



FRIENDS

of the

CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

NEWSLETTER

The scapula of a rhinoceros, from excavations
at the former Herne Bay Golf Course.
See page 6.

SPRING 2017 | No. 102

FCAT Committee

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 Mrs Sue Chambers, Mr Lawrence Lyle, Mr Martin Pratt, Dr David Shaw,
 Dr Eleanor Williams

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 If you would like to join the committee or help with Friends' activities, please contact Anthony Ward at chairFCAT@canterburytrust.co.uk. We would love to hear from you.

The next Newsletter will appear in July 2017. Please send contributions to friends@canterburytrust.co.uk by the beginning of June 2017.



Please note

Donation suggested in support of the Trust for all talks:
 FCAT members £2; non-member £3;
 registered students welcome without charge.

Have you moved house or changed your bank?
Don't forget to let our Membership Secretary
know (via friends@canterburytrust.co.uk,
or leave a message at 92A Broad Street,
Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU, tel 01227 462 062)
so that our records are up-to-date.



EAST WEAR BAY ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

SEASON 3 **JULY TO**
AUGUST 2017



Dear Friends,

Last December Paul Bennett's inaugural lecture as recently appointed visiting professor of archaeology at Canterbury Christ Church University marked the relaunch of the University's Centre for Kent History and Heritage. The Friends are already working in close cooperation with the Centre. For example, in February the Centre hosted the 2017 Frank Jenkins Memorial lecture, attended by an audience of around 130, in which Paul reviewed the impressive programme of work undertaken by the Trust over the previous year; and in mid-March we jointly ran an evening symposium on 'Normans in the Landscape'. You will see the summer talks reflect further collaboration with the Centre.

Membership currently stands at around 380. We would very much like to achieve '400' and are looking to increase membership through:

- ☞ refreshing our pages on the CAT website
- ☞ a new membership recruitment leaflet
- ☞ experimenting with social media
- ☞ introducing the concept of household membership to promote wider family participation.

With the aim of promoting FCAT activities to a younger audience we are also now offering all students admission to talks without charge and collaborating with Canterbury's Young Archaeologists Club. Canterbury branch Leader Peter Walker contributes a note to this Newsletter on the work of the club.

As you will read elsewhere in the Newsletter, FCAT continues to support professional development for CAT staff through bursaries. In this connection we are particularly grateful to the Donald Baron Fund for its valued contribution. The FCAT committee has recently formulated and published guidelines outlining how it can financially assist the activities of CAT and its staff and the process of application.

FCAT benefits from a hard-working committee, volunteers who deliver Newsletters thereby saving on postage, and several members of CAT staff some of whom regularly attend committee meetings to contribute ideas and advice. Thanks to them all.

Anthony Ward, Chair FCAT

Reminders by email: We send out reminders of meetings 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 a message to:

friends@canterburytrust.co.uk.

You will receive updates and reminders of events of local archaeological and historical interest.



Dear Friends,

I open this newsletter with news of a campaign we are leading to Save the Canterbury Heritage Museum.

We were informed by Canterbury City Council and Canterbury Museum and Galleries of their plans to withdraw from the Heritage Museum in late January, when a period of consultation was announced setting out a proposal to repurpose the Poor Priests' Hospital as a home for the Marlowe Youth Theatre and Marlowe Outreach. We were told that the consultation period would last until 1st March (barely one month) and that the Community Committee of the Council would make a decision on the proposal on 29th March. There was only ever one proposal on the table and it involved the breaking up of a significant part of the existing museum collections, with objects and displays relocated in the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge and the Roman Museum.

Friends will know that the Canterbury Heritage Museum, in the Poor Priests' Hospital, is a museum within a museum; it is the only collection where you can see the entire range of Canterbury's material culture from deep prehistory to the 1960s, displayed within one of the finest and most complete medieval hospitals in the city. To lose this facility would be an enormous blow to Canterbury's reputation as a World Heritage city and to make such a momentous decision following such a short period of consultation, seemed to many to be rash in the extreme and potentially catastrophic.

Government cuts of Local Authority grants mean that the Council can no longer support the museum service to the level they have in the past. We sympathise with their position and are keen to help, but the Council and the Museum have been discussing closure of PPH with the Marlowe Theatre since May of last year and no other heritage interest group has been consulted over proposed closure. To save money, Museums and Galleries have been gradually withdrawing from the PPH, by restricting opening times and re-directing school groups, visits and workshops away from the Heritage Museum to the Beaney. A decline in visitor numbers and the cost of maintaining the museum are cited as the reasons for closure.

Following two workshops held in the PPH on 2nd and 3rd February many heritage interest groups were so concerned by the proposals that we have combined to form a pressure group to save the Canterbury Heritage Museum and have mounted a petition. We now have an impressive list of heritage institutional supporters, even the Friends of Canterbury Museums. The full list and the petition can be viewed at www.ipetitions.com/petitions/save-canterbury-heritage-museum.

We are presently discussing possible ways to work in partnership with the Council, Museums and Galleries and the Marlowe Theatre, to keep the bulk of the exhibits intact to tell the story of the city and to fuse Heritage and the Arts in potentially exciting and innovative ways. However, these discussions, presently at an early stage, may not bear fruit, so we are developing an alternative proposal to form a charitable trust to operate the building as a museum, an urban studies centre and an archaeological resource centre, largely operated by volunteers, but with professional oversight. We have repeatedly asked for a delay in the decision-making process, to allow further discussions with the Marlowe to take place and, if discussions fail, to be given the opportunity to further develop our alternative proposal, including a business plan. At the time of writing we have not been given reassurance that the decision will be delayed but we remain hopeful.

