



Maidstone Area Archaeological Group



Established 1969

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

Newsletter, September 2013

Dear Fellow Members

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

Linda

Archaeological Roundup

East Farleigh:

Work has been continuing at East Farleigh, despite the rain, and much progress has been made.

The trench to the east of the site was put in to explore a new wall that we discovered at the end of the 2012 season, which runs between buildings 2 and 3. This wall is on a similar alignment to the eastern wall of building 2, and is therefore probably contemporary with it. We have located the remnants of a floor surface associated with building 3, (the later structure that replaced building 2). This floor consists of a grey clay with stones pushed into it to form a metalled surface. The floor surface continues over the top of the newly discovered wall, confirming that the wall relates to an earlier structure that was demolished to be replaced by building 3. Finds associated with this trench include a small bone pin and a coin dated to 141 - 161 AD. This coin was a commemorative coin for Faustina I, late wife of Antonius Pius. The coin does not really assist much in the dating as large coins of this type tended to remain in circulation for some time. Frustratingly the wall does not appear to continue past the southern wall of building 3. This probably means that it originally turned at the point where it meets the south wall of building 3, making it very difficult to detect due to the later construction work for building 3.

We are currently concentrating on the large trench between building 3 and building 5. This has so far not provided us with any insights into the relationship between these two buildings. We have not found any paths or other structures as we had hoped. However, there have been many interesting finds, including two early bronze coins, several bone pins and a bone needle, as well as a number of small copper alloy pins and other items. There has been a good quantity of pottery recovered, much of it from a section that has first and second century material.

Our other main focus has been a ditch which traverses the site from east to west, and which we have seen sections of previously, but not a whole profile. This ditch appears to be early in date, first or second century, and it would appear to have been re-cut at some time. It is interesting in that it pre-dates all of the buildings on the site that we have discovered so far, and it is deep with very steep sides. Thinking of its use it is hard not to conclude that it is defensive in nature. One section of this ditch is almost excavated, and we plan to dig another slot through it before the end of this season's digging.

There is plenty more that can be done this year, so please come along if you would like to be involved.

Out and About

On 15th June some of our members visited the Wessex Archaeology store at Rochester and were shown around by Mark Williams and Lisa McCaig, who showed us some interesting finds and also demonstrated a customised GIS database which links plots, photos and finds records. Following this five members went on to visit the Brook Pumping Station at Chatham, and spent a fascinating afternoon looking around the building and artefacts.

Exhibition

We staged another exhibition at Maidstone Museum on 13th and 14th July to coincide with the British Festival of Archaeology and the Museum's 'Life and Death in Saxon Kent' weekend, where The Lead Scroll itself formed part of our display. We are pleased to welcome our newest members who joined the Group at this event, and thank our volunteers who helped.

Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting will be held on Friday 15th November at 7.30 pm to discuss proposals for clarifying the operation of the Rules. The following Resolutions will be tabled:

1. To adopt an Annex to the Rules which provides guidance on the administration of MAAG, and records decisions made under the Rules.
2. To confirm membership categories, subscription rates and voting rights under the provisions of Rule 5. (Note that there will be no change to subscription rates).

Membership Category	Annual Subscription	Eligibility	Voting Rights	Eligible as Trustee
Junior	£ 2	A minor aged 16 or 17 on 1 April	One vote	No
Adult	£ 4	An adult	One vote	Yes
Family	£ 6	Any number of people in a family	Two votes exercised by adults or minors aged 16 or 17 years	Yes - up to two adult members

3. To adopt a procedure for the election of Executive and Non-Executive Officers.

Copies of the Resolutions can be obtained in advance by email or post (SAE please).

Courses/Talks/Events

KAS Historic Buildings Conference

This year's Conference will be at Harrietsham on Saturday 26th October with the theme "Aspects of Fortifications". Topics include Tonbridge Castle; Slough Fort, Allhallows; and The Development of the Tower Armouries as an Exhibition Venue. Cost £10. Buffet lunch available. Details at: <http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/kent-archaeology-events/historic-buildings-conference>, or from David Carder (see Contacts).

Update from Kent History Federation

Jackie Grebby, the Editor of the Journal, is collecting documents about the First World War for later in the year. The Archives have also been busy collecting information about the 1914-18 War and would be very interested to hear from anyone who might have relevant items of interest.

Maidstone Museum

'Tea, Talk and Walk' event – 24th September, 1st, 8th and 15th October : Cost £5 per adult
Come and discover Maidstone's historic past. Meet at the Museum's Bently Library at 11.30am on Tuesdays for refreshment and an engaging talk, followed by a town walk led by a qualified guide. Booking is essential - at the Museum's Reception, or telephone 01622 602838.

Contacts

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Work at East Farleigh, Summer 2013

Some recent photographs from the work taking place at our East Farleigh excavation, including two of the coins and the most recent trench showing the ditch



These are some photos of the display that we staged at Maidstone Museum in July



The Lead Scroll



and here are a few of the Life and Death in Saxon Kent displays from that weekend

