arts**.
- Timber-framed houses, particularly in the **Dutch Quarter**, occupied in the 16th century by Flemish weavers, and the **Red Lion** hotel.

Detailed information sheets and maps will be given to participants.

## **Coach Outing To Colchester - Booking Form**

Bookings should be made on the form below, which provides details of prices and pick-up points. All bookings should be received by **Monday 22nd June** with the full payment. The price includes coach travel and group admission to the Castle Museum.

Please send booking forms with cheques (payable to **R Weeks**) to :

- **Mr Richard Weeks, 14 The Quarter, Cranbrook Road, Staplehurst TN12 0EP**

If you have any queries, then please telephone Richard on (01580) 890042. Specific queries about Colchester should be directed to the Tourist Information Centre on (01206) 282920.

The coach will pick up at the following points :

Senacre School (Sutton Road)	Old Palace (Maidstone)	London Road (Buckland La.)	Larkfield (Wealden Hall)	Walderslade (Car park by M2)
8.30am	8.40am	8.45am	8.50am	9.10am

If you need a lift, or are prepared to give lifts in your local area, please say so on the booking form. We expect to arrive back at around 7.30 pm.

We hope that everyone has an enjoyable day.

Cut here -----

### **Coach Outing to Colchester - Saturday 4th July 1998**

**Name:**..... **Phone No.:**.....

**Address:** .....

**Please reserve the following places :**

<b>ADULT</b>	places @ <b>£11</b>	£
<b>SENIOR CITIZEN</b>	places @ <b>£8</b>	£
<b>JUNIOR (under 16)</b>	places @ <b>£6</b>	£
	<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	£

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... I understand that refunds or partial refunds can only be made if places can be filled.

I will board the coach at (please circle) :

Senacre School (Sutton Road)	Old Palace (Maidstone)	London Road (Buckland La.)	Larkfield (Wealden Hall)	Walderslade (Car park by M2)
8.30am	8.40am	8.45am	8.50am	9.10am

I would like a lift / I can give local lifts. (Delete as appropriate).

Return to : Mr R **Weeks, 14 The Quarter, Cranbrook Road, Staplehurst TN12 0EP**, with your cheque (payable to **R Weeks**) by **Monday 22nd June**. Please enclose an SAE if you want a receipt.



## Colchester information Sheet

The visit includes group admission to the excellent **Castle Museum**, which traces the early history and archaeology of the town. The town has three other good museums, which are also housed in historic buildings and are **free**. Lunch is available in cafes and pubs, or bring a picnic and sit in Castle Park.

Colchester is a compact town and all the main sites of interest are within reasonable walking distance. St John's Abbey Gate is the most difficult to reach, but worth it for the "medievalists". Apart from historic buildings and museums, there are the usual facilities of a large historic town.

**Colchester** is built above the River Colne and has traces of settlement from the Bronze Age (around 1800 BC). It is arguably Britain's oldest recorded town (the other contender being St Albans, where we went last year).

In the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC it was settled by the Iron Age Trinovantes tribe, and in about AD10 Cunobelin, the king of south-east Britain, built his capital there. It became the most powerful settlement in Britain, with great defensive dykes to the west.

At the Roman conquest in AD 43, Claudius received the surrender of 11 British kings there. The Romans called it *Camulodunum*, meaning 'fortress of Camulos' in reference to the extensive earthworks.

Claudius stationed his army in Camulodunum to establish the first legionary fortress in Britain, and later authorised the base's conversion into a Roman town to provide the new province of Britannia with its first colony (Colonia Victricensis) and effective 'capital' before the rise in importance of London.

Roman Colchester was burnt to the ground during the great native uprising in AD60 under Boudicca (Boadicea), Queen of the Iceni tribe. The town recovered and in around AD 110 the Romans built the massive town walls enclosing 108 acres.

After the Roman withdrawal from Britain in about AD410, the Saxons occupied the town and gave it its present name, meaning *Roman fortress on the River Colne*. During the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries the town was subjected to the Danish raids and occupation, but was re-captured by Edward the Elder in AD 917 and re-fortified. The Normans further fortified the town in c.1080, building the massive Castle.

During the middle ages, the cloth trade was the main industry, and this developed greatly in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries with the influx of Flemish refugees. The town was held for the King and besieged for 12 weeks in 1648. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century it developed as a garrison town.

Colchester oysters have been famed since Roman times, and the town still holds special rights over the fishery. Many remains from the Iron Age, Roman, and medieval periods survive, and can be seen in the city's museums or simply by wandering around.

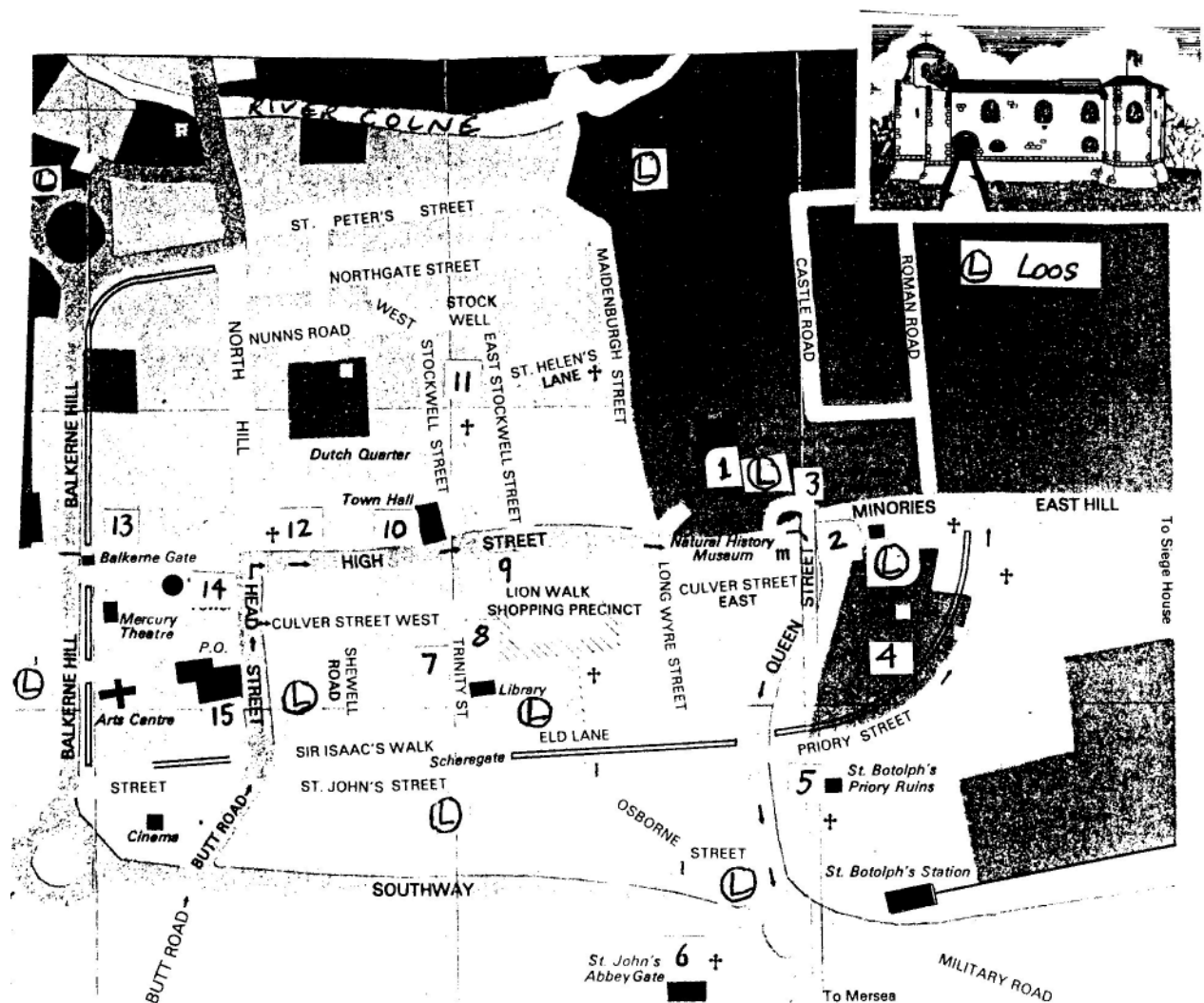
**Roman** : Extensive standing sections of the **Roman wall** remain, with the impressive **Balkerne Gate**, c. AD 120, the largest surviving Roman gateway in Britain. The vaults of the **Temple of Claudius**, AD 50, lie beneath the Castle keep.

**Saxon** : Only one Saxon building remains standing - the tower of **Holy Trinity** church, built about AD1000, with its triangular-headed doorway in re-used Roman brick.

**Norman** : There are extensive remains of two fine Norman buildings - the massive **Castle keep**, now reduced to only half its original height, was the largest ever built in Europe, and the west front of the **St Botolph's Priory** (c.1110, destroyed 1648) is finely decorated.

**Medieval** : Later medieval buildings include fine churches, **St John's Abbey Gateway**, with stone and flint flushwork, the **Red Lion** hotel, and timber-framed houses, particularly in the **Dutch Quarter**, occupied in the 16th century by Flemish weavers.

**Post-medieval** : A massive water tower built in 1882, and appropriately nicknamed **Jumbo**, dominates the west end of the town. The **Town Hall** of 1899 has a fine frontage and 162ft. clock tower. **East Hill and North Hill** have fine Georgian houses.



1. **Castle Museum** - Colchester's history and archaeology from the Stone Age to the Civil War within a massive Norman keep (152 by 110ft., originally 100ft. high) built on the vaults of a Roman temple.
2. **Tourist Information**, and the nearby **Natural History Museum**, housed in All Saint's Church, with natural history from the Ice Age imaginatively displayed with "hands-on" exhibits. **Free.** The **Minories** just east is a Georgian house housing a contemporary visual arts centre. **Free.**
3. **Holytrees Museum** - an elegant Georgian house of 1718 houses toys, costumes, and home furnishings of past times. **Free.**
4. **Roman walls** - some good stretches are in Priory Street and near the Balmerne Gate (13).
5. **St Botolph's Priory** - c.1110 contains much re-used Roman brick and has a fine west front.
6. **St John's Abbey Gateway** - 15C, very fine, with flushwork, the only standing remains of the Abbey (but you need to negotiate the Southway roundabout with its subways to reach it).
7. **Tymperleys Museum** - fine 15C timber-framed house containing 17C to 19C local clocks.
8. **Holy Trinity church** - the tower has some good Saxon work in re-used Roman brick.
9. **Red Lion hotel** - medieval with later alterations.
10. **Town Hall** - 1899 with 162ft. clock tower with St Helena, patron saint of Colchester, on top.
11. **Dutch Quarter** - quaint old houses in the area west of the Castle (e.g. W Stockwell Street).
12. **St Peter's Church** - 15C south door with 13C ironwork and 18C tower.
13. **Balkerne Gate** - 107ft. across, originally with 2 footways and 2 carriageways. **Roman wall.**
14. **Jumbo** - massive brick water tower of 1882.
15. **King's Head Inn** - the surrender of Colchester was signed here in 1648.



# Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



## Newsletter, September 1998

### Dear Fellow Members

I am afraid that the response to my plea for members to let me have contributions for this Newsletter has been underwhelming, viz. nothing at all! You are therefore stuck with a run-down of *my* activities, the mere threat of which should be dire enough to have you rushing to produce contributions for the *next* Newsletter. But firstly :

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Sarah and Chris Guise whose first baby, a healthy 8lb 8oz boy, Anthony Graham, was born on 30th May. I'm sure that all members would like to join me in sending Sarah and Chris our Best Wishes, and we hope that Sarah will soon be able to join in MAAG activities again - remember, Sarah, I'm only keeping the Newsletter editor's seat warm !

I spent an enjoyable day at Highsted (see *Announcements*), and since my visit there have been various prehistoric and Roman finds, with, I'm told, the possibility of a Neolithic moat - if proven, this would be a very rare, or even unique, site ! If (like me) you're not really a "digger" there are still many ways in which you can help - I had my first experience of surveying with a level. People complain that there are not enough "digs", so let's support Lesley and the team.

On my own patch, Rochester, I have been watching the resurfacing of the roads around the Cathedral - you may recall an item on Meridian about the re-discovery of the Roman south gate. I am pleased to see that this has now been marked out in contrasting colours, together with some medieval walls and gates. Work is continuing, and I understand that further significant discoveries have been made, including a large monastic building. I am also hopeful that the foundations of the original Saxon Cathedral, founded in AD604, will be uncovered.

In July I helped to run a Summer School on medieval buildings based in Bristol, a fascinating area with fantastic sites such as Wells, Glastonbury and Bristol itself, and many good churches and vernacular buildings. Next year we're in Leicester and, for me, work starts soon!

If all goes to plan, this and future Newsletters will be distributed at indoor meetings: This will both save postage costs - the Committee try hard to use your funds prudently - and ensure that members receive their Newsletters as quickly as possible.

We plan to issue three Newsletters per year, in about March, May, and September. The March issue will have notice of the AGM and details of any Spring outings; the May issue details of the Summer outing; and the September issue details of any Autumn outings.

David Carder

### 1998/99 Programme

Josephine Sanders has arranged the following excellent programme. If you can recommend speakers for future meetings, please let Josephine know. **Indoor meetings are now held at the School Hall, The Street, Detling on Fridays at 7.30 pm.**

<b>Friday 18th September</b>	<b>The History of Windmills and Watermills</b> Mr Paul Jarvis, Chairman of the Kent Mills Group
<b>Friday 16th October</b>	<b>The Wealden Iron Industry</b> Mr Brian Herbert, Wealden Iron Research Group
<b>Saturday 17th October</b>	<b>Visit to the Isle of Sheppey</b> - details below.
<b>Friday 20th November</b>	<b>The Development of Ladies' Costume 1300-1650</b> <b>(as depicted on monumental brasses)</b> - Mr Philip Lawrence
<b>Friday 18th December</b>	<b>Christmas Social</b> - please bring along a few refreshments. There will be quizzes and short talks as usual.

<b>Friday 15th January</b>	<b>A History of Brickwork in Kent</b> (including a "hands-on" session) Mr David Carder, MAAG
<b>Friday 19th February</b>	<b>Thames Sailing Barges in their Heyday</b> Mr Tony Farnham
<b>Friday 19th March</b>	<b>The Archaeology and History of Kent from 100BC to AD 1066</b> Mrs Joy Saynor
<b>Friday 16th April</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> followed by a short talk. Agenda with the next Newsletter.

**If you've not yet been to our new venue, then do come along.** It is a nice quiet spot with reasonably easy parking, and we offer refreshments at the end - *it would help if you would bring a mug please!* If you're not sure how to get there, just give Richard or me a call.

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

### **MAAG Badges**

**Roll up, roll up** I Badges featuring the new MAAG logo in **full-colour** are now available. A full 2 inches across, they may be obtained as follows :

- at MAAG indoor meetings, outings, and other events, price 50 pence each; or
- by post from David Carder, for three first-class stamps each (P&P included).

### **Group Visit to the Isle of Sheppey - Saturday. 17th October 1998**

Although it is so close to us, I suspect that many members have never really explored the Isle of Sheppey - somehow one "never gets round to it". We have therefore arranged a Group visit, together with the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group, to many of the most historic and interesting sites. I am delighted to confirm that we will be guided by **Jonathan Fryer** who, as many will know, has a life-long knowledge of the island and, indeed, Kent generally.

The visit is arranged to allow maximum flexibility, so that you may spend a full day or just the morning or afternoon, and is planned as follows :

**Morning** : Guided tours of Blue Town (Sheerness), and Queenborough, which will include internal visits to the Guildhall (1793) and Holy Trinity Church (1367).

**Afternoon** : Internal visits to the other three remaining medieval churches - All Saints, Eastchurch (1431), St Thomas, Harty (Norman), and St Mary & St Sexburgha, Minster (664) - followed by tea in the Abbey Gatehouse museum (15C). After tea, and depending on the light and weather, there is an optional visit to the ruins of Elmley village on the way home.

A booking form with full details of prices and meeting points is enclosed, and should be sent with full payment to our Meetings Organiser, Josephine Sanders, to arrive by **Friday 9th October**. Detailed notes on the sites visited will be provided on the day, or can be sent in advance if you send Josephine an SAE (at least 9" by 4½" please).

There are too many points of interest to provide a full list here, but highlights include :

- **Queenborough Church** - font with relief of long-vanished Queenborough Castle.
- **Queenborough Guildhall** - fascinating interior and historic paintings.
- **Eastchurch Church** - fine full-width rood screen.
- **Harty Church** - remotest in Kent, with splendidly carved 15C document chest
- **Minster Church** - one of the oldest in Kent, with Saxon walls and splendid monuments.
- **Abbey Gatehouse** - fascinating local history museum with fine views from the roof.

Please note that car sharing is encouraged, and may well be necessary in the afternoon, since the roads to Harty and Elmley are narrow dead-ends with limited parking. **Please share cars if you can**, and advise us on the booking form. If you are likely to want a pub lunch please say so on the booking form so that we can give the pub an idea of numbers in advance.

If you wish to travel by train to Sheerness or Queenborough stations, please telephone Josephine so that we can arrange a lift to take you around.

It is impractical to include a visit the Dockyard, but we hope to have copies of David Hughes' book *Early Years of Sheerness Dockyard* available at a reduced price - normal price is £5.95. David may be able to join us in Queenborough.

We all look forward to an interesting visit to one of the less-well known parts of our county.

### **Annual Outing to Colchester - 4th July 1998**

Our annual outing to Colchester proved to be a great success, with a full 53-seater coach. As previously, MAAG members were joined by members of the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group (LMARG) and other friends and relatives.

Despite a very wet June and July, the day turned out to be warm and sunny, and most of us joined the guided tours of the Castle to see the Roman vaults (the Castle is built on the foundations of the Roman temple) and views from the roof. The Castle houses an excellent museum, where I was particularly pleased to see the artefacts from the Stanway excavation on display, including the famous medical kit and gaming board. Unfortunately the Stanway site has now reverted to a gravel pit, so there was no possibility of a site visit

There is really too much in and around Colchester to see everything in one day, but everybody seemed to pack a lot in and have an enjoyable time. Some went further afield on the open-top bus tours which, I understand, were good value with an interesting commentary.

Roll on summer 1999 for the next outing - any thoughts on possible venues are welcome.

### **Subscription Reminder**

**If this Newsletter is marked with a red cross at the top, then your subscription for the year beginning 1st April 1998 is now overdue.** Sadly, if this is not paid by 31st December then this will be your last Newsletter and your membership will cease - we are a small group and cannot afford to continue to send out information to lapsed members. **No further reminders will be sent.**

Cheques should be sent to Jess Obee (address at end) or payments made to Jess or Richard at one of the meetings. Annual subscription rates are :

<b>Individual Membership</b>	<b>£ 4</b>
<b>Family Membership</b>	<b>£ 6</b>
<b>Junior Membership</b>	<b>£ 2</b>

### **Announcements**

The best way to find out about what is going on is to come along to an indoor meeting, where announcements are made and the latest information laid out for members. Events include :

**Highsted** - Excavation continues for a short while longer at this interesting and picturesque site, and all volunteers are welcome. Details from Lesley Feakes on (01622) 850275.

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

**10th October** : **Building Records' Conference.** Annual conference with four talks on Kent's buildings. 2.15pm. at The Barn, Charing (NE of church). Small charge (pay at door).

**24th October** : **Roman Kent and Beyond.** Fieldwork conference at Christ Church College, Canterbury. Details from Mrs Sheila Broomfield (01732 838698).

**14th November** : **Aspects of Pre-History in SE England.** CKA conference with 3 lectures at Christ Church College, Canterbury 2.00 - 5.30. Tickets £3.00 (cheque to "CKA" plus SAE) from CKA, Angle Kin, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP. (CKA members free). One lecture is by Peter Reynolds on the *Butser Ancient Farm Project*, which we visited in 1996.

**21st November** : **Smaller Houses under the Tudors.** An afternoon talk by Kenneth Gravett (postponed from last year) at the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, 13 Preston St, Faversham. Details 6pm Terry Lawson (01233 626338).

**The University of Kent** offers Certificates and Diplomas in Archaeological Studies and Regional History through part-time study at Canterbury, Chatham and Tonbridge, starting in October. Tel. 01227 823507 for details.

**Saturday Day Schools in Practical Archaeology.** Day schools run by the Kent Archaeological Field School at Faversham, all at £25. Full details on (0181) 987-8827 or (0585) 700-112. I am attending *Vernacular Buildings*, and our Meetings Organiser, Josephine, is attending *Pottery*. Subjects: *Iron-Age & Roman Pottery (October 3rd)*; *Landscape Archaeology (October 17th)*; *Drawing Archaeological Finds (October 31st)*; *Recording Wooden Ships (November 7th)*; and *Recording Vernacular Buildings (November 21st)*.

**January - Time Team** begins again on Channel 4, with one programme from Smallhythe, where they surveyed over 100 acres of what was a major medieval ship-building dockyard.

**If you know of any interesting events, please let me have the details and they will be announced at indoor meetings and/or included in future Newsletters.**

### **Other Groups' Programmes**

The Maidstone Historical Society (MHS) is itself a part of Maidstone's history, having been founded as early as 1825 ! Lectures are held upstairs in the Harold Hardy Hall, Brewer Street (the two-storey block just down from the car park) on Wednesdays at 7.15 **pm prompt**. Their forthcoming programme has much to interest MAAG members, but please check for changes with their Secretary (Miss Mavis Wright, 01622 728130). Guests are charged £2.

<b>23rd September</b>	<b><i>Stained Glass of Kent</i></b> - Dick Bolton
<b>28th October</b>	<b><i>English Windmills</i></b> - Vickie Harris
<b>25th November</b>	<b><i>Brewing and Pubs in Kent</i></b> - Cyril Baldwin
<b>27th January</b>	<b><i>Boat Trains and Channel Packets</i></b> - Bob Ratcliffe
<b>24th February</b>	<b><i>A Farming Century in the Darent Valley</i></b> - William Alexander
<b>24th March</b>	<b><i>Dover Bronze-Age Boat</i></b> - Christine Waterman
<b>28th April</b>	<b><i>AGM &amp; A Short History of Rochester Prison</i></b> - Gerry Hart

### **The Building Stones of Maidstone - Town Centre Geological Walk**

This new self-guided walk takes you from the Prison (outside!) to All Saint's Church, looking at a wide variety of both local and imported building stones. Attractively produced as a wipe-clean folding pamphlet, it is available **free** from the reception desk at Maidstone Museum.

