



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Established 1969

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

Newsletter, March 2011

Dear Fellow Members

Given below is the Agenda for this year's Annual General Meeting.

It includes an item for discussion regarding our meeting venue, following concerns about the advantages of having the lecture theatre at KPC with the disadvantage of the air conditioning being cold in the winter months, but the classrooms being too hot at other times. The Agenda also includes an item for discussing the current subscription rates, in anticipation that the room hire fees might increase soon. **Linda**

Notice of Annual General Meeting – Friday 15th April 2011

This year's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 15th April 2011 at the Kent Police College, Coverdale Avenue (off the A274 Sutton Road), Maidstone. The Agenda is as follows:

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of 2010 AGM and Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Archaeological Director's Report
6. Honorary Secretary's Report
7. Meetings Organiser's Report
8. Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts
9. Subscription Rates Discussion
10. Meeting Venue Discussion
11. Election of Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary
12. Election of Hon. Examiner
13. Reports and Election of Representatives
14. Future Activities
15. Any Other Business

Book Auction

At the end of the meeting, Albert has kindly volunteered to hold a Book Auction in order to raise funds for the Group. If you have any books that you think might be of interest to other members, please bring them along. And please bring along some spare cash so that you can buy something, as Albert can be very persuasive!

May Meeting : Friday 20th May : Ordnance Survey Maps - Ancient and Modern : by Colin Brown

Albert's Archaeological Roundup

East Farleigh

Work is continuing at East Farleigh on Fridays, redrawing the lost plans and cutting a section in the NW corner through the Iron Age ditch at a place where the Roman wall is not built in it so as to obtain a full section. Other trial pits may be dug if time permits. Sale of the property has not yet been confirmed.

The lead scroll revealed nothing so far and is being examined by the Ministry of Defence using sophisticated imagery equipment. The writing on the base of the pot is being examined by Professor Bowman at Oxford (he transcribed the Vindolanda Tablets). Problems with the access code to the gate are being resolved but I think it will be near Easter before weekend digging resumes. The pottery from the site is all washed, marked, sorted and counted. Soil samples have been processed and have produced charred grain. The iron objects are awaiting x-ray; small finds need drawing, and the stone and tile need describing.

Membership Renewals

A Note from the Honorary Treasurer, David Carder:

As this year's subscriptions are due on 1st April it is appropriate to remind Members, old and new, of simple ways in which YOU can help the Group to save on both costs and administration. There will be a note at the top of this newsletter showing when your subscription ends; if it is due for renewal this year, a form will be enclosed. Please return this form with your cheque to David Carder (address at end), or hand it with your cheque or cash to any Committee Member who will give you a receipt on request.

(a) You can pay your Subscription for up to 5 years in advance - that's only £20 for an adult. This protects you from any increases during the period, you'll get a refund if you leave the Group, the Group benefits from improved cashflow and avoids the need to send out reminders.

(b) Complete a Gift Aid declaration if you qualify - the Group can claim back 25% of your subscription or any other donation you make at no cost to you. If you're not sure whether you've completed a Gift Aid Declaration, would now like to complete one, or have any questions please email David (david_carder@talk21.com).

(c) Newsletters are collected by those attending indoor meetings, but otherwise they are posted at a total cost of at least 50p each time. The Group would save significant costs by emailing rather than posting these Newsletters, and you would receive them as soon as they are published. Please email Linda (maag.info@virginmedia.com) if you would be willing to have your Newsletter emailed rather than posted.

Other News

Kent History Federation

The Chairman has pleaded for people to join them on the Committee as there are now just four people; Chair, Secretary Treasurer and Editor of the Journal. If anyone is interested please contact them. Their website is : www.kenthistoryfederation.org

New Book

A publishing company is offering our members a discount of 25% off the full price of this volume, which would normally be £50. Edited by Sheila Sweetinburgh, "**Later Medieval Kent, 1220-1540**" is a comprehensive investigation into Kent in the later Middle Ages, from its agriculture to religious houses; from ship-building to parish churches. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please let me know.

Courses/Talks/Events

Saturday, 9th April from 10am - 4.30pm : KAS Study Day

Presented by the Kent Archaeological Society's Churches Committee at St Dunstan's Church Hall, London Road, Canterbury : '**Living through the Reformation at St Dunstan's, Canterbury**' : Two morning lectures including: 'Religious changes and impact on the parish' Professor Ken Fincham and four afternoon workshops looking at the church before and after the changes - studying the building and church documents. For a booking form go to: www.kentarchaeology.org.uk or by post (include SAE) from Mrs J. Davidson, 7 Chatsworth Rd, Gillingham ME7 1DS 01634 324004 (home) jacalyn.davidson@canterbury-cathedral.org

Monday, 11th April from 7.30pm at Loose Infant School

Loose Area History Society talk : '**Old Maidstone Firms - Sharp's Toffee, Breweries and Clarke's the Furnishers**' by Andrew Clarke : Non-members welcome, Admission £2.50 on door, free parking in school grounds

Tuesday, 12th April from 8.00pm : Plaxtol Memorial Hall

Plaxtol Local History Group talk : '**Kent in the English Civil Wars 1640-49**' by Professor Jackie Eales (£2 admission to non-members)

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