Meanwhile, the work of the Trust continues. A small team has been undertaking the final phase of fieldwork at No. 16 St Radigunds Street where King's School is building a new house for day boarders. Excavations have uncovered part of the hospice for the monks of St Radigund's Abbey, founded in 1268 (see Newsletter 101). Recent work has involved the cutting of a series of pits where the hospice courtyard and underlying deposits will be destroyed by the drilling of piles to support the new building. Each pit has provided a 'window' on early deposits of accumulated river silt, in excess of 1.3m deep, the lowest layers being of Roman date. The waterlogged silts and peat contain preserved organic remains that will allow a reconstruction the changing environment of the area over time, up to the founding of the hospice.

During the work, the team was able to prove that a section of the party wall between No. 16 and the rear garden of the Dolphin public house forms the complete gable-end of a hospice building, perhaps the original residence. Much of the external face

of the early wall (facing No. 16) has been refaced in brick, and partly rendered with plaster, with the entire wall white-washed. Although the original hospice building saw re-use as part of a public baths and later as a dance hall and public house, it was largely demolished in the later nineteenth century. The internal face of the standing wall facing the Dolphin garden, is largely in brick and in poor condition, but reflects multiple phases of use and re-use and is to be restored.



Our team working at the former Herne Bay Golf Course has continued to discover elements of prehistoric and medieval field systems together with ephemeral traces of settlement of both periods. Gravel underling Head clay deposits on one part of the site has yielded a number of fossilised bones, including the scapula of a rhinoceros. A date for the fossils has yet to be established. Elsewhere, we have exposed the line of two ancient watercourses, the predecessors of Plenty Brook and the Herne Drain. We hope to section each of the channels to provide environmental data to accompany the story of an intensively exploited rural landscape.

Other teams have been evaluating large sites at Hersden and the former site of Howe Barracks. At Hersden we have identified the site of a later Iron Age settlement and at the barracks, traces of early prehistoric settlement.

We have recently commenced an excavation in advance of the construction of a new Arts Building at Canterbury Christ Church University. Evaluation trenching last year exposed a long length of intact foundation for the precinct boundary of St Augustine's Abbey's outer court, established by Abbot Fyndon in the early fourteenth century. It is early days, but an interesting sequence of agricultural loams exists either side of the boundary and we are anticipating an exciting story, not only for land-use throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, but before the precinct was established, when the area bounded by North Holmes Road was dominated by Anglo-Saxon and early medieval industrial activity, particularly metalworking.

In the South Close of the cathedral a small team is working in advance of a new drainage scheme, excavating the line of a new service trench and cutting three deep

pits to alleviate floodwater problems and protect the fabric of the cathedral. The area south of the cathedral was used as cemetery since the mid-eighth century and the new service has been carefully designed not to cut into the uppermost burial horizon. Below this level tens of thousands of intercutting burials will survive, possibly as a thick layer of human bones. Only a small number of later burials have been excavated, together with an interesting sequence of working surfaces of gravel and spent mortar for perhaps a temporary masons' yard outside the south-west door of the cathedral, used intermittently during episodes of building and repair.

At St Peter's Sandwich the Trust, Dover Archaeological Group and local people conducted a community excavation over several weekends. Annie Partridge, our community archaeologist gives a round-up of recent community events on page 11.

At the time of writing we are still in our 40th year – just! Our final celebration event on 28th March will be to launch our on-line Gazetteer of archaeological 'grey-paper' client reports, a project pioneered by Jake Weekes. Jake will be providing a report on the Gazetteer for the next Friends Newsletter.

Paul Bennett



Canterbury Christ Church University: the precinct boundary wall and post-medieval features under excavation.

Archaeobotany Training at the University of Sheffield

For eight weeks between mid-September and November 2016 I was granted a sabbatical from my usual position as a field archaeologist to attend an archaeobotany course at the University of Sheffield, which was made possible with a FCAT bursary.

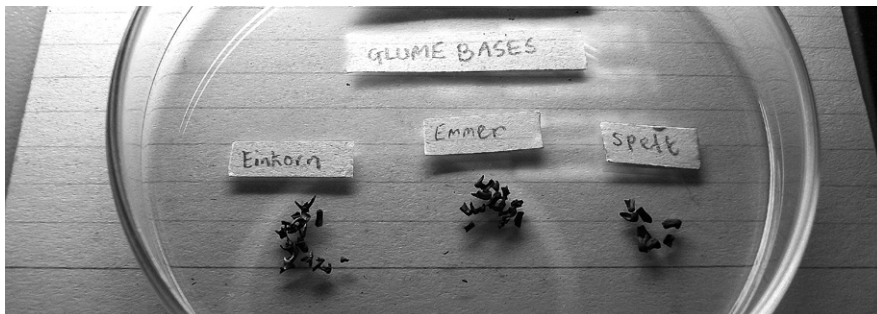
I have for the past two years volunteered on the Sangro Valley Project, a long-running series of excavations in the Abruzzo region of Italy directed by Susan Kane of Oberlin University. An opportunity arose to study the charred plant material from these excavations which I was keen to take up, but for this I would require more training. It was arranged that I could sit in on the archaeobotany module from the MSc in Environmental Archaeology and Palaeoeconomy at the University of Sheffield, taught by Professor Glynis Jones.

The course covered the identification of chaff and grain from cereals commonly encountered in archaeological samples, as well as economically important pulses. Seminars explored taphonomy, the application of sampling strategies and the use of different techniques of analysis. Professor Jones also included some extra training on the identification of weed seeds, which can be used to reconstruct crop processing stages and sowing regimes.

As a result of this I have been able to begin analysis of the Italian charred plant remains and look forward to using my new-found skills here at the Trust.