### **The Internet and Email**

I have not had any updates about interesting sites, nor any contact by email, but I will keep this topic open for the time being and report any developments.

### **Wanted - Slide Copier**

I have on loan a set of slides showing the interiors of Kent houses which are not normally accessible, and would like to make copies which would be available to MAAG. Does anyone have an SLR copier attachment ? (David Carder)

### **Deadline for Next Newsletter**

Deadline for contributions to the next Newsletter, due in March 1999, is **28th February**.

### **MAAG Contacts**

**Newsletter contributions : David Carder**, 91 Ballens Road, Chatham ME5 8PA  
(01634) 681896 (answering machine); email david.carder@thefree.net

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

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

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

## Visit to the Isle of Sheppey. Saturday 17th October - Booking Form

Bookings should be made on the attached form, which provides details of prices. All bookings should be received by **Friday 9th October** with the full payment. **Friends and relatives of members are very welcome to attend.**

**Note that you may book for the morning only, afternoon only (with tea), or the full day.** Moreover, you may prefer to arrive later in the morning just for the guided tour of Queenborough, or join us in the pub for lunch before the afternoon visit. **There are therefore four possible meeting points, and you may join us wherever you choose :**

- **10.00 Blue Town, Sheerness** - Dockyard Church, east end of High Street.
- **11.00 Queenborough** - Guildhall, High Street.
- **12.45 Lunch - *The Flying Dutchman***, 19 Queenborough High Street.
- **2.00 Eastchurch** - All Saints' Church, High Street.

Please send booking forms with cheques (payable to **J Sanders**) to :

**Miss J Sanders, 302 The Tideway, Rochester, Kent ME1 3PS.**

If you have any queries, then please telephone Josephine Sanders on (01634) 849477.

If you need a lift, or are prepared to give lifts from your local area, please say so on the booking form. **Please note that car sharing is likely to be necessary for some of the afternoon visits, due to narrow roads and limited parking, and we ask for your co-operation in organising this on the day.**

Handouts, giving descriptions of the places visited, will be provided on the day.

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

## Visit to the Isle of Sheppey. Saturday 17th October 1998

Name :..... Phone No.:.....

Address: .....

**I would like a lift / I can give local lifts.** (Delete as appropriate).

**I will probably want a pub lunch** (to advise the pub of numbers - delete if not wanted).

<u>ADULT</u>	<u>No.</u>		<u>Total</u>
• Morning only		places @ £ 1.50	£
• Afternoon only (including tea)		places @ £ 3.00	£
• Whole day (including tea)		places @ £ 4.50	£
<u>SENIOR CITIZEN or JUNIOR (under 16)</u>			
• Morning only		places @ £ 1.00	£
• Afternoon (including tea)		places @ £ 2.50	£
• Whole day (including tea)		places @ £ 3.50	£
<b><u>TOTAL DUE</u></b>			<b>£</b>

**I enclose a cheque** (payable to **J Sanders**) for £..... . I understand that full or partial refunds can only be made, at the organisers' discretion, if places can be filled.

Return with your cheque to : **Miss J Sanders, 302 The Tideway, Rochester, Kent ME1 3PS, by Friday 9th October.**

**Please enclose an SAE** (at least 9" x 4½") if you want a receipt and notes in advance.

### Directions to Meeting Points

The only road onto the island is the A249 which leads to Sheerness and has **four** roundabouts after Kingsferry Bridge (according to the new OS map). I will call these "**Roundabouts 1-4**".

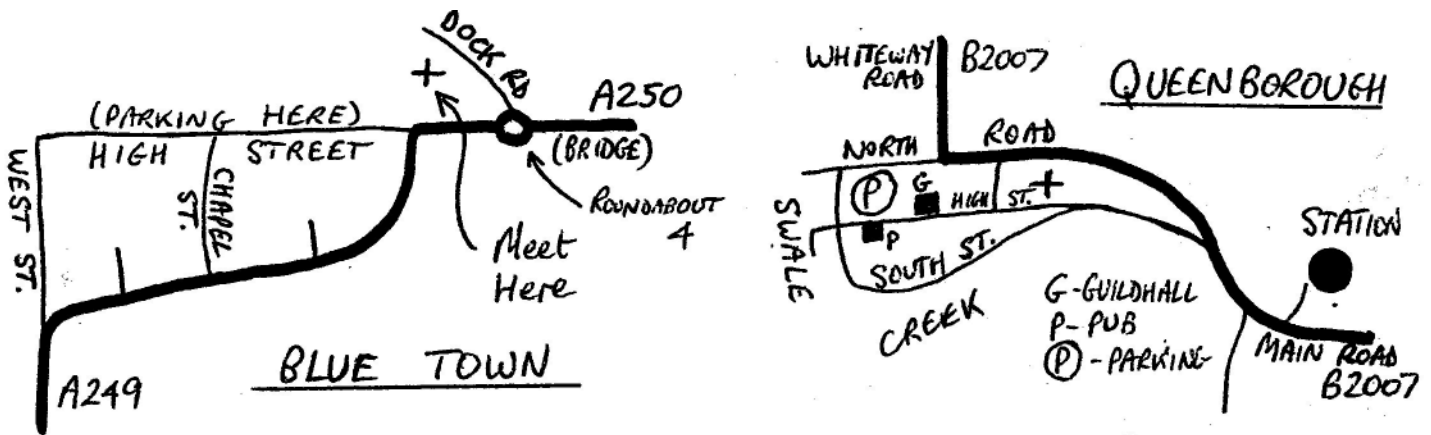
**Blue Town. Sheerness** : After **Roundabout 3**, travel alongside the railway and, at a right-hand bend, keep straight on into **West Street** (if you miss it, take 2<sup>nd</sup> left into **Chapel Street**). Turn right into **High Street** and park alongside the Dockyard wall. **See map.**

Meet at the north-east end of High Street outside the Dockyard Church.

**Queenborough** : From **Sheerness**, return along the A249 and turn right at **Roundabout 3** (the first one back) on to the **B2007 Whiteway Road**. At end, follow signs to car parks or park in local streets. **From the mainland**, at **Roundabout 2** turn first left on to the **B2007 Main Road**. After the station take 2<sup>nd</sup> left **High Street**, or continue into **North Road** and find local parking.

The Guildhall and Flying Dutchman are in the High Street. **See map.**

**Eastchurch** : At **Roundabout 1**, take the **B2231 east** and in 3½ miles at roundabout go straight on into **High Street**. Park in local streets - the church is on the left just before the cross-roads.





## **MAAG and LMARG Visit to Sheppey, Saturday 17th October 1998**

The modern Isle of Sheppey was historically three islands- Sheppey "proper" ("sheep island"), the main island running along the north side; Harty ("hart or stag island") in the south-east; and Elmley ("elm-tree clearing") in the south-west. In prehistoric and Roman times these islands were separated by the Swale, which was much wider than today, but the sea gradually retreated so that the three islands became joined by low-lying marshland, much of which is now in agricultural use.

In medieval times there were seven main settlements - Minster, Queenborough, Eastchurch, Harty, Warden, Leysdown, and Elmley - each with a parish church or chapel, at least in the later medieval period. The first four still retain their medieval churches, but Warden church was lost due to coastal erosion, Leysdown church became unsafe and was demolished, and Elmley church was abandoned due to de-population.

Nowadays, the main town is Sheerness, which grew up around the naval dockyard, first laid out in 1665 and which continued in use by the Navy until 1960. It is mainly 18C and 19C development - it had no church until 1836. It comprises three "towns" - *Mile Town*, the main commercial centre; *Marine Town*, a suburb with seafront and esplanade; and *Blue Town*, the old naval quarter.

The first bridge, for the railway, was built in 1860, and the present lifting road bridge dates from 1960. It is still called "Kingsferry" bridge, after the historic ferry which it superseded.

### **10.00 -10.45      Blue Town. Sheerness**

Originally, the dockyard workers were housed in hulks, but in the 18C and 19C a town developed around the dockyard. It became known as *Blue Town*, supposedly because the buildings were painted with blue paint purloined from Admiralty stores ! Blue Town was the first place in England to receive an aerial bombardment, on Christmas Day 1914, though no-one was hurt.

Many of the old buildings survive, together with the rather more substantially built Royal Dockyard Church, 1828 of brick and sandstone, and Naval Terrace and Regency Close, of 1830.

### **11.00-12.45      Historic Queenborough**

Originally called *Bynne*, Queenborough has a colourful history. It was developed and created a free borough by Edward III in the 1360s and re-named by him in honour of his wife, Philippa. It was a busy wool staple port in the later middle ages, and had a thriving fishing industry for many centuries, but never developed into a major port. The town was captured by the Dutch in 1667.

**Queenborough Castle:** MAAG members may recall David Hughes' talk about the castle.

It was built by Edward III between 1361 and 1377 to protect the Swale, then a major shipping route, against French raids. It had a plan unique in England comprising concentric circles with six circular towers - there is a plan in these notes and a model in the Gatehouse museum. It was sold for demolition in 1650, and all that remains today is an earth mound!

**High Street:** Contains a good selection of modest 18C and early 19C houses. Nos. 51-65 (Evans Row) are dated 1701, and Nos. 72-74 are dated 1706.

**Guildhall:** Built in 1793 on the site of an earlier courthouse, it has tuscan columns projecting over the pavement, a three-bay front of yellow brick, and a pyramidal roof with open bell-turret.

**Holy Trinity Church** : The present building was built in 1366-67 by Edward III, although parts of the tower are Norman. A chapel of ease to Minster until after the Reformation, it comprises just a nave and chancel, built as one, and west tower with polygonal turret. The roof has two dormers and the inner boarding was painted in c.1695 with clouds, cherubs, and a big angel. The font, of 1610, has a stylised relief of Queenborough Castle postern gate; the cover is Jacobean.

There are two small chandeliers, of 1718 and 1724, paintings of Moses and Aaron, of c. 1700, and the Royal Arms of Queen Anne, 1713, above the civic seats. The windows were all renewed in 1885. The churchyard is dominated by the monument to Thomas Greet of 1829 and has other good tombs.

### **12.45 -1.45      Lunch at The Flying Dutchman, Queenborough, or picnic**

## 2.00 - 2.30

### Eastchurch

A Saxon settlement, Eastchurch was famous during the early 1900s for its aerodrome, which was used by early aviation pioneers - see the memorial opposite the church. The aerodrome site is now occupied by a prison. A Roman farmstead was found in the prison grounds in 1967.

**All Saints Church** : The church once belonged to Boxley Abbey and was rebuilt on a new site in 1431 by William Chegre - the original church is thought to have been to the south, but to have collapsed due to shifting clay. It comprises nave with aisles, chancel, west tower, west and south porches, and north vestry. The aisle west windows and inner west doorway pre-date the existing building and are presumably re-used from the old church.

