

FRIENDS

of the
CANTERBURY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUST

NEWSLETTER



A Neolithic axe head made of jadeite found near Canterbury, which featured in 'A History of the World in 100 Objects' on BBC Radio 4.

SPRING 2010 | No. 81

FCAT Committee

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Mr Lawrence Lyle

Mrs Janet Marshall

If you would like to join the committee and help with the Friends' activities, please contact the Chairman: David Shaw, 61 Broad Oak Road, Canterbury CT2 7PN (phone: 01227 769843; email: david@djshaw.co.uk).

The next Newsletter will appear in July. Please send contributions to the Chairman at the above address by the beginning of June 2010.

Excursions organised by FCAT

Members and guests participate in excursions at their own risk. FCAT does not accept responsibility for any loss or injury. Excursions involve walking in the open and negotiating steps and stairs both externally and within buildings. Appropriate footwear and clothing should always be worn.

FCAT welcomes participation in its excursions by members and guests with impaired mobility, **provided that they are accompanied by a person who can act as a helper**. It is advisable to check in advance with the Excursion Leader or the Excursions Secretary to establish whether access problems are anticipated on a specific trip.

From the Chairman of the Friends

Our winter programme was disrupted by the heavy snow in January and February. The visit to see the exhibition and conservation workshop of materials from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery excavated by CAT at The Meads, Sittingbourne, was completely snowed off. As the exhibition has been extended for two more months, Andrew Richardson (Finds Manager, CAT) has been able to arrange a replacement visit for us in April. Details are given on the inside back cover. Paul Bennett's Frank Jenkins Memorial Lecture was a great success (once again), but the preview of *Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Canterbury* at the Sidney Cooper Centre in early February had its numbers reduced by ice and snow. If you missed it, the exhibition will be open until 27 March.

The visit to the British Museum to see the exhibition about Moctezuma, Emperor of Mexico, also in January, went off well. Personally, I am not so keen on these rather blood-thirsty cultures of Central America (an aspect which was played down in the exhibition), but I did enjoy the opportunity to see the Anglo-Saxon Staffordshire Hoard which was on display at the same time. We are organising another London museum visit in October, this time to see the new medieval and renaissance galleries at the Victoria and Albert Museum, where we have arranged an introductory talk by one of the curators.

I am very pleased to be able to report that the FCAT contribution to the Canterbury Festival Walks in 2009 provided us with a revenue of £1,517.92. Each year our Festival Walks make a very useful contribution to the funds which we can use to support the work of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. On behalf of all of our members, I would like to express my thanks to the volunteer leaders of the walks and especially to Meriel Connor who has organised them once again.

We had originally hoped to distribute the Trust's Annual Report for 2008–2009 with this Newsletter. This is now expected to be ready in time for the July Newsletter. In its place, we are offering you a copy of Lawrence Lyle's informal history of the Trust which he prepared at the time of his retirement as Company Secretary two years ago.

We have two new visits arranged for members of the Friends. A visit to Horton Priory and Brabourne Church in June marks the 1100th anniversary of the foundation of the Cluniac order. In July, there will be a repeat visit to Saltwood Castle for those who were unable to go last year. Further details and booking forms can be found later in this Newsletter.

Members will no doubt be aware of the recent controversy over the proposed closure of three museums by Canterbury City Council, in particular the Roman Pavement Museum. I met a number of members of the Friends at the Saturday morning protest which took place outside the Roman Museum in February. I sent a letter of objection to the Council on behalf of the Friends, as did Charles Lambie, the Chairman of the Trust. As a member of the Trust's Management Committee, I shall continue to work with the other interested parties to seek a solution which will enable the Roman Museum to remain open.

David Shaw



Reminders by email

I send out reminders of our meetings by email to all members of the Friends for whom we have email addresses. If you do not receive these reminders and would like to do so, please send me a message. My address is david@djshaw.co.uk.

New book on the history of Sandwich

The last FCAT Newsletter included a publicity leaflet for Oxbow Books with special subscription prices for FCAT members. The title on Sandwich is due to be published in March 2010 and Oxbow Books are still offering copies at the special price of £25.00 (full price (£35.00) until the end of the month. The full title is:

Helen Clark, Sarah Pearson, Mavis Mate and Keith Parfitt, with documentary research by Sheila Sweetinburgh and Bridgett Jones, *Sandwich – The 'Completest medieval town in England' : A study of the town and port from its origins to 1600*. Oxbow Books, 352 pp, with black and white and colour illustrations throughout, hardback. ISBN 978-1-84217-400-5

Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society

Monday Evening talks

Crampton Tower Yard, High Street, Broadstairs, CT10 2AB.