As well as improving sampling strategies on site I hope also to be able to assist Enid Allison and the environmental department in assessing the potential of charred plant remains from our excavations, helping with our Archaeology Courses and perhaps identifying and reporting on small assemblages that do not warrant the attention of an external professional archaeobotanist, but which nonetheless contain some interesting material. I am extremely grateful for the training I have received and can't wait to put it to good use!

Hazel Mosley



Archaeology at Canterbury Christ Church University



CCCU students on a fieldtrip to Butser Ancient Farm, Hampshire.

The last 5 years have been a busy, but exciting, time for archaeology at Canterbury Christ Church University. Modules in archaeology had been taught as part of the History programmes at CCCU for some years, but the first full-time lecturer in archaeology was appointed in 2012, and in 2013 a combined honours programme was launched. This was followed by a full single honours programme in 2016, and we now also offer research degrees at Masters and PhD level. The archaeology programme sits within the new School of Humanities, and we deliver a wide range of modules covering all aspects of archaeological theory, method and practice. Our students also benefit from participating in our own residential excavation field school which is run in conjunction with the Culver Archaeological Project. We are fortunate that our teaching can draw upon the fantastic archaeology that is on our doorstep, and we run fieldtrips to sites and museums in and around Canterbury and Kent. We have over sixty students registered on our programmes, and the first cohort of combined honours students graduated last summer. Some of our recent graduates have gone on to work for CAT and other archaeological units, some are employed by English Heritage and the National Trust, and others have successfully completed post-graduate courses.

The archaeology programme team currently comprises four core members of staff and a number of associate lecturers. The core team consists of Dr Emilie Sibbesson (Senior Lecturer in Prehistoric Archaeology) who teaches the prehistory of north-west Europe and archaeological theory, and has special research interests in the

archaeology of food and the history of archaeology. Dr Darrell Rohl (Senior Lecturer in Roman Archaeology) teaches on the Roman period in Britain and the Near East, and archaeological computing, and has a special research interest in the frontiers of the Roman World. Dr Eleanor Williams has recently been appointed as a lecturer in osteoarchaeology. She teaches and researches in this area, but also has a special interest in medieval monasticism. Dr Andy Seaman (Senior Lecturer in Early Medieval Archaeology) teaches early medieval archaeology and research methods, and has a particular research interest in post Roman 'Celtic' Britain.

All members of the programme are research active, and we are currently engaged in projects in Wales, Scotland, Jordan, and Egypt. Major fieldwork projects include Dr Seaman's excavations at Dinas Powys and Mount St Albans, south-east Wales and Dr Rohl's extensive LiDAR survey of the Antonine Wall (funded by Historic Scotland). Dr Sibbesson is currently leading a project examining the influential Swedish archaeologist Oscar Montelius, and Dr Williams is contributing to the Finding Eanswythe Project. We run a research seminar series on Wednesday afternoons and host the annual Lambard lecture. Friends of CAT and members of the public are very welcome to attend these events (information can be found on our webpages).

The programme has ambitious plans for the future. We hope to expand our numbers of undergraduate students, and introduce taught post-graduate programmes. We are also looking to invest in new equipment and resources (having previously purchased a Bartington magnetometer, total station, cameras, and specialist computer software), and we are planning on making a submission to the 2021 Research Excellent Framework. There are concerns about the future of the Higher Education Sector in the UK, but we are very much hoping that the next five years are as successful as the last five.

Andy Seaman, Lecturer in Archaeology



CCCU excavations at Mount St Albans in 2016.

Community update

In community archaeology winter is often seen as a time to head indoors to catch up with the all-important paperwork and general processing associated with archaeological sites. However, this winter we have been very busy out of doors, working in all weathers, on two big community projects.

The first project we worked on was the fantastic reconstructed wood henge which is to be found in The Meads Community Woodland in Sittingbourne. We worked in partnership with Woodland Wildlife Hidden Histories and local volunteers to reconstruct a wooden henge using the footprint of the monument found in 2012 on the other side of the road, now covered by houses. Using the data collected from this excavation we were able to set out the footprint using our GPS equipment, excavate the holes, and then erect the chestnut posts. The response from the Sittingbourne community was fantastic with many families coming along to erect their own 'family post'. Despite being made of wood the finished henge has a projected lifespan of many decades, and many of the adults participating in the event hoped that their grandchildren would be able to visit the monument to see the post they erected. If you wish to go and see the finished henge I suggest parking at the Jenny Wren pub and crossing the road into the woodland. If you require further directions, please email me.



Digging the posts.



Erecting the henge.

Our second winter project has been at St Peter's Church in Sandwich. We were working with The Churches Conservation Trust to investigate the ruined south aisle of the church, recently converted into a secret garden, ahead of plans to install a toilet in the space. To create the garden a large amount of topsoil had been imported which had raised the ground level and covered over the archaeological features. By removing this garden soil we were able to uncover some surprising archaeology which had fallen out of local memory, namely a collection of some six marked graves and a rather large boiler house – with the boiler still inside! Our excavations also turned up a couple of pieces of Roman pottery and Anglo-Saxon Ipswich ware, which caused great excitement because physical evidence of the Anglo-Saxon settlement at Sandwich is

so rare. My thanks go to the volunteers who took part in this project, and to the local Sandwich residents who made us feel welcome during our time there.

I am now beginning to turn my attention to the East Wear Bay Archaeological Field School which starts on 10th July and runs until 5th August. Like our previous years there are day and week-long experiences on the site. For further pricing and dates please visit www.eastwearbay.co.uk or email me annie.partridge@canterburytrust.co.uk. We are pleased to announce that we will be opening the site on 29th July as part of the Council for British Archaeology's Festival of Archaeology. Although the site will be open to visitors throughout the excavation, this Open Day will be something a little more special with finds displays and tours of the site. For further details on this event please go to www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk/events/2726.