Internally, the tower was intended to be vaulted, and there are fine nave arcades with complex mouldings. There are two ogee-headed squints to the high altar and some uncommon roofs, restored after damage in 1922, with bosses and angels. The pulpit is mid 17C and the chandeliers 1730. There is a stained glass window commemorating aviation pioneers Rolls and Grace, both killed in 1910.

The finest feature is the full-length rood screen, 11 bays wide with five- and seven-light divisions. There is also a simple parclose screen, a 17C Belgian tower screen and panelling, and a fine monument to Gabriel Livesey and wife, of 1622.

## 2.45 - 3.15

### Harty

Harty is probably the oldest settled part of Sheppey- in the 1870s the stock-in-trade of a bronze-age founder was discovered, and is now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. The area is surrounded by the mounds of medieval salt workings, and once had a ferry to the mainland - the names Harty Ferry Inn and Harty Ferry Cottages survive.

**St Thomas' Church** : The remotest church in Kent, it dates from the Norman period and comprises a nave with narrow north aisle, chancel, north and south chapels, and north porch. Part of the Norman fabric is of tufa, an open limestone produced in springs and streams. The original Norman church comprised the present nave and chancel, to which the north aisle was added in c.1200. The north chapel is 13C and the south chapel probably 14C, although the entrance arch is Norman, probably the original chancel arch re-used. The chancel has a fine 14C niche with nodding ogee and foliage.

The late 14C rood screen is in situ, although the loft has gone, and the bell cote is supported on heavy 15C oak framing. There are two brasses - part of figure of a civilian, Habram Fare, 1512, and a 17C inscription brass. The altar table in the south chapel is said to have come from Meopham.

The church's finest possession is the "Flemish Kist", a finely carved early 15C muniment chest depicting two knights in a jousting tournament - it is said to have been found floating in the Swale!

Adjacent to the churchyard is the moat of Sayes Court, which was destroyed by a wartime bomb.

## 3.40-5.00

### Minster

The site of a monastery founded by Queen Sexburgha in 664 for 77 Benedictine nuns on land given by her son Ercombert, King of Kent. Its later history is unclear, although it was probably destroyed in the Viking raids of c.855, and further damaged by Earl Godwin in 1052.

William the Conqueror partly rebuilt the church and monastery and installed nuns from Newington, but the foundation remained impoverished until c. 1130 when rebuilt by Archbishop de Corbeuil and re-founded for Augustinian canonesses. The monastery was dissolved in 1536 and was acquired by Sir Thomas Cheyne. After long periods of neglect and eventual closure, the church was restored and re-opened in 1881.

Although still called "Minster Abbey", after its re-foundation, and possibly before, it was actually only a priory. The only known monastic remains are the church and gatehouse.

**3.40 - 4.10 St Mary & St Sexburgha's Church** : Effectively a "double church", with the north side built for the nuns and the south side for the parishioners.

Its present plan comprises an undifferentiated 13C nave and chancel, with pre-existing north aisle and north chapel, 19C south porch, and 15C west tower, which was never completed. The north side, originally the nuns' church, is 12C with inserted 13C chancel arch and sedilia, but contains much Saxon and Norman walling - see particularly the outside of the north wall with re-used Roman tile and blocked windows; there are more blocked windows internally. There is a fine late 12C south doorway with trefoil-headed recess above. The church is notable for its monuments :

1. Sir Robert de Shurland, d. 1327. Fine effigy of a knight in full armour on a panelled tomb chest under a canopy. His page lies at his feet, and his horse's head is behind him.
2. Brasses of a de Northwood knight, c.1330, and a de Northwood lady, c.1335, both full size of foreign workmanship. The brasses are covered, but there are full-size replicas.
3. Recumbent knight, c.1440, of Purbeck marble, possibly clasping his soul!
4. Recumbent knight, c.1475, of Alabaster with a Yorkist collar.
5. Sir Thomas Cheyne, 1485-1558, a descendant of Baron de Shurland. A very fine recumbent Alabaster effigy, with arms and badges on the sides of the tomb-chest.
6. Various stone coffin lids.

**4.10 - 5.00 Abbey Gatehouse:** Large rectangular three-storey gatehouse, of ragstone with a parapet of chequered flint. It may originally date from the 1130 re-foundation of the priory, although the visible architectural details are 15C. There were once four floors - see the blocked windows high up. Blocked doorways are also visible. Inside are three late-medieval fireplaces.

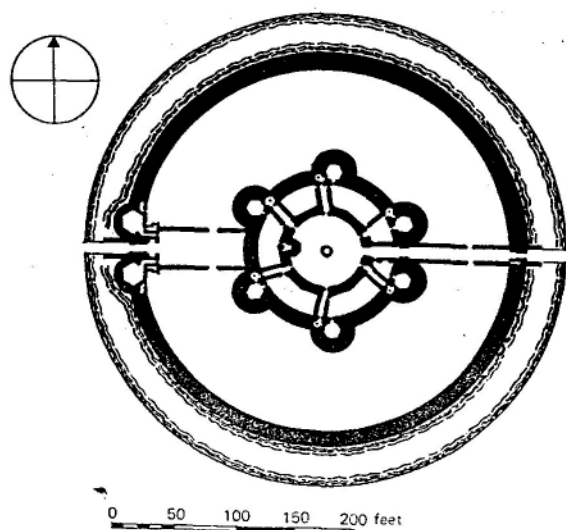
After the Dissolution in 1536, the Gatehouse was used as a private dwelling and remained in private hands until 1936 when it was given to the church and used as a church hall. It subsequently came into the ownership of the local authority, who restored it in 1979-81 after a long period of disuse. It is now leased to the Sheppey Local History Society for use as a local history museum. There are fine views from the roof, 200ft. above sea level.

#### **5.20 - 6.00 Elmlev (optional visit) - depending on light and weather {sunset 6pm.}**

This will **not** be a guided visit, but directions will be given to anyone interested. LMARG members may recall the talk given by Joe Ennis on the history of Emley, with slides of the ruined school.

A medieval settlement with a church, Elmley seems to have been more-or-less abandoned until the early 19C when an industry grew up to exploit the abundance of septarian nodules, found in the London Clay, for making "Parker's Roman Cement" - a hydraulic cement (i.e. one which will set under water) which became popular for canal tunnels and such like. A community grew up with a school and new church, built in 1853 and dedicated to St James, and a ferry to the mainland. The cement industry was, however, short-lived, and closed in 1881 due to the increasing popularity of Portland Cement; again Elmley reverted to a hamlet.

Today there is little to be seen of the Victorian village except the standing ruins of the school, the site of the demolished church, and the remains of the wharf and jetty on the Swale.





# Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



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## Newsletter, March 1999

### Dear Fellow Members

This has been an exciting last few months, at least in terms of other peoples' digs !

The foundations of what is probably Rochester's Saxon cathedral were uncovered for a couple of days in September - I was one of the fortunate few who managed to visit and photograph the site. The foundations are now marked out (though exaggerated) on the new road surface.

Then a Neolithic long-house was discovered on the Railtrack site at Bluebell Hill - a first for south-east England, and one of only around a dozen found in the whole country. Again, I managed to view and photograph the site and produce a short report for this Newsletter - you may also have seen our member Leslie Feakes' drawing in the Kent Messenger.

Thurnham Railtrack site exposed a Roman villa, a possible temple, and various outbuildings.

The *Time Team* dig at Smallhythe provided fascinating glimpses of Henry V's shipyard where men-of-war were built, even though the finds mainly comprised clench-nails and a brick iron-working furnace. Some of the nails can still be seen on the door of the church !

Some members attended the various day schools run at the Kent Archaeological Field School by Paul Wilkinson at Faversham - I attended *Recording Vernacular Buildings*. The general consensus was "*good course, shame about the facilities*". The courses took place in an old oast which is undergoing renovation, but which was clearly not ready - inadequate heating (my course was in November) and chemical loos with no running water; moreover one "hands-on" course had 60-odd people ! We are promised better for 1999 (see Announcements).

**David Carder**

### Subscriptions and Membership Cards

**Subscriptions for the year beginning 1st April 1999 are now due.**

A renewal form is enclosed with this Newsletter, and we would ask you to complete as much as of it as possible - that way we can establish what the members' interests really are.

This year new and renewing members will receive a handy Membership Card giving details of indoor meetings, subscription rates, and contacts.

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 16th April 1999 at the School Hall, The Street, Detting. The Agenda is as follows :

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 1998 AGM and matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Meetings Organiser's report
6. Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts
7. Archaeological Director's report
8. Election of Officers
  - Chairman
  - Vice-Chairman
  - Hon. Secretary (or Hon. Joint Secretaries)
  - Hon. Treasurer
9. Election of Hon. Auditor
10. Reports and Election of Representatives
11. Future Activities (including annual and other outings)
12. Any other business

## 1999/2000 Programme

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

<b>Friday 16th April</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> followed "by a short talk from the Chairman.
<b>Friday 21st May</b>	<b>Prehistoric Flints - Where do they lead ? A personal view.</b> Mr John Jarvis, Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group
<b>Friday 18th June</b>	<b>St Martin's Church &amp; St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury - The Saxon Centuries</b> Mrs Marjorie Lyle, formerly of Canterbury Archaeological Trust
<b>Saturday in early July</b>	<b>Annual Outing</b>
<b>July/August</b>	<b>No indoor meetings</b>
<b>Friday 17th September</b>	<b>The Archaeology and History of Kent from 100BC to AD 1066</b> Mrs Joy Saynor ( <i>postponed from March</i> )
<b>Friday 15th October</b>	<b>Historical Aspects of the Channel Shore</b> Mr Fred Booth
<b>Friday 19th November</b>	<b>Timber-Framed Houses of the High Weald</b> Mr David Martin FSA, President, Vernacular Architecture Group
<b>Friday 17th December</b>	<b>Christmas Social</b> with short talks and quizzes
<b><u>2000</u></b>	
<b>Friday 21st January</b>	<b>Excavations along the Channel Tunnel Rail-link Route</b> ( <i>Provisional title</i> ) Helen Glass, Railtrack Archaeologist
<b>Friday 18th February</b>	<b>Medieval Housewives</b> Mrs Toni Mount
<b>Friday 17th March</b>	<b>Ightham Mote - 650 years of History</b> Miss Jan Hendey
<b>Friday 21st April</b> (Provisional date)	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> followed by a short talk.

**Details of outings will be published in future Newsletters.**

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

### **Visits to Railtrack Excavations at Bluebell Hill and Thurnham**

These two visits had to be arranged at short notice, with prior booking, during working hours.

We are sorry that it was not possible to invite all members of the Group in the normal way.

These and other sites are being excavated in advance of works for the Channel Tunnel rail link, with the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) contracted to do the archaeological work.

The work is supervised at this and other sites by four Railtrack staff archaeologists – Helen Glass was responsible for these sections of the route. Railtrack are clearly spending large sums on excavation and post-excavation work, and we are promised publication "within 5 years", though the form the publication will take has yet to be decided.

### **Bluebell Hill Excavations - October 1998**

The site is on the east side of the A229 (centre TQ753605). The railway will emerge from a tunnel at the scarp slope of the North Downs and pass through a deep cutting at this point, thus destroying a large area of archaeological remains.

The site was surveyed by a few years ago by field walking and desk-top searches, and identified as significant; therefore, once the route of the rail link was finalised, it was agreed with Railtrack

that a large-scale excavation would be necessary - the boundaries are still being extended. We were guided by Helen Glass (Railtrack) and Richard Brown (OAU).

Whilst all identification must be provisional at present, there is good evidence of continuous occupation and use of the site from at least the Neolithic period. I will summarise some of the key findings so far :

- Neolithic plough marks; late Bronze Age or early Iron Age field boundaries and pottery; and Roman field systems.
- No evidence that the bridleway through the site, identified previously as a Roman road, was of Roman construction (though no evidence that it was not the Roman road).
- Several sarsen stones have been found buried, but this was probably due to field clearance rather than indicating a ritualistic site.
- Early Iron Age iron-workings, with ash and slag deposits indicating either furnaces or braziers - a contemporary iron knife was found in a grave together with six intact pottery vessels.
- **Neolithic long-house** - the most significant find, since they are unknown in this region; the nearest is probably on the Continent It is about 80 feet long and 23 feet wide with internal sub-divisions (aisles ?), wall trenches, and associated round structures (animal pounds ?). Early Neolithic pottery was found in the post holes, with later Neolithic pottery inside, indicating several hundred years of occupation.

### **Thurnham Excavations - February 1999**

This site lies immediately north of the M20 directly on the gault clay (which was *very* sticky) (centre TQ800571). We were guided by Helen Glass (Railtrack) and Graham Keevill (OAU).

This is the known site of a Roman villa, discovered in 1833. Excavations in 1933 (but not published until 1986, (*Arch Cant 103*) and 1958 (*Arch. Cant 74*) had already recovered the plan, so the villa itself is unlikely to reveal anything of great interest, though it was fascinating to see the foundations exposed. East of the villa an unknown rectangular building was discovered, initially interpreted as a possible temple or mausoleum or, more mundanely by some MAAG members, a stable ! East of that are farm buildings, a well, and an access track. Finds included pottery and a charmingly detailed foot from a statuette. Evidence of pre-Roman occupation was also found. The adjacent medieval Corbies Hall is not threatened and, therefore, not excavated.

### **Announcements**

The best way to find out about events is to come along to an indoor meeting, where announcements are made and the latest information laid out for members. Events include :

**Highsted** - Excavation are hoped to begin again in the Spring at this interesting and picturesque site, and all volunteers are welcome. Details from Lesley Feakes on (01622) 850275.

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

**Kent Archaeological Society Lectures - 17th April** : *Kent's Industrial Archaeology* by David Eve at the Fleur-de-Lis Hall, Preston St, Faversham; **8th May** : *The Story of Rochester Bridge* by Dr James Gibson at St George's Hall, Wrotham; **19th June** : *Ashford Roman Town* by Paul Booth at St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Rd, Maidstone. All lectures are on Saturdays at 2.30 and cost £2.50 (£2 for KAS members) at the door or booked via Terry Lawson (01233) 626338.

**Sheppey Heritage Walks** - For another taste of Sheppey, walks have been arranged for **24th June** (6.30pm, Sheerness seaside, start railway station), **27th June** (2pm, Minster village, start Gatehouse), **6th July** (2pm, Queenborough, start railway station), and **13th July** (2pm, Blue Town, start Sheerness railway station). No booking, £1.20 donation per head.

**Kent Archaeological Field School, Faversham** - Courses on various topics (but see editorial). **8th May** : *Historical Sources for Archaeologists*; **15th/16th May** : *Place-Names in the Landscape*; **22nd/23rd May** : *Study of Artifacts*; **29th/30th May** : *Roman Building Construction*; **5th June** : *Landscape Archaeology*; **12th June** : *The Archaeology of Boatbuilding*. £25 per day. Details from Paul Wilkinson (0181 987 8827 or 0585 700 112). Further courses in next Newsletter.

### **Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> April - The Interface between the Iron Age and the Roman Period.**

Conference at Benenden Hospital, 9.30-4.30, £18 (£15.50 concessions). Speakers include John Manley, Dr Martin Henig, and Ernest Black. Contact Chris Malone (01580) 240333 ext.2252.

**Saturday 8th May - Kent History Federation One Day Conference** (in association with Gravesend Historical Society) at Chantry Primary School, Ordnance Road, Gravesend. 9.45am-1.00pm, then choice of 5 guided visits. Tickets £8-00. Contact Miss Oxley (0181 300 1511).

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

### **MAAG Badges**

The new badges featuring the new MAAG logo in full-colour have proved very popular, and we have only a few left **so don't miss out**. A full 2 inches across, they may be obtained :

- at MAAG indoor meetings, outings, and other events, price 50 pence each; or
- by post from David Carder, for three first-class stamps each (P&P included).

### **Other Groups' Programmes**

The new programme for the Lower Medway Archaeological Research Group (LMARG) is given below. We are fortunate to share our meetings organiser, Josephine Sanders, with LMARG, so she can give you further details if you are thinking of coming.

Indoor meetings are held at the **Friends' Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester** (opposite the library). **Meetings start at 8pm. Admission is £1** (MAAG members welcome).

<b>Monday 29th March</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting and The Archaeology of Crete</b> Ms Lesley Feakes (LMARG and MAAG Member)
<b>Monday 26th April</b>	<b>Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Rochester</b> Dr Alan Ward (Canterbury Archaeological Trust)
<b>Monday 24th May</b>	<b>The Voluntary Scheme for Recording Archaeological Finds in Kent: How Metal Detectorists can work with Archaeologists</b> Dr Richard Hobbs (Kent County Council)
<b>Monday 28th June</b>	<b>The Early History of Coinage</b> Mr Mike Freeman (LMARG Deputy Chairman)
<b>Monday 26th July</b>	<b>Victorian Cemeteries of the Medway Towns</b> Mr Rodney Clark
<b>Monday 27th September</b>	<b>Man Maketh Museums : The Architecture and Necessity of Museums in England</b> Miss Liz Walder (Curator, Society of Antiquaries)
<b>Monday 25th October</b>	<b>Members' Evening</b> - short talks by members.
<b>Monday 29th November</b>	<b>The Defence Heritage of Kent</b> Mr Victor Smith, FSA (Kent Defence Research Group)

### **The Internet and Email**

As I have not had any contributions or email, I will close this topic for the time being.

### **Deadline for the Next Newsletter**

Deadline for contributions to the May Newsletter is **30th April 1999**. Use email if possible.

### **MAAG Contacts**

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

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

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

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



# Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



## Newsletter, May 1999 *30th Anniversary Edition*

### Dear Fellow Members

A MAAG milestone passed quietly on 14th May - the 30th Anniversary of the formation of the Group. We plan to have a small celebration later in the year, perhaps at the Christmas meeting, but in the meantime Linda Weeks has typed out the minutes of the first year's meetings, and I have reproduced these in full since they make fascinating reading.

As a relatively new member, I was impressed by the amount of work done (or at least discussed) in that first year - it was clearly intended to be a very active part of Kent's archaeological community. I, for one, would be interested in seeing some of the items referred to (or other early items), so if there are any in *your* loft or garage, please contact Richard Weeks so that we could perhaps set up a small display at the celebratory meeting.

Although my main interest is in standing buildings, I'll have a go at most things, so I joined in the field-walking at Boughton Monchelsea one sunny afternoon. It's easy to do, quite interesting (in small doses), and can result in some interesting finds (though not much in my case) or even the discovery of unknown sites. It is one of the archaeological techniques which is ideal for local groups, since everyone can join in regardless of their level of ability or expertise. **Remember, there's much more to archaeology than just digging.**

However, digging can reveal some fascinating artefacts, and I was lucky to be at the Museum of London just after they opened a Roman lead coffin found earlier this year at Spittlefields - you may have seen the media coverage. It contained the well preserved skeleton of a woman in her 20s, and the whole thing was filmed for the *Meet the Ancestors* television series.

**David Carder**

### **Annual Outing - Prices held again in 1999 !**

This year's annual outing will be to **Sussex** with visits to the **Amberley Museum**, and to the historic town of **Arundel**. By careful shopping around various coach companies, we have managed to keep the prices unchanged from last year. Full details are provided on the enclosed booking form.

### **Subscription Reminder**

**Subscriptions for the year beginning 1st April 1999 are now due.** Remember that your membership entitles you to free admission to indoor meetings (non-member admission £1), regular newsletters, outings, the opportunity to partake in excavations and other activities, and the new handy Membership Card with details of the coming year's programme.

Cheques should be sent to Jess Obee (address at end) or payments made at one of the meetings. Annual subscription rates are :

<b>Individual Membership</b>	<b>£ 4</b>
<b>Family Membership</b>	<b>£ 6</b>
<b>Junior Membership</b>	<b>£ 2</b>

### **Highlights of the Annual General Meeting**

Our 1999 AGM was held on 27th April and involved wide-ranging discussions on a number of topics. It was followed by updates on current activities by Albert Daniels and Lesley Feakes.

Concern was expressed over the continuing deficit, despite the increase in subscriptions, and there was some discussion on how costs could be cut. The cost of speakers continue to rise, so we should encourage members to give talks (perhaps mini-talks) and hold out against outside speakers who want unreasonable fees.



No new committee members were proposed, and all the existing members were re-elected, so the committee comprises : **Richard Weeks** (Chairman), **Robin Cook** (Vice-Chairman), **Jess Obee** (Treasurer), **Josephine Sanders** (Meetings Organiser), and **David Carder** (Newsletter Editor).

### **Royal Military Canal Visit**

Many members will recall the fascinating and beautifully illustrated talk on the Royal Military Canal given last year by Fred Booth. I am delighted to announce that, following several requests, Fred has agreed to lead a visit to the Canal to explore both the historical and natural history elements - further details in the September Newsletter.

### **Visit to Railtrack Excavations at Thurnham, 27th April 1999**

As with previous visits, this follow-up had to be arranged at short notice during working hours. We are sorry that it was not possible to invite all members of the Group in the normal way.

This site is being excavated in advance of works for the Channel Tunnel rail link, by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU), and lies immediately north of the M20 (centre TQ800571).

At the west of the site is a Roman villa with stone walls - despite media reports it has been known since the early C19. It is now interpreted as having seven constructional phases, starting in c.70-80 with perhaps 3-6 rooms, and intriguingly built on top of some pre-existing large ditches. In later periods the villa expanded to perhaps 15-20 rooms and, post 280, parts were used as a smithy. Fragments of painted plaster have been found, providing sufficient detail for reconstruction of the decorative scheme. However, no tesserae have been found, so no mosaics.

North-east of the villa was a timber aisled building, about 15m by 24, with large post holes, used for domestic purposes - a fragment of a mirror was found here. Some way east of the villa was an agricultural area, with a timber aisled barn, corn driers, threshing floors, and a deep well, lined with stone- and brushwood and with a timber box-frame, fragments of which survive.

Perhaps the most exciting discovery, between the villa and the agricultural area, was a building on a different alignment to the other buildings and with a plan of two concentric squares (though with some anomalies). This has been provisionally interpreted as a temple, based on its plan, the absence of finds and drainage, and the paths outside being surfaced with crushed tile.

**Update** : I visited again on 13th May, and another well had just been found immediately west of the large aisled building. A complete undamaged imbrex (roof tile) was found in the "temple" area. Other finds include a finger ring with a decorative small bird, various broaches, and a quern. The site was featured on *Meridian Tonight* and Radio 4's *Today* programme during May.

Helen Glass, Railtrack archaeologist, will be talking to the Group next January.

### **Activities**

Field walking at Campsfield Farm, Boughton Monchelsea is now complete. In the two months, 36,000 sq. m were walked and 80 kg of finds collected, mostly from Victorian refuse-heaps. Other than one Roman sherd, all the pottery post-dated 1550. Other finds included three coins, and about 100 mesolithic or neolithic struck flints or flint tools. A report is being prepared. **(AD)**

We are investigating further sites with good potential, but have to be realistic about volunteer resources and not bite off more than we can chew. It is, however, likely that further field-walking and perhaps some excavation will be arranged for the summer months. As always, for the latest information on excavations and other "hands-on" activities, which often occur at short notice, contact Albert Daniels on (01622) 674494 or, if unavailable, Richard Weeks (details at end).

### **Announcements**

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

**Kent Historic Buildings Index, Tunbridge Wells section** - this handy pocket guide, compiled by Kenneth Gravett, summarises all the listed buildings and ancient monuments and is available by post (as are the other sections) from Michael Peters (01795 472012). It is hoped to publish the Ashford and Maidstone sections during 1999 to complete the first issue.

**Kent Archaeological Field School. Faversham - 29th/30th May:** *Recording Roman Pottery*, **5th June:** *Landscape Archaeology*, **12th June:** *The Archaeology of Boatbuilding*; **July 3rd/4th:** *Roman Building Construction*; **July 10th:** *Churchyard and Parish Recording*; **July 17th:** *Archaeology and Science*; **July 24th:** *Prehistoric Flintwork*, **July 31st:** *Archaeology of Weeds, Seeds, and Crops*; **August 1st-8th:** *Summer day schools*, including excavation of a Roman villa. £25 per day. Details from Paul Wilkinson (0181 987 8827 or 0585 700 112).

**Wednesday Evening Walks with Alan Ward : 26th May, Bigbury Hill Fort, 2nd June, Defences of Canterbury, 16th June, Defences of Rochester, 30th June, Sandwich; 14th July, Medway Megaliths.** Start at 7pm. Contact Amanda Hammersley, Christ Church College, 01227 782805.

**Exhibitions at the Medway Local Studies Centre. Strood : 3rd June-27th July : *WL Wyllie - Artist and Sailor*, arranged by Tony Farnham - Members will recall Wyllie's atmospheric marine paintings from Mr Farnham's talk on *Thames Sailing Barges in their Heyday* last February. **5th August-24th September : *Rochester Railways***, commemorating the centenary of the SE & Chatham Railway. Details (01634) 732714.**

**Kent Archaeological Society Lecture - Saturday 19th June : *Ashford Roman Town* by Paul Booth. 2.30pm at St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Rd, Maidstone. £2.50 (£2 for KAS members).**

**Sheppey Heritage Walks** - For another taste of Sheppey, walks have been arranged for **24th June** (6.30pm, Sheerness seaside, start railway station), **27th June** (2pm, Minster village, start Gatehouse), **6th July** (2pm, Queenborough, start railway station), and **13th July** (2pm, Blue Town, start Sheerness railway station). No booking, £1.20 donation per head.

**Kentweek Lecture - Friday 25th June : Tim Tatton-Brown will talk on *Canterbury Cathedral - Kent's Greatest Building* at County Hall, Maidstone starting at 12.30 pm. **Admission free.****

**Faversham Society Open House Days - Saturdays 3rd, 10th, and 17th July : Visit Faversham's historic properties, many of which are not normally open to the public. Admission by programme £4.50 (£5.50 by post) available from the Fleur De Lis Centre (01795) 534542.**

**Archaeology Field Courses at Bignor Roman Villa. Sussex - July and August : 5-day and weekend courses on archaeological techniques, including excavation, surveying, and drawing, run by UCL Field Archaeology Unit Details from Mrs Sheila Maltby on 01273 845497.**

**Civic Trust Heritage Open Days - 11th and 12th September : Visit historic buildings throughout Kent (and England) not normally open to the public. This year, at long last, Maidstone will be participating. Details from tourist offices nearer the time.**

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

### **MAAG Badges**

The new badges featuring the MAAG logo in full-colour have proved very popular, and we have only a few left **so don't miss out**. A full 2 inches across, they may be obtained :

- at MAAG indoor meetings, outings, and other events, price 50 pence each; or
- by post from David Carder, for three first-class stamps each (P&P included).

### **Members Sales and Wants**

This is a new feature where, space permitting, Members can advertise archaeological items for sale or wanted, or for other information. There is no charge, but Members are requested to make a small donation to Group funds if they are successful. I will start the ball rolling:

**Archaeologia Cantiana : To complete my modest run from Volume 81 (1966), I would like to hear of spare volumes 83 (1968), 87 (1972), 95 (1979), 96 (1980), or 99 (1983). Volumes prior to 81 also considered. In turn, I have spare volumes 86 (1971), 92 (1976), 94 (1978), and 98 (1982) for sale or swap. Suggested price per volume : £3.50 plus 50p to MAAG funds, or 50p each to MAAG funds for swaps. *David Carder (details at end).***

**Archaeologia Cantiana : I need the following volumes to complete my short run : 89 (1974), 95 (1979), 96 (1980), and 110 (1992). Same terms as above. *Josephine Sanders (details at end),***

### **Deadline for the Next Newsletter**

Deadline for contributions to the September Newsletter is **31st August 1999**. Email preferred.

### **MAAG Contacts**

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

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

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

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

## ***The First Year of MAAG***

**The first meeting of the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group was held at Maidstone (Museum) on Wednesday May 14th, with Mr. L.R.A. Grove in the Chair.**

There was a lengthy discussion of a draft Constitution for the Group and the Constitution enclosed was finally adopted.

It was agreed that children would be welcome as guests of parents or schoolteachers who were members. The Secretary was asked to produce a map for the next meeting showing the outline of the Maidstone area for the purposes of the Constitution.

It was agreed to affiliate to the Council of British Archaeology, the Kent Archaeological Society and the Kent Archaeological Research Groups Council.

The following were enrolled as members - Misses Rogers, Blennerhassett, Bevan and Kearsey, Mrs. Procter, Richard Procter, Mr. and Mrs. McConnell, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Syddell, Mr. and Mrs. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Colegate, Rev. and Mrs. Neville and Miss Neville, Canon Wigan, Messrs. Grove, Miles, Oldham, J.J. Butcher, Short, Martin, Edwards, R.W. Butcher, Newbury, Dorrington, Sheldon, Godden.

Signed: L.R.A. Grove, 25th June 1969

**A meeting of the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group was held at Maidstone Museum on Wednesday June 25th with Mr. L.R.A. Grove in the Chair.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and signed. The Constitution, as circulated, was adopted and the Secretary requested to produce the list of parishes of the Group Area. Mr. P.E. Oldham was congratulated on his election as Secretary of the Kent Archaeological Research Groups' Council.

It was agreed that members requiring experience in excavation should apply to the directors of excavations now taking place at Eccles, Cooling and Reculver. Mr. A. Miles talked about regional survey schemes undertaken by the Lower Medway Archaeological Group and the events leading up to the excavation now being conducted at Cooling. Mr. D.B. Kelly announced that the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works had asked him to oversee any archaeological work required by the extension of the M20 Motorway towards Wrotham and the building on the site of the Roman Villa found at the Mount, Maidstone. The Group agreed to give him every assistance in this task. Mr. J.L. Short spoke about possible industrial archaeology projects the Group could undertake.

The following were enrolled as members - Mrs. Haines, Miss Castle, Mr. and Mrs. Cuerden, Messrs. Ball, Bynoe, Cleggett, Griggs, Heath, Ithell, Kelly, Lowith (Loweth ?), Ocock, Spain, Thornburgh and Wilson.

Signed: A. Miles

**A meeting of the Group was held at Maidstone Museum on Wednesday July 23rd with Mr. A. Miles in the Chair.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed. It was agreed that the Group's area would be the Borough of Maidstone and the following parishes - Barming, Bearsted, Biddenden, Boughton Malherbe, Boughton Monchelsea, Boxley, Broomfield, Charing Heath, Chart Sutton, Coxheath, Detling, East Farleigh, East Sutton, Egerton, Harrietsham, Headcorn, Hollingbourne, Hunton, Langley, Leeds, Lenham, Linton, Loose, Marden, Nettlestead, Otham, Pluckley, Smarden, Staplehurst, Sutton Valence, Teston, Thurnham, Ulcombe, Watlington, West Farleigh and Yalding.

The names of the following candidates for election as members: Mr. Christopher Fairmann, Mr. Don Jackson, Mrs. Rosemary Graham and Miss Jane Thornton, were read. Mr. Michael Ocock gave a talk on 'Conducting Regional Surveys' and the Kent Crafts Room was visited.

It was agreed that a list of scheduled buildings and of known archaeological sites in the area should be obtained and the information recorded on a punched card system. A visit to the site of the Roman cemetery at Larkfield was arranged as was a visit to see earthworks in the Challock area under the guidance of Mr. Bradshaw. Maps of the area should be obtained. Those interested in industrial archaeology would begin their study with a project on pillar boxes.

Signed: L.R.A. Grove, 17th September 1969

**A meeting of the Group was held at Maidstone Museum on Wednesday 17th September with Mr. L.R.A. Grove in the Chair.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed. An apology for absence was received from Mr. Oldham. The following were elected members of the Group – Miss Thornton, Mrs. Graham, Messrs. Butcher, Clark, Fairmann, Fuller, Hanford, Jackson, Lutman, Lynn, Millard and Thomas.

A report on the initial activities of the industrial archaeology section was given by Mr. Short who said that the project had made a good start. He suggested the Group should enter the competition sponsored by the BBC 'Chronicle' Industrial Archaeology programme - the prizes for the runners-up being £25 of equipment. The suggestion met with agreement. A letter from W. Weeks and Son Ltd. was read offering drawings of old machinery - the offer was accepted by Mr. Grove.

Canon Wigan will co-ordinate the work of listing fieldnames and Mr. Cleggett will co-ordinate the recording of buildings. Mr. Ocock and Mr. Oldham had visited the National Record Office who would welcome help as a number of their records are incomplete.

Mr. Ocock hoped at the next meeting, following the collating of the information from the National Record Office, to be able to talk about the areas in which fieldwork could begin. The route of the new motorway was shown on maps and people interested in observing the route were asked to give their name to Mr. Kelly.

Mr. Jackson explained how a proton magnetometer works and hoped to be able to demonstrate the use of this machine on the known site of the old laundry of Boxley Abbey - the owners' permission being forthcoming.

Finally Mr. Grove spoke about the Museum and the help that could be given to the members of the Group by the Museum staff and records.

Signed: L.R.A. Grove, 22nd October 1969

**A meeting of the Group was held at Maidstone Museum on Wednesday 22nd October with Mr. L.R.A. Grove in the Chair.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed. An apology for absence was received from Mr. Bynoe. Messrs. Bridge, Jepson and Larman were elected members of the Group.. The following Group representatives were appointed - Richard Procter, Kent Archaeological Society, Mr. Syddell, Kent Archaeological Research Groups Council, Mr. Oldham, CBA Group 11A.

Reporting on industrial archaeology Mr. Short dealt with the visit to W. Weeks, the closure of Lyle Humphries brickworks at Staplehurst, and projects for direction signs and street names. Mr. Grove reported that Sir John Best Shaw had agreed to a proton magnetometer survey at Boxley Abbey, and that the probable site of Loddington, near Sutton Valence had been discovered. Mr. Miles suggested that trial trenching should be undertaken during the winter to explore the site of a Roman villa near the East Station.

Mr. Ron Foord gave the first part of his lecture on 'Introduction to Archaeological Photography'.

Signed: L.R.A. Grove, 26th November 1969

**A meeting of the Group was held at Maidstone Museum on Wednesday 26th November with Mr. L.R.A. Grove in the Chair.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed. Miss France, Miss Starck and Mr. Bushell were elected members of the Group. It was reported that Mrs. Molly Procter had agreed to act as Membership Secretary.

The proton magnetometer survey of Kilnwood, Boxley has been postponed until after January 31st. Mr. Ocock reported on the progress made in collecting information on archaeological sites in the area and it was agreed that Barming should receive first priority, and work should also be carried out in East Farleigh.

Mr. Ron Foord gave the second part of his lecture on 'Introduction to Archaeological Photography'.

Signed: L.R.A. Grove, 28th January 1970

*My thanks to Linda Weeks for typing these Minutes from the originals - Ed.*

## **Coach Outing To Sussex, 26th June - Booking Form**

Maidstone Area Archaeological Group (MAAG) are running their popular annual coach outing, this year to Sussex, visiting the **Amberley Museum** and **Arundel** (details over). Please make bookings on the form below, which provides details of prices and pick-up points. All bookings should be received by **Monday 14th June** with the full payment. The price includes group admission to the Amberley Museum (normal adult price £6). Please send the booking form with your cheque (payable to **MAAG Only**) to :

**Mrs Avice Harmes, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham, Kent MB5 9TX**

If you have any general enquiries, please telephone **Richard Weeks** on (01580) 890042 or **Josephine Sanders** on (01634) 849477. Specific enquiries about the Amberley Museum should be directed to the museum on (01798) 831370, or about Arundel to the Arundel Tourist Information Centre on (01903) 882268.

The coach will pick up at the following points - please be there in good time :

Senacre School (Sutton Rd)	Old Palace, Maidstone	London Rd (Buckland La.)	Walderslade (Car park by M2)	Hailing (Harris House)	Larkfield (Wealden Hall)
<b>8.30am</b>	<b>8.40am</b>	<b>8.45 am</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>9.15 am</b>	<b>9.25 am</b>

If you need a lift, or are prepared to give local lifts to the pick-up points, please say so on the booking form. We expect to drop you off between around 7 and 8 pm.

We hope that everyone has good time - further information will be provided on the day.

**Please notify any late changes to Richard Weeks on (01580) 890042.**

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### **Coach Outing to Sussex - Saturday 26th June 1999**

**Name :.....Phone No.:.....**

**Address:.....**

**Please reserve the following places :**

<b>ADULT</b>		Places @ <b>£11</b>	£
<b>SENIOR CITIZEN (over 60) or STUDENT</b>		places @ <b>£8</b>	£
<b>JUNIOR (5-16 years)</b>		places @ <b>£6</b>	£
		<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>£</b>

I enclose a cheque for £                      payable to **MAAG**. I understand that refunds or partial refunds can only be made if unused places can be filled.

I will board the coach at (please circle) :

Senacre School » (Sutton Rd)	Old Palace, Maidstone	London Rd (Buckland La.)	Walderslade (Car park by M2)	Hailing (Harris Hse)	Larkfield (Wealden Hall)
<b>8.30 am</b>	<b>8.40am</b>	<b>8.45 am</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>9.15 am</b>	<b>9.25 am</b>

I would like a lift / I can give local lifts to pick-up points. (Delete as appropriate).

Return to **Mrs Avice Harmes** with your cheque (payable to **MAAG Only**) by **Monday 14th June**. Bookings can **only** be acknowledged if you enclose an SAE for a receipt.

## **Amberley Museum and Arundel**

**Amberley Museum**, formerly the Chalkpits Museum, celebrates its 21st birthday this year. Situated in an old lime-working area just outside the lovely village of Amberley, with its thatched flint cottages and great castle, it preserves and records the working heritage of the South-East.

**The admission is all-inclusive**, so you can ride on the vintage buses and narrow-gauge railway without charge. **We visit on a *Steam Up* day** so locomotives and other engines will be in steam. There is a café serving hot and cold meals, a picnic area, and a gift shop. As a working museum, exactly what we will see depends on the availability of volunteers and craftspeople, but many of the following trades, displays, and exhibitions will be on show:

- *Blacksmith • Potter • Printer • Boatbuilder • Broom-maker • Clay-pipe-maker*
- *Wheelwright • Signwriter • Woodturner • Bus garage • Narrow-gauge railway*
- *Electricity hall • Roadmaker • Cycles • Village garage • Vintage wirelasses*
- *Tools and trades history • Ironmonger • Telephone exchange • Timber-yard*
- *Estate pump house • Stationary engines • Machine shop • Steam road vehicles*
- *Brickyard drying shed • Concrete exhibition • Limekilns • Lime grinding mill*
- *Nature trail • Hillside trail*

**We have around 4 hours at the Museum, which should be ample time to see everything.**

The historic town of **Arundel** was an Iron Age, Roman, and Saxon settlement but its plan is now essentially that of a Norman new town. It lies above a gap in the South Downs carved by the River Arun, a strategic point defended by a motte-and-bailey castle. A shell keep was added to the motte in the late 12th century and a barbican in the late 13th, and these still stand today. Much of the castle was destroyed by Cromwell's troops in 1643, and it was largely rebuilt in the 1890s. It has been the home of the Dukes of Norfolk, Earls Marshall of England, since 1580. This hill-side town is dominated by two buildings - the castle and the 1870s Roman Catholic Cathedral - but it retains an old-world charm, with quaint Georgian and Victorian streets, the medieval church of St Nicholas and the remains of the Dominican Friary, and fine views.

**We have around 1½ hours to explore Arundel**, with its bookshops, antique shops, and riverside walks. The castle is closed on Saturdays, but much can be seen from outside.

## Amberley Museum (Depart 3pm.)

**Amberley Museum** celebrates its 21st birthday this year. Situated in an old lime-working area just outside the lovely village of Amberley, with its great castle and thatched flint cottages, it preserves and records the working heritage of the South-East.

**The admission is all-inclusive**, so you can use the vintage buses and narrow-gauge railway **without charge**. We visit on a day when locomotives and other engines will be in steam.

There is a café serving hot and cold meals, a picnic area, and a gift shop. As a working museum, exactly what we will see depends on the availability of volunteers and craftspeople, but many of the following trades, displays, and exhibitions will be on show :

- Blacksmith • Potter • Printer • Boatbuilder • Broom-maker • Clay-pipe-maker
- Wheelwright • Signwriter • Woodturner • Bus garage • Narrow-gauge railway
- Electricity hall • Roadmaker • Cycles • Village garage • Vintage wirelasses
- Tools and trades history • Ironmonger • Telephone exchange • Timber-yard
- Estate pump house • Stationary engines • Machine shop • Steam road vehicles
- Brickyard drying shed • Concrete exhibition • Lime kilns • Lime grinding mill
- Nature trail • Hillside trail

## Arundel (Depart 5pm from Mill Road)

The historic town of **Arundel** was an Iron Age, Roman, and Saxon settlement but its plan is now essentially that of a Norman new town. It lies above a gap in the South Downs carved by the River Arun, a strategic point defended by a C11 motte-and-bailey castle. A shell keep was added to the motte in the late 12th century and a barbican in the late 13th, and these still stand today. Much of the castle was destroyed by Cromwell's troops in 1643, and it was largely rebuilt in the 1890s. It is the home of the Dukes of Norfolk, Earls Marshall of England.

This hill-side town is dominated by two buildings - the castle and the 1870s Roman Catholic Cathedral - but it retains an old-world charm, with quaint Georgian and Victorian streets, the medieval church of St Nicholas, the remains of the Dominican Friary, and fine views.

There are bookshops, antique shops, and riverside walks. The castle is closed on Saturdays, but much can be seen from outside.

### Places of Interest

#### **Tourist Information Centre**

61 High Street

#### **Arundel Museum**

61 High Street

*2000 years of history, with many photos and models.*

(£1/ 50p conc., last admission 4.30)

#### **Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust**

Mill Road (½ mile walk)

*60 acres with lakes and hides with fine views of water birds.*

(£4.75/ £2.75 child/ £3.75 senior)

#### **RC Cathedral, London Rd**

1870s French Gothic style of c.1300

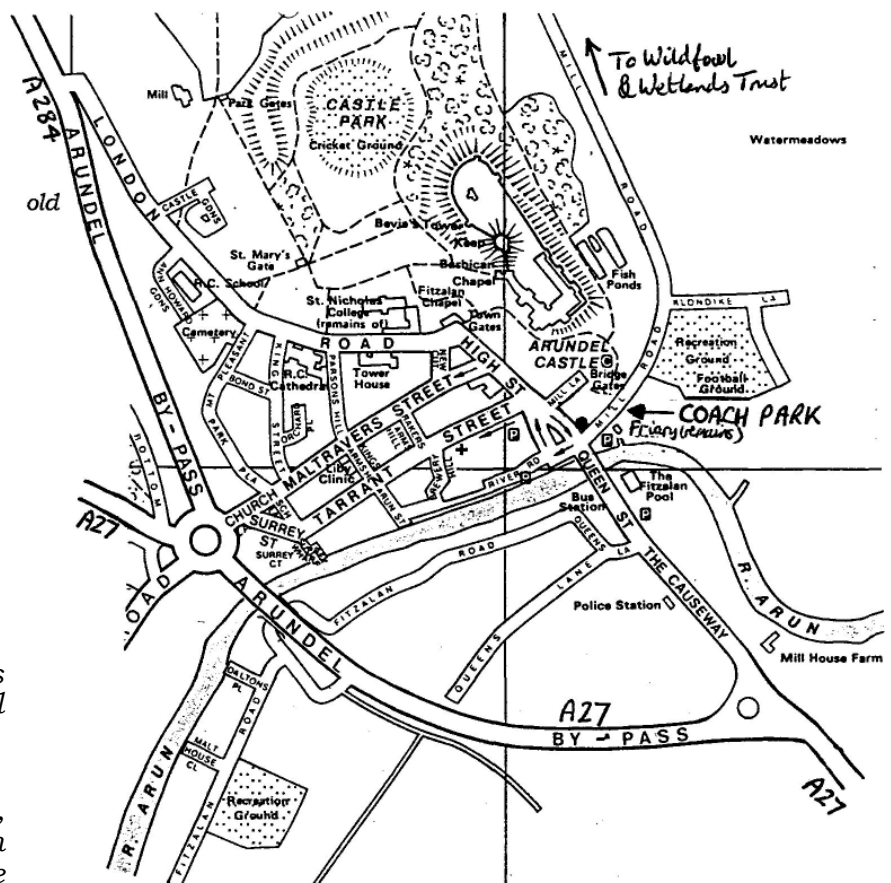
#### **St Nicholas' Church**

London Road

*Fine late C14 church with views into the Fitzalan Chapel, the burial place of the Dukes of Norfolk.*

#### **Dominican Friary, Mill Rd**

*Ruins of the south range, previously thought to be the Maison Dieu which in fact lies in the churchyard.*





# Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



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## Newsletter, September 1999

### Dear Fellow Members

I hope you've all had an enjoyable summer, and are now looking forward to our programme of indoor meetings. MAAG's and others' indoor meetings are listed later.

As this is the last Newsletter of the 20th century (at least by most people's reckoning), it is interesting to speculate on how archaeology might develop in the 21st century:

- Scientific methods will become increasingly important - most of these have been developed within the last 40 years or so (radiocarbon, dendrochronology, resistivity) and new methods will be discovered - I am particularly keen on the discovery of a method of dating stone buildings.
- Information technology will allow much greater access to and analysis of historical data - just think of what could be achieved if the world's library and archive collections were available on the Internet!
- Will excavation still be done by humans, or by specialist robots? Will excavation even be necessary, given the advances in remote sensing over just the last few years?
- Will the amateur still have a rôle to play? I think, and hope, so, since modern archaeology is founded in the work of amateurs, but what will that rôle be?

Looking back, our 30th anniversary meeting on 21st May did not exactly go smoothly - we found ourselves without a meeting room! Fortunately, a small alternative room was found and we were able to enjoy a "cosy" meeting on flints, followed by refreshments kindly provided by Linda Weeks, including an unforgettable "archaeological" cake - many thanks, Linda.

In June, a small team of MAAG and Aylesford Society members carried out a resistivity survey at Cossington (TQ747597) using the new KAS equipment. Cossington is mentioned in the 10th century and is the known site of the chapel of St Michael (founded c.1300) and a manor house, but is probably a settlement of great antiquity, being on the spring line of the North Downs. What remains above ground is the chimney and walled garden of a substantial two-storeyed house, presumably timber-framed since nothing else survives - hopefully the survey will reveal the foundations of the house and, perhaps, those of other buildings. Results are awaited.

I went on the first tour of Ashford Roman Town on 1st August. The site is massive (19 acres, of which 4 were excavated last year), and since the work must finish this year, only sample excavation trenches are feasible. Whilst most of the site will be covered by a housing development, a part will be protected and not built on except for a raised road.

Although described in CKA literature as a "town", it had no stone buildings, and apparently unmetalled roads, though there was a temple. It lies near the junction of the Lympne-Maidstone and Canterbury-Hastings roads and was an industrial iron-working site, probably turning the raw ore from the Weald into iron bars for onward transportation. It was occupied from c70-250AD. There will be another tour on Sunday 26th September - see Announcements.

**David Carder**

### Subscription Reminder

**If this Newsletter is marked with a red cross at the top, then your subscription for the year beginning 1st April 1998 is now overdue.** Sadly, if this is not paid by 31st December then this will be your last Newsletter and your membership will cease - as a small group we cannot afford to send out information to lapsed members. **No further reminders will be sent.**

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

<b>Individual Membership</b>	<b>£ 4</b>
<b>Family Membership</b>	<b>£ 6</b>
<b>Junior Membership</b>	<b>£ 2</b>



## Visit to Faversham - Saturday 16th October

This year's local visit will be an afternoon guided walk around Faversham, one of Kent's most interesting historic towns, led by members of the Faversham Society. We should be able to get into some buildings that are not normally open to the public.

The visit coincides with the **Faversham Carnival**, with an evening procession and firework display, so why not stay on after tea and join in the fun ?

Meet at **2 pm** at the **Fleur-de-Lis Heritage Centre** (tourist information centre), 13 Preston Street. **Booking is only necessary if you would like tea afterwards**, otherwise just turn up and pay on the day. There is a small charge, which will go to the Faversham Society, thus:

- **Adult:** £1, or £3 with tea
- **Junior (under 16):** 50p, or £2 with tea.

There are car parks nearby (e.g. off Stone Street) or you may be able to park in side roads - the nearest are north-east of the station (Park Road, St John's Road, St Mary's Road).

The visit is open to members and guests, and I hope that a good number will attend. The walk should end at about 4.30 pm for tea at nearby Ospringe. A booking form is enclosed.

## Annual Outing to West Sussex

This year's annual outing was another great success, with visits to the **Amberley Museum** and to the historic town of **Arundel**. Once again, we had fine weather, and able to fully explore the Museum site, though even 4 hours was not really enough time to see everything! Situated in an old lime-working area (it was formerly called the Chalkpits Museum) it presents imaginative displays of our industrial and technological past, from roads, railways, and steam engines to electricity, telephones and radio. I particularly enjoyed the rides on the 1920 wooden-framed bus which transported visitors around the site - a welcome feature on a hot day.

The small historic town of **Arundel** rises steeply above the river Arun, a lovely setting with fine views. I visited the 1870s Roman Catholic Cathedral (1870s, though the interior was covered in scaffolding), and the fine church of St Nicholas, uniquely attached to the Roman Catholic Fitzalan Chapel, which can be viewed through a glass screen. I particularly enjoyed the local history museum, with its models showing the development of the town.

I would welcome any suggestions for next year's outing or local visits.

## Royal Military Canal Visit

This visit with Fred Booth will now be arranged for next Spring, when the wildlife should be at its best and the weather more clement. Details in the next Newsletter.

## Announcements

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

**Ashford Roman "Town" Open Day** : Sunday 26th September, 12.30-4pm. The site lies just north-west of Kingsnorth village. Access is via the developer's road off Millbank Road at TR998402 (turn west off the Ashford-Kingsnorth Road).

**Excavations along the Channel Tunnel Rail-Link Route** : Talk by Helen Glass on Saturday 2nd October at 2.30pm. in the Angel Centre, Tonbridge. Contact Sheila Broomfield (01732 838698); s.broomfield@dial.pipex.com. (See also MAAG's meeting on 21st January).

**The Roman Invasion** : In view of the recent Kent vs. Sussex controversy, you may be interested in this one-day conference at Chichester on 23rd October, chaired by Barry Cunliffe. £25. Details from Ian Booth (01273 405737), members@sussexpast.co.uk. Let me know if you attend.

**Historic Towns in Kent** : Saturday 6th November 2.00 pm. CKA conference at Christ Church College, Canterbury with talks on *Lost Roman Towns, Faversham, and Rochester*. Booking essential (£3 + SAE) to CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP.

## Activities at the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre, Strood

Open Mon, Thu, Fri 9-5, Tue 9-6, 1st & 3rd Sat 9-1. (01634) 732714. archives@medway.gov.uk

**The Boer War through Medway Eyes** 4th-29th October. The work of local war artist Frank Stewart, to commemorate the centenary of the Boer War.

**Medway History Day**. 13th October. 4 talks by local speakers. £15 inc. lunch. Booking reqd.

**Mince Pie Day** 8th December, 10-4. An open day with seasonal refreshments. Free.

## Adult Education Classes

The following classes begin in late September.

**Maidstone** (01622 752165) : Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon Buildings (Monday pm.); Maidstone Area - Its History & Geography (Tuesday eves).

**Maidstone WEA** (01622 812129): Anglo-Saxon England & Jutish Kent (Monday am.).

**Medway** (01634 850235): Abbeys & Priors in SE England (Tuesday pm.); Women in History (Thursday am.); The Middle Ages (Thursday pm.); Egyptology (Wednesday eves, Rainham).

**Medway WEA** (01634 724135): Kent History (Tuesday mornings); Kent & England Under the Stuarts (Thursday afternoons); Exploring the Guildhall Museum (Tuesday evenings).

## Local Groups' Programmes: October 1999 - April 2000

Below is a summary of indoor meetings in the Maidstone and Medway areas with particular archaeological or historical interest, including the full MAAG and LMARG programmes. Since programmes may change after publication, it is advisable to contact the programme secretary before travelling - the telephone number is given. Non-members normally have to pay admission (typically £1-£2).

**MAAG: 7.30 pm**, The School Hall, The Street, Detling (01634 849477)

**LMARG: 8 pm**, The Friends' Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester (01634 849477)

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

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

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Title</b>
Mon 27 Sep	<b>LMARG</b>	<i>The Architecture and Necessity of Museums</i> - Miss Liz Walder
Fri 15 Oct	<b>MAAG</b>	<i>Historical Aspects of the Channel Shore</i> - Mr Fred Booth
Mon 25 Oct	<b>LMARG</b>	<i>Members' Evening</i> - short talks by members
Wed 27 Oct	MHS	<i>The Maunsell Sea Forts</i> - Mr FR Turner
Wed 27 Oct	MHS	<i>Gundulf</i> - Miss Pat Jenner
Mon 8 Nov	LAHS	<i>The Iron Age Camp in Loose/Broughton</i> - Mr John Butcher
Fri 19 Nov	<b>MAAG</b>	<i>Timber-Framed Houses of the High Weald</i> - Mr David Martin
Mon 29 Nov	<b>LMARG</b>	<i>The Defence Heritage of Kent</i> - Mr Victor Smith
Mon 13 Dec	LAHS	<i>The History of the Kent Police</i> - Mr John Endicott
Fri 17 Dec	<b>MAAG</b>	<i>Christmas Social</i>
Wed 12 Jan	CRS	<i>Leylines</i> - Mr Douglas Chapman
Fri 21 Jan	<b>MAAG</b>	<i>Excavations along the Channel Tunnel Rail-Link Route</i> - Ms Helen Glass
Wed 9 Feb	CRS	<i>Restoration House</i> - Mr Robert Tucker
Fri 18 Feb	<b>MAAG</b>	<i>Medieval Housewives</i> - Mrs Toni Mount
Fri 17 Mar	<b>MAAG</b>	<i>Ightham Mote - 650 Years of History</i> - Miss Jan Hendey
Wed 12 Apr	CRS	<i>The Channel Tunnel Rail-Link</i> - Mr Bernard Gambrill
Fri 21 Apr	<b>MAAG</b>	AGM (provisional date)

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

## Deadline for the Next Newsletter

Deadline for contributions to the March 2000 Newsletter is **28th February**. Email preferred.

## Contacts

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

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

### **Visit to Faversham - Saturday 16th October**

Please make bookings for tea on the form below. All bookings should be received by **Friday 8th October** with the full payment.

**If you don't want tea no booking is needed** - just turn up and pay on the day (adults £1, juniors (under 16) 50p).

Meet at **2 pm** at the **Fleur-de-Lis Heritage Centre**.

Please send the booking form with your cheque (payable to The **Faversham Society Only**) to **Mr D Carder, 91 Battens Road, Chatham ME5 8PA**.

If you have any queries about the visit, please telephone **David Carder** on (01634) 681896 (answering machine). Any queries about Faversham should be directed to the Fleur-de-Lis (01795 534542).

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### **Visit to Faversham - Saturday 16th October**

**Name :..... Phone No. :.....**

**Address : .....**

**Please reserve the following places for tea:**

<b>ADULT</b>		places @ <b>£ 3</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>JUNIOR (under 16)</b>		places @ <b>£ 2</b>	<b>£</b>
		<b><u>TOTAL DUE</u></b>	<b>£</b>

I enclose a cheque for £                      payable to **The Faversham Society Only**. I understand that no refunds can be made.