Open 7.15pm; start 7.45pm.

Free to members, non-members £1.00.

22 March 2010: Mary Berg, *Norman Churches in East Kent*.

26 April 2010: *Behind the scenes at the Powell-Cotton Museum* with members of staff.

24 May 2010: Mal Argent, *Historical Costume*.

Thursday Evening Public Lectures

CCCU Thanet Campus, Northwood Road, Broadstairs CT10 2WA.

Open 7.15p;. start 7.45pm.

15 April 2010: Mark Hassell, *Education in Roman Britain*.

Admission £4.00; £2.50 for Students with Card.

22 July 2010: Imogen Corrigan, *The Venerable Bede – His life and times*.

Admission £5.00; £2.50 for Students with Card.

Can you help?

Meetings Secretary for the Friends Committee. The Chairman (who has also taken on editing the Newsletter) would welcome some help with arranging the annual programme for the Friends, contacting speakers, coordinating meeting arrangements, etc. We already have a Minutes Secretary. Please contact:

David Shaw (01227 769843, david@djshaw.co.uk).

Jadeite axe head from Canterbury

Many of you will have listened to the excellent Radio 4 series 'A History of the World in 100 Objects' presented by Neil MacGregor, the Director of the British Museum, based on objects in the Museum's collections. One of the early programmes featured a Neolithic axe head found in the Canterbury area a hundred or so years ago.

The axe head, shown on our front cover, is made of a greenish jadeite stone and dates from 4000–2000 BC. It was first reported in a British Museum catalogue of 1926 (R.A. Smith, *A Guide to the Antiquities of the Stone Age*, London: British Museum, 1926, p.100) and is discussed in R. F. Jessup's *The Archaeology of Kent* (London: Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1930, p. 51). Jessup describes it as 'a magnificent example of polished jadeite found at Canterbury' and adds 'Many of these fine jadeite or chloromelanite axes, including the Canterbury specimen, are unused, and doubtless had some ritual meaning; they are sometimes found in megalithic tombs, and in Brittany several instances are known of their discovery in the fields stuck into the ground in the form of a circle.'

Jessup thought that these jadeite axes were manufactured in Scotland or in Brittany but Neil McGregor reported recent research which has shown that the Canterbury axe head came from a specific quarry high in the northern Italian Alps. Over a hundred axes of this sort are known from Britain and Ireland.

The Canterbury axe is on display in Room 51 at the British Museum (Europe and Middle East: 10,000–800BC). It is also featured on the British Museum's web site (search on Google for "British Museum jadeite axe-head"). The programme can be heard again on the BBC's web site (item 14 of 'A History of the World in 100 Objects'). The second series of the programmes will start on 17 May 2010.

David Shaw



Canterbury Archaeological Society

Research And Publication Grants

The Society has limited funds available to award a grant to individuals researching any aspect of the archaeology and history of the Canterbury district. It is envisaged that a grant would not normally exceed £500. Preference would be given to work resulting in publication.

Please apply in writing to the Honorary Secretary of the Grants Committee as soon as possible, and in any case not later than 30 June 2010.

Your letter should mention:

- your qualifications
- the nature and length of your research
- the stage you have reached in your research
- the amount you are applying for
- any additional funding anticipated from other sources
- your proposals for publication
- your anticipated timetable

You may be asked to name a referee whom the Committee making the grant could consult.

If successful, you would be expected to account for the money spent and give a copy of any article, pamphlet, etc. to the Society's Library.

For further details, please contact the Honorary Secretary of the Grants Committee:

Mrs CM Short
3 Little Meadow
Upper Harbledown
Canterbury CT2 9BD



Canterbury: England's Crucible AD 597 – AD 1603

An exhibition of 1,000 years of history from St Augustine to the Tudors.

Sidney Cooper Gallery, St Peter's Street, Canterbury CT1 2BQ.

Organised by Canterbury Christ Church University and Canterbury Archaeological Trust with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The exhibition runs up until Saturday March 27th.

Canterbury Archaeological Society Excursions 2010

Wednesday 19th May

Afternoon Visit to Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst House and Garden.
Tea available.

Cost: NT Members £11 50; Others £10.00.

Saturday 26th June

All-Day Visit to Lullingstone Roman Villa.

Cost: English Heritage Members £14 50; Non-Members £19 50

Sunday 18th July

All-Day Visit to Ingatestone Hall, Essex.

Historic Tudor house and gardens owned by the same family for 400 years.

Cost: £19.00

Saturday 31st July 2010

A Day of Churches in West Kent.

Nettlestead, Yalding And Mereworth.

Cost £21.00, inc. coffee and afternoon cream tea.

Jean Crane, Excursions Secretary, CAS

University of Kent at Canterbury

Wednesday 31 March 2010

SECL Popular Lecture.

Dr Efrosyni Boutsikas (University of Kent), *Archaeo-Astronomy and its Importance for Archaeology*.

5.15 pm. Marlowe Lecture Theatre 1, University of Kent.

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/secl/researchevents/lectures.html>

Visit to Saltwood Castle

Tuesday 6 July 2010, 2.15 pm.

As a result of the popularity of this visit last year, when it was considerably over-subscribed, we are offering the opportunity for a further visit this July as many were disappointed.

There has probably been a castle in Saltwood since the fifth century. Standing some way back from the coast near Hythe, the manor and castle of Saltwood were in medieval times fiefs of the see of Canterbury, but over the years the castle was annexed to the office of Constable of England. When the castle's constable Henry of Essex was disgraced in 1163, Saltwood was seized by the crown.



At the beginning of Thomas Becket's exile in 1164, King Henry II empowered Becket's enemy, Ranulph de Broc, to take possession of the castle, where he is said to have tyrannized the neighbourhood generally. Thus it was that Gervase, Canterbury Cathedral's monastic chronicler, claims that when Becket's assassins left Henry's court in France to cross the Channel, it was to Saltwood they made their way (knowing that they were certain of a

welcome there from de Broc) in order to plot the fatal visit to the Cathedral which was to end in Becket's murder.

In more recent times, Lord Clark, the art historian, acquired the castle, using it as his home and to house his remarkable collection of paintings and objets d'art. The castle is still run very much as a family home by Jane Clark (wife of Alan Clark). Not only is she a charming, amusing and extremely informative guide and hostess, but she makes wonderful scones and cakes!

The cost of £18.00 includes a relaxed and fascinating personal tour of the castle, access to the gardens, and an utterly delicious tea! Simply not to be missed! Early booking is advised as places are limited.

Booking form on page 13.

Visit to Horton Priory and Brabourne

Wednesday 16 June, 2010

Celebrate 1100 Years since the foundation of the monastery at Cluny.

The monastery at Cluny in Burgundy was founded in 910 and influenced Benedictine communities in France, Spain and England for centuries after that. The most famous house in southern England was at Lewes but there was also a Cluniac priory at Horton, hence the place name 'Monks Horton'.

Horton Priory has been a private house since the Reformation but the owners have kindly invited Friends to visit it to celebrate this anniversary. We shall meet there at 2.30pm (directions will be provided!) and then go on to St Mary, Brabourne, where we shall have tea. Both Horton Priory and St Mary were founded by the De Vere family from Normandy around 1140. There will be talks at both locations.

The cost is £10 to include tea and a donation to St Mary's church. The owners of the Priory will not make a charge as the house is not normally open to the public.

Booking form on page 13.

Excavations at Downlands, Walmer, Kent

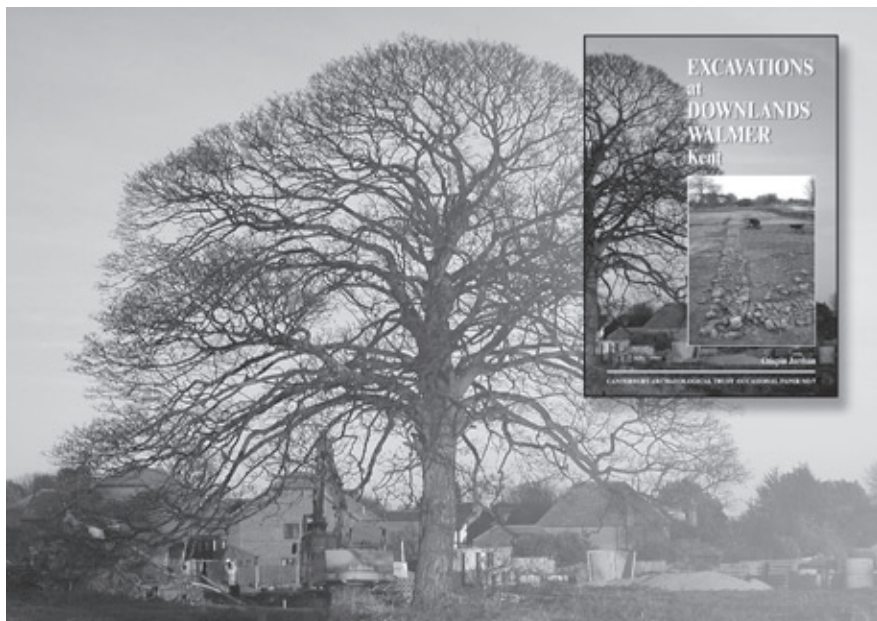
Crispin Jarman

Canterbury Archaeological Trust Occasional Paper No 7

ISBN 978-1-870545-18-1

Friends price: £10.00 (full price £15.00)

(Soft back. Dimensions: A4. 94pages, 38 figures, 9 plates)



Evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British settlement was recently discovered on the southern outskirts of Walmer in Kent. The prehistoric occupation commenced in the late Bronze Age and continued into the early part of the middle Iron Age, the main phase of occupation being from c 600–350 BC. Roman activity began very soon after the conquest and continued until at least the third century when a large aisled building, possibly a barn associated with a villa, was built on part of the site. This publication gives an account of the archaeology with full reports on both the prehistoric and Roman pottery, the small finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence. The concluding chapter brings together discoveries and recent research elsewhere in Kent, in order to set this site at Downlands, in the far south-east corner of England, in its wider context.

**Visit to Saltwood Castle
Tuesday 6 July 2010 at 2.15.**

Name(s)

Telephone no.....

Transport: I can offer a lift in my car

I would like to be offered a lift

Please tick if you applied unsuccessfully last year

Cost: £29.00.

Please return the booking form with your **cheque** for £18.00 made out to FCAT and a **stamped addressed envelope** to:

Meriel Connor, 1 High Street, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent CT4 5JY
e-mail: meriel_connor@btinternet.com; Telephone: 830487.

**Visit to Horton Priory and St Mary, Brabourne
Wednesday 16 June 2010**

Name(s)

Telephone no.....

Transport: I can offer a lift in my car

I would like to be offered a lift

Please return the booking form with your **cheque** for £10.00 made out to FCAT and a **stamped addressed envelope** for ticket and instructions to:

Ann Vine, The Oast House, The Green, Wickhambreaux CT3 1RQ

For all events which do not have a stated charge, FCAT requests a donation of £2.00 for members, £3.00 for non-members, and £1.00 for students to cover costs and to help to support the activities of the Archaeological Trust.

See inside front cover for FCAT's conditions for excursions.

FCAT Events 2010

Friday 9 April 2010

A visit, led by Andrew Richardson (Finds Manager, CAT), to see the *Exhibition and conservation workshop of materials from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery* excavated by CAT at The Meads, Sittingbourne.

10.45 am, The Forum Centre, High Street, Sittingbourne ME10 3DL.

The Forum Centre is across the road from Sittingbourne railway station (train from Canterbury East at 10.02 am). There is parking nearby.

Wednesday 21 April 2010

Roger Sharp: *The Pyramids of Egypt – design, construction and purpose.*

7.00 pm. The Friends Meeting House, 6 The Friars, CT1 2AS.

Wednesday 16 June 2010

Visit to Horton Priory and Brabourne Church.

For details, see page 11. Booking form on page 13.

Tuesday 6 July 2010

Visit to Saltwood Castle

For details, see page 10. Booking form on page 13.

You can contact the Friends of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust at:

Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd
92a Broad Street
Canterbury CT1 2LU

phone: 01227 462062; **fax:** 01227 784724

email: admin@canterburytrust.co.uk

web: www.canterburytrust.co.uk/friends/friends.htm



FCAT Chairman David Shaw blowing the Burghmote Horn at a reception by the Lord Mayor at Tower House for members of the Trust's Council and Management Committee.

The Burghmote Horn dates from the mid-twelfth century and was used to summon meetings of Canterbury's Common Council.

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