Annie Partridge

Human remains in commercial archaeology

On the 22nd February Adelina Teoaca and I attended a Historic England training course in London. The theme for the day was 'Human Remains in Commercial Archaeology: Legal, Ethical and Scientific Considerations' with a variety of talks by speakers from within the field.

For obvious reasons, the treatment of human remains in archaeology is a fairly contentious topic and one that often raises many questions both in and outside the archaeology sector. There are of course strict regulations and procedures that govern the way human remains are dealt with in commercial archaeology and it was very useful indeed to have Simon Mays, a Human Skeletal Biologist with Historic England, take us through both the secular and ecclesiastical aspects of the laws involved. I found this particularly relevant myself as I am currently working alongside colleagues to excavate burials in the lay cemetery at the Cathedral.

Martin Smith (Principal Academic in Forensic and Biological Anthropology at the University of Bournemouth) gave an insightful talk on the ethics of dealing with human remains and raised some really thought-provoking questions. This included questioning things we take for granted in commercial archaeology such as reburial and storage procedures. Ultimately, it is a privilege and not a right to be able to excavate and analyse human remains and this is of course paramount to our work.

To provide some contextual information we were given information on various case studies, such as some Anglo-Saxon burial grounds in Winchester and some of the large London cemeteries where specific guidelines have been developed to deal with cemeteries that often contain at least 2,000 burials.

Simon Mays (human skeletal archaeologist for Historic England) and Paola Ponce (Osteoarchaeologist with Archaeology South East, University College London) gave an interesting talk on the application of scientific techniques on human remains in commercial archaeology, highlighting the type of information that the scientific study of human remains can yield. This included stable isotope studies and ancient DNA analysis, both of which have given exciting and surprising results to some of the leading research questions in this area. It was particularly interesting to see the potential these methods have for advancing our understanding of the past.

The course was attended by a wide variety of professionals, from field archaeologists, consultants and specialists and the breadth of knowledge was particularly evident during the discussion sessions.

The whole day was particularly thought-provoking and ignited our interest in working with human remains. Both Adelina and myself are part of the field team at the Trust, but we also have training in human osteology and hope that we can utilise our existing skills and the guidance we received during this training day in dealing with human remains both in the field and afterwards in the post-excavation process.

We would like to thank the Friends for providing a grant to cover our travel costs to attend this free course in London.

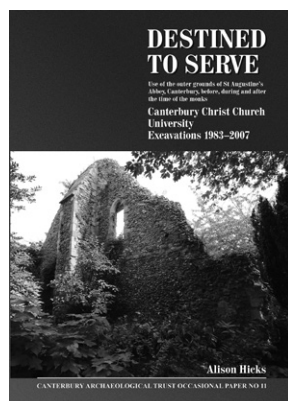
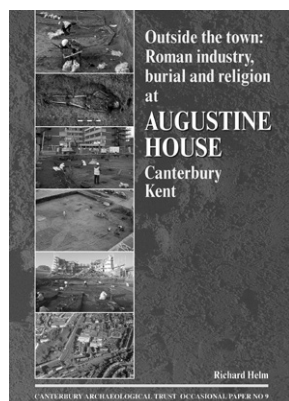
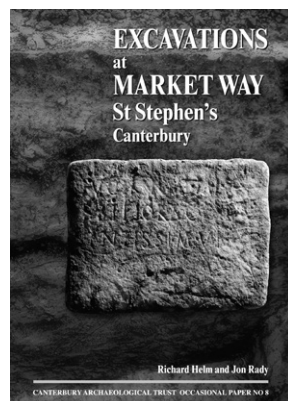
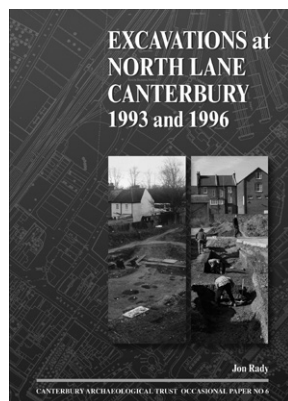
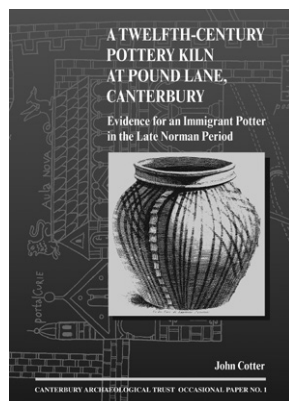
Isobel Curwen

Some Occasional Papers

Following Alison's article in the last issue about the Whitefriars excavations and their publication (Newsletter 101, pp 18–19 and back cover), I thought I'd draw attention to some of our other reports, all available to the Friends at discounted prices. Since the list is long, I'll begin with five titles in the Occasional Paper series which cover excavations in Canterbury.

The series was launched in 1997 with *A Twelfth-century pottery kiln at Pound Lane, Canterbury: Evidence for an Immigrant Potter in the Late Norman period*. As it says in the blurb on our website, this is more than a regular medieval pottery report. Just who were these potters and where exactly did they come from? The continental connections involved raise some thought-provoking questions.

Excavations at North, Lane, Canterbury 1993 and 1996 returns to the same part of the city. More of the industrial nature of this suburb is revealed, this time dating from the Roman period through to post-medieval times. Local historians will be fascinated to read how the line of a Roman road crossing the site was preserved by property boundaries until relatively recent times.



No 1 (1997) Pound Lane:

Full price £9.95.

FCAT price £7.95.

No 6 (2009) North Lane:

Full price £13.95.

FCAT price £10.00.

No 8 (2010) Market Way:

Full price £13.05

FCAT price £10.00.

No 10 (2014) Outside the Town:

Full price £20.00

FCAT price £16.00.

No 11 (2015) Destined to Serve:

Full price £35.00.

FCAT price £25.00.

The sites published in *Excavations at Market Way, St Stephen's, Canterbury* were also set in a semi-industrial landscape in the Roman period, just a short wagon ride to the north-east along the same road. Amongst evidence for the industrial nature of the area (waste from the tile kilns and quarrying for clay), were two Roman burials, one with a rare (for Canterbury) re-used funerary plaque. Four hundred years later, at the beginning of the eighth century, a small Anglo-Saxon settlement was established, rare evidence for settlement of the period outside the former town walls.

No 10 in the series moves to a site outside the walls on the other side of town. What was discovered there is told in the title: *Outside the Town: Roman industry, burial and religion at Augustine House, Rhodaus Town, Canterbury*. The highlight was undoubtedly a late Roman shrine and finds indicative of ritual offerings and associated feasting. Consequent excavations in advance of intense redevelopment on Rhodaus Town have uncovered more of this funerary and religious landscape. The latest annual review tells more.

Winter Newsletter No 98 at the end of 2015 announced the most recent addition to the Occasional Paper series. *Destined to Serve. Use of the outer grounds of St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, before during and after the time of the monks. Canterbury Christ Church University Excavations 1983–2007* brings together twenty-five sites excavated on the campus and nearby over almost twenty-five years. As I write there is a team excavating yet another site on the campus – a story for another time.

All titles are available from our office at 92A Broad Street or from Oxbow Books via our website (www.canterburytrust.co.uk/publications/occasional-papers) using the discount code **FCAT17**.

Jane Elder

“We don't only drink tea ...”

Volunteering at Canterbury Archaeological Trust

The Trust offers various opportunities for Friends and others to volunteer their time and skills in support of its work. Opportunities arise with regard to specific projects, for example the stewarding of the month long exhibition in the Spring of 2016 at the Beany House of Art and Knowledge marking the 40th anniversary of the Trust. The contribution of the stewards was highly praised – and indeed the exhibition could not have been presented in its successful format with cases of valuable artefacts complementing display panels without the presence, seven days a week over four weeks, of the reliable stewards drawn from the ranks of the Friends.

Other opportunities for volunteering are firmly embedded in the ongoing operations of the Trust, for example the organisation of the library, a collection of over 8,000 items. Jane Blackham, a long standing Friend, has for several years helped curate the collection bringing her experience working in the Library at Canterbury Christ Church University to the cataloguing of new acquisitions and maintaining the good order of the shelves. Jane has assisted Trust Research Manager Jake Weekes reorganise the library better to meet the needs of Trust staff and other users. In addition to books and periodicals the library had until recently contained much 'grey literature' - reports of watching briefs, evaluation excavations, and desk-based site assessments for planning purposes, all work which would not usually be published, but which represents a rich corpus of data. Volunteer Andy Ashenhurst has scanned this large collection making electronic copies which, according to Jake, form the bedrock of an on-line gazetteer of the work of the Trust. The important gazetteer will shortly 'go-live' for public interest and research purposes. Jake is clear that improvements to the management of the library and the accessibility of its material could not have been achieved without the support of those who freely give of their time.



Finds Supervisor Jacqui Matthews with some of her volunteers.

Nowhere is the ethos of volunteering more firmly embedded than in the Finds Department which is responsible for the initial processing of artefacts, all the stone, flints, pottery, metalwork, bone (human and animal), recovered each year through work in the field. Finds Supervisor Jacqui Matthews explains that the team of around 30 regulars who volunteer each week is vital to the initial stage of post-excavation activity: preparatory drying, washing and cleaning, categorising, and packaging.

This triage is carried out with meticulous attention to record keeping. Jacqui enters up the detail on the Integrated Archaeological Data Base created for each fieldwork project and the material can then be subjected to close analysis by specialists within and beyond the Trust. The information produced is critical to the interpretation of excavations. Volunteering in the Finds Department brings huge benefits to the Trust helping projects to be completed to time and within budget.

Finds volunteers include both students, gaining practical work experience, and others with a general interest in archaeology. Some have been helping over two decades. Long-serving volunteer and Friend Marion Gurr explains that the highly tactile work provides a very special opportunity to engage with past humanity while its variety

encourages individuals to develop particular interests and expertise. "We don't only drink tea" remarked Marion wryly, recalling sessions spent excavating cremation deposits within funerary urns or piecing together the fragments of eighteenth-century tankards recovered from the former George and Dragon Tavern unearthed in advance of the building of an extension to the Beaney.

Volunteers are also of fundamental importance in our environmental department. Trust Environmental Specialist Enid Allison currently relies on a loyal group of people to painstakingly sort through the huge amounts of 'heavy residue' resulting from the sieving of soil samples from all our major excavations. Bones of fish, amphibians, birds and small mammals, and shells of all kinds are extracted, along with metalworking waste and small artefacts such as pins and beads that would be unlikely to be recovered by hand-excavation. Over the years they really have sorted through tonnes of material. Volunteers are currently engaged in retrieving tens of thousands of fish bones from samples from the recent excavations in Dover. Other tasks might be measuring oyster shells, checking sample flots for plant remains such as cereals and pulses, and entering data on the IADB.



Volunteer Catherine Davis sorts a residue, and (right) a bone die, recently found while dry-sorting samples from Dover.

Canterbury Archaeological Trust is also an active partner in many community based projects around Kent which rely on the support of volunteers. Examples of recent and current projects are outlined in Annie Partridge's 'Community Update' (p 11). If you would like to explore the possibility of volunteering at the Trust, please do get in touch.

Anthony Ward

Digging and recording Roman Watling Street

Last summer we returned to the community dig in the Westgate Gardens with a small team of volunteers and trainees to take a closer look at Watling Street on the north bank of the Stour. We had two particular questions in mind. First, could we get a better understanding of the early development of the road, roadside buildings and changes brought about by the construction of the town wall, just on the other side of the river, around the end of the third century? The wall excluded the whole of the St Dunstan's area which until then had been part of the town's gridded road system; the area now rather suddenly became 'suburban'. Second, could we find further evidence of when the road went out of use and traffic shifted to approach the town via St Dunstan's Street and Westgate, 1000 Roman feet to the north-west?

The Dig

The excavation soon yielded results on the latest use of the road; the uppermost surface (layer 307: **1**) was encountered a mere 0.3m beneath the park lawn! We had found the north-eastern edge of the road as it ran north towards present day London Road. The surface was formed of compacted soil, Roman tile and pot, with a large camber and even an ancient cart wheel rut etched in it (interface 306, filled by deposit 305). It must be said that hand excavation revealed this most recent road profile, which had undoubtedly been sacrificed in previous excavations when a machine was used to get down to a level of road metallings more obvious for community diggers. Volunteers at trainee level on the current excavation, therefore, were given a very good example of how it isn't just the 'look' of deposits that helps us to excavate them, but their 'feel' through mattock and trowel.

Having recorded this surface, we removed it, saving all artefacts mixed up in it, and located an earlier surface. This was more obviously a metallated surface (layer 310: **2**) typically formed of compacted gravel, and noticeably further to the west than the later surface. There was also a softer buried soil horizon next to the road (layer 311), which had built up whilst this surface was in use, and which had been sealed by surface 307.

We continued to remove metallings from the remnant of the road at the end of the trench (layer 312, which overlay layer 318), again not just discerning the changes through colour or the size of component gravel, but also (and perhaps mainly) through 'feel'. It was very clear when excavating to feel as well as see when a new surface was reached (see **3** and **4**), and it was also apparent that the road edge became gradually more 'rationalised' in form as later layers were stripped away.

For a long time, however, it seemed like we would never get to the bottom of the question about the earliest road and pre-wall roadside development in particular.



This was because we were hampered by a water table that was much higher than in previous seasons. It was an ongoing worry that critical levels of stratigraphy (the superimposed layers and features that might fill in this early part of the story) would likely remain underwater and unseen! As it turned out, and by sheer good fortune, we wouldn't need to actually see the early roadside layers in order to understand them.

We had reached the earliest road surface *that could be seen at the limit of excavation* (layer 319, but unlikely to be the earliest surface in reality), when the tell-tale solidity of a new surface next to the road became apparent, a hidden layer of hard standing off which the shovel bounced! The ringing shovel in fact showed that there was a cobbled yard surface next to the road at this level, incorporating large tile fragments, less than half a centimetre beneath the muddy water. We never saw it, but it was undoubtedly there.

It could also be 'sensed', that the yard surface had been cut away by later features further to the north-east: probably a series of intercutting pits (cut/interface 317). The clayey backfills of these features (called generally '316') also lay too near the water table to be investigated and understood fully, but several cattle horn cores were recovered from the upper layers, along with late Roman pottery. The point at which the yard surface had been removed by these later features can be seen as the margin of the waterlogged area in **5**. I can report that standing on this ancient hard surface in order to excavate was a relief after the muddy wet soil that had overlain it, and more fun because it was a lot more splashy (see **6**)!

The record

The section drawing (**7**) shows the development of the road and roadside layers and the site formation that could thereby be reconstructed.

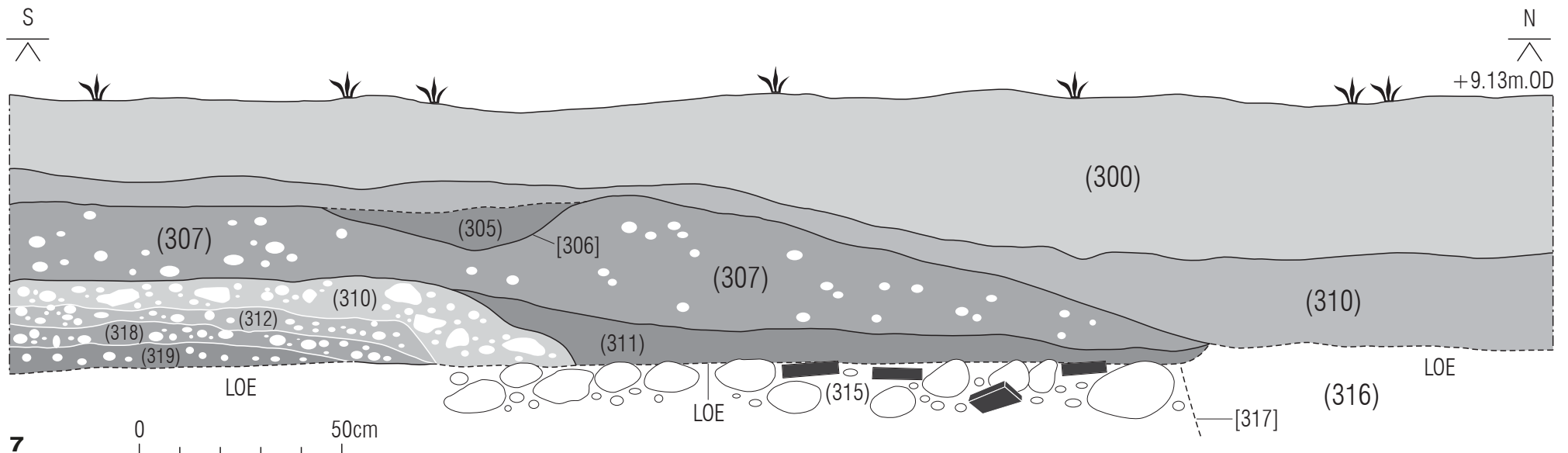
The earliest road surface (319) to be seen at the limit of excavation (LOE), seems to have been contemporary with a yard surface that incorporated re-used tiles (315). Further

surfaces were added (318, superseded by 312) on this alignment, before a thicker and broader surface both remodelled the road position and apparently encroached on the earlier surface. A soft, silty soil, containing some late Roman pottery, built up at the edge of this road. At some point the yard surface was cut way to the north-east (317, filled by 316), and a larger scale remodelling of the road surface took place, with a mixed compacted deposit (307) completely sealing the soil that had built up on it. A wheel rut in this surface (306) was filled by silt (305), and abandonment seems to be reflected by a general soil layer (310) containing only residual Roman material, which sealed all of the archaeological horizons. Mixed material (including Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern objects) was recovered from the topsoil (in fact a piece of decorated Samian pottery was revealed on lifting the turf), the result of gardening to a spade's depth over many years.

The interpretation

The earliest road seen in the excavation had an associated yard surface, and this pattern, associated with second-century features and coinage, had been noted elsewhere in the 2014 and 2015 community digs. These levels represent the earlier topography of *Durovernum Cantiacorum* (**8**), which was changed irrevocably in about AD 270–290 by the walled circuit, the ghost of which is still extant in the medieval and post-medieval walls, and indeed the ring road.

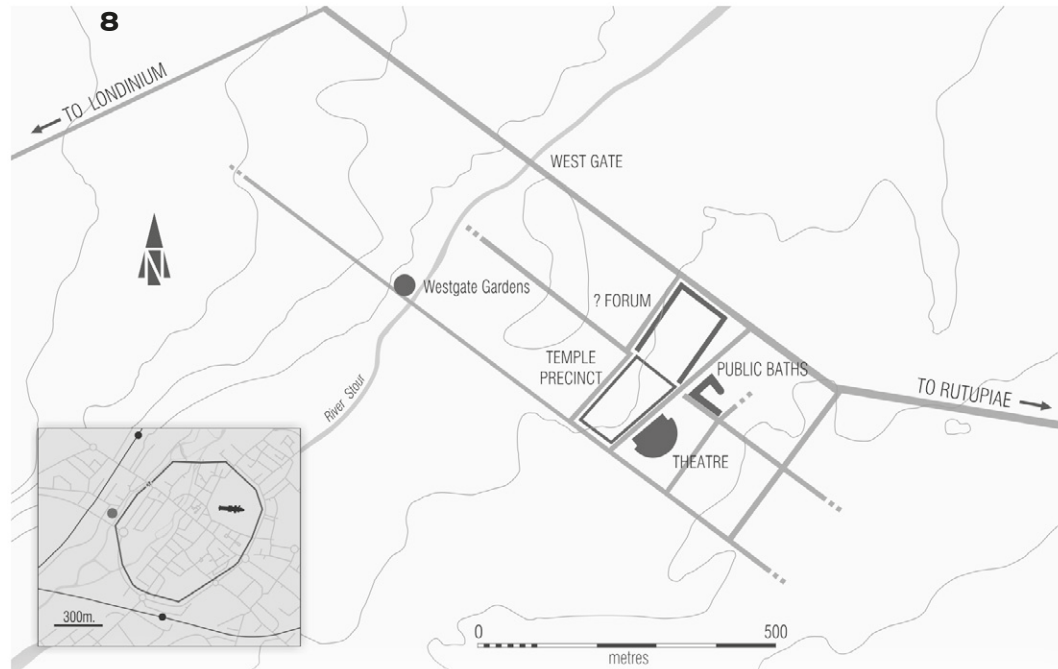
Perhaps resurfacings of the early road (318 and 312) may also belong to the period before the town wall was built, but the fact that surface 310 encroached on the yard,



and immediately preceded a soil build up above it, may indeed be suggestive of a change of use, perhaps contemporary with the construction of the wall and creation of a new, suburban context. This pattern of soil build ups ties in with similar instances seen on either side of the road in previous excavations, suggesting that the change of use of the area was general.

The cutting away of the yard surface by the digging of pits (317) has been recorded before, the most notable examples being an intact part of the same surface seen in an earlier test pit to the north-east, and similar pits cutting through roadside metalling to the east. The latter, excavated in 2015, interestingly contained a concentration the same sort of horn cores and late pottery as seen in the backfills of the 2016 examples. It may well be that these areas were plundered for road building material in the fourth century or beyond, the 'quarries' then backfilled with this refuse; the concentration of animal bone therein will hopefully provide some useful radiocarbon dates for this period of activity and thereby the final phases of road use. An additional clue is provided by the residual finds from the final surface of the road identified in 2016, as well as the proximity of these large pits to the edge of the latest road alignment: the implication is that the mixed surface material forming the final road surfaces in fact derived from opportunist quarrying of long abandoned roadside buildings and courtyards.

Jake Weekes



Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society Research and Publication Grants

The Society has limited funds available to award a grant to individuals researching any aspect of the history and archaeology of Canterbury and its surrounding area. It is not envisaged that the grant would normally exceed £500.

Details from the Honorary Secretary of the Grants Committee,
Mr B Beeching, email: beechings@supanet.com

Canterbury Young Archaeologists



The club has been offering youngsters aged between 8 and 16 opportunities to engage with archaeology and heritage in the East Kent area for the last 15 years. In the last couple of years we have seen three members go on to study archaeology or ancient history at university and in 2014 a member was selected as the CBA Young Archaeologist of the Year due to experience and opportunities she had through the club.

The membership has over the last 12 months continued to grow and we now have 18 members.



In this year's programme of monthly Saturday meetings we plan to continue our record of enabling members to get hands on with archaeology and introduce them to the skills needed to be an archaeologist and understand the past.

Last year's activities included trying their hands at scale drawings, digging on the CAT training excavation at East Wear Bay, Folkestone and at a Roman villa site at Faversham, hands on conservation work at Western Heights, a session handling actual Roman artefacts, through to a windy walk around Canterbury considering the impact of the Norman invasion.

Meetings planned this year will introduce members to the chronology of time periods by producing their own 'timelines', using measurements and the use of 'pot rim' charts. Another session will also aim to introduce members to the information that can be gathered from old maps and documents.

As our main supporter CAT has already kindly arranged to host sessions on finds washing (always a favourite activity) and skeletons. Also trips are being planned to the Cathedral to discuss conservation work and to the coast to consider the changing defences of the Kent coast.



Members are already talking about getting hands on trowelling on the Folkestone dig with CAT in July and as this is written the opportunity for the YAC's to dig on another site over the summer has been potentially offered. We also hope to have the opportunity to just visit another on-going dig.

Due to the opportunities offered by CAT and other organisations our programme frequently changes during the year as new opportunities arise. The current planned programme of events and a 'blog' of our activities can be found on our website www.yac-canterbury.org.uk.

The club is run by myself and four main assistant leaders all of whom are fully DBS checked. Last spring Isobel Curwen from CAT and Martha Page (also at the time at CAT) agreed to help out and become assistant leaders. The members clearly enjoy being able to interact with Isobel and Martha and benefit from their knowledge, practical experience and enthusiasm.

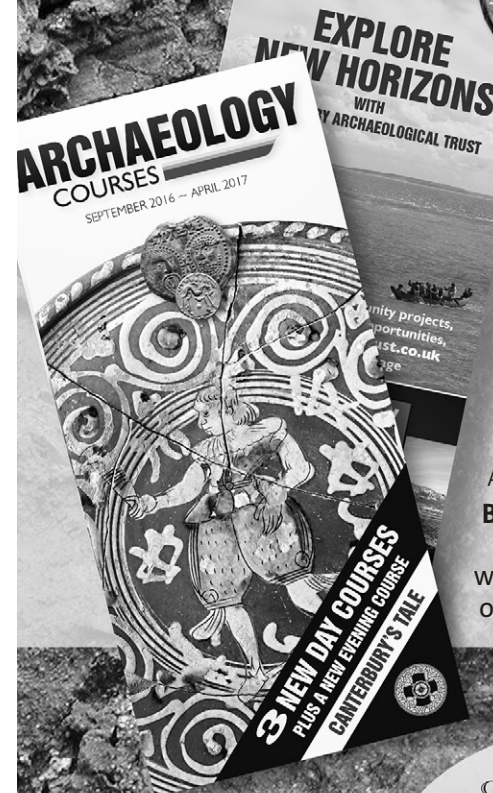
Due to the generous offers to host sessions from CAT and other organisations and a grant from KAS we are able to keep the annual membership fee to £15.

Anyone interested in coming along or possibly running a session or who has ideas for possible club visits is welcome to contact me on canterbury.yac@gmail.com.

I look forward to hopefully meeting you at FCAT events during the year.

Peter Walker, Branch Leader

ARCHAEOLOGY COURSES



Courses include:

First Steps in Archaeology

The Archaeology of Death An Introduction to

Environmental Archaeology **Protecting the Past**

A Crash Course in Roman Britain **Archaeology**

of the Kingdom of Kent Understanding and

Recording Stratigraphy **Roman Pottery in East Kent**

Archaeological Report Writing **Caesar to Claudius:**

Britain, Gaul and Rome from 55 BC to AD 43

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or pop in and pick up a leaflet

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EVENTS IN SUMMER 2017

FCAT lectures and events

Thursday 11th May at CCCU, Newton Ng07 at 7pm

Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh

The pilgrimage experience in late medieval Canterbury

Thanks to Geoffrey Chaucer, we have stories about the life of pilgrims on route to Canterbury, but what did they do when they arrived? Sheila Sweetinburgh talks about what pilgrims found in Canterbury and what they did, not only in the Cathedral but in its inns, many of which remain embedded in the city's fabric.

Thursday 8th June at CCCU, Newton Ng07 at 7pm

Dr Diane Heath

'From martyrdom to Magna Carta ...' The life, poetry and fate of Nigel Wireker monk of Canterbury

'May you live in interesting times' – the apocryphal ancient Chinese curse most certainly applied to Christ Church monk Nigel Wireker who lived through the turbulence of Becket's martyrdom, the burning of the Cathedral, the imprisonment of the priory monks in their inner cloister by their own archbishop, and the papal interdict under King John. How did he survive and flourish when national and supranational interests clashed, even writing the poem, *Speculum Stultorum* (A mirror of fools) in which Burnel the ass satirises his times? Diane draws on her extensive studies of the period including the Medieval bestiary to investigate this intriguing character in this, the 800th anniversary of his death.

Thursday 6th July at CCCU, Newton Ng07 at 7pm

Dr Richard Helm

Roman cemetery to Norman castle: recent excavations at Rhodas Town, Canterbury

Richard will talk about the exciting discoveries made during the very recent excavations at Rhodas Town which have revealed an extensive Roman cemetery as well as hugely significant evidence for William the Conqueror's motte and bailey castle built very soon after the Battle of Hastings to accommodate William and his army as they advanced on London. This is one of a number of recent and ongoing excavations transforming our understