



# Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Established 1969

[www.maag.btck.co.uk](http://www.maag.btck.co.uk) also on *Twitter* as *MAAGinfo* and on *Facebook*

## Newsletter, March 2013

Dear Fellow Members

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

*Linda*

### CHANGE OF VENUE

I must remind you that the March Meeting is the **LAST** one at Kent Police College. Due to the increase in hire of the lecture theatre, we are unable to meet here any longer, and from April onwards we will be meeting at New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Lane, Loose, Maidstone, ME15 9QL. Directions are attached to this newsletter. Please congregate in the restaurant before the meeting begins and we will move to the room when it has been set up.

**PLEASE NOTE : We MUST leave the premises by 9.30pm sharp at every meeting** - as that's when the building will be locked. There's no option to stay longer for a chat! Ideally talks will start promptly at 7.30pm, last for an hour, have time for questions after that and then leave time for any business, announcements and looking at information on the tables etc so that we're all packed up and ready to leave at the required time.

### Notice of Annual General Meeting – Friday, 19th April 2013

This year's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday, 20th April at the **New Line Learning Academy, Boughton Lane, Loose**. The Agenda is as follows:

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of 2012 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. Election of Officers\* - the post of Vice-Chairman is vacant (Trustee position)
10. Election of Hon. Examiner
11. Reports and Election of Representatives
12. Future Activities
13. Any Other Business

\* While the Committee Members always seem to be re-elected en bloc, it doesn't have to be like this every year! Please let us know if you would like the chance to come onto the Committee in the post of Vice-Chairman or in any other role.

### Membership Renewals and New Payment Methods

Memberships are due for renewal from 1st April, and subs remain the same as at present. If we are posting this newsletter to you there will be a note at the top 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. You can also pay your subscription using online or telephone banking or by Standing Order. Contact David (preferably by email) for details.

## Albert's Archaeological Roundup

**East Farleigh** : The final days of the excavation located a wall foundation belonging to the earlier phase of building construction pre-dating the big barn construction around 240 AD. It is hoped to resume investigation of this building during April. The graffiti on the Roman pottery is being prepared to send to a specialist at Oxford. The lead scroll is at CIS at Sittingbourne, being conserved and mounted for display. A fuller account of the inscriptions appears in the current edition of *Britannia*. The tile and brick samples are in the process of being recorded and photographed. The last of the small finds not fully identified by group members are being sent to experts at the BM for identification. Painted wall plaster has been recorded and samples kept for Maidstone Museum. The rest has been reburied at a known location on site.

**Other Activities** : The group will take part in National Archaeology Days at Maidstone Museum on 13th & 14th July. Some members are writing up a report on a Roman site at Chart Sutton; the group were donated the site note books. The possibility of field work at other sites at Mereworth and Bicknor is being pursued. A watching brief was carried out on a building extension at Gore Cottage, Bearsted (no finds or features predating 1800 were located). A resistivity and metal detecting survey followed by a watching brief and limited excavation was carried out at Lower Grange Farm, Boxley for Kent Scouts [a few sherds of 12th and 14th Century pottery were located crushed into the surface of a yard surrounding a building that was demolished by 1800]. The finds for Northgate C, Rochester (1986) together with the Report are packed awaiting archival deposition, hopefully at Rochester Museum. The next back-log report to be completed is a field walk which the group carried out at Campsfield Farm, Boughton Monchelsea, which is partly written.

### Other News

Remains of a 2,000-year-old Roman theatre discovered by the Kent Archaeological Field School show a cockpit-style outdoor auditorium built into a hillside in **Faversham**; the first to be found in the UK. In addition to the orchestra the ruins include a narrow stage, featuring holes that are thought to have allowed flooding for aquatic displays. The theatre could have housed up to 12,000 people. (Precised from an article in *The Guardian*, 7.1.2013)

Excavations at the **Roman Villa on East Cliff** as part of the community archaeology project *A Town Unearthed; Folkestone before 1500*, have won the *Current Archaeology* magazine awards as the 2013 rescue dig of the year. The award is the result of an article written by Keith Parfitt of Canterbury Archaeological Trust: *Folkestone – Roman villa or Iron Age oppidum*.

### Courses/Talks/Events

#### **Kent Archaeological Field School : Hollingbourne**

**Dates:** 5-8 May, 4-19 August (13-17 August: Training Week) : **Cost:** £35 per day (£30 per day for KAFS members) £100 for training week course : This investigation focuses on the site of a possible prehistoric henge, Bronze Age barrows and an Iron Age cemetery. Pottery washing and soil processing will be undertaken on site, and mapping of contexts and features. This is an ideal opportunity to see how a large-scale landscape investigation is conducted. Contact Paul Wilkinson at The Kent Archaeological Field School, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP, Tel: 01796 532548 or **Email:** [info@kafs.co.uk](mailto:info@kafs.co.uk)

**Shorne News:** For details, please contact [andrew.mayfield@kent.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.mayfield@kent.gov.uk)

**April:** Exhibition from Saturday 27th to Sunday 28th

**June-July:** Randall Manor Season 8: Saturday June 29th to Sunday July 28th.

For details, please contact [andrew.mayfield@kent.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.mayfield@kent.gov.uk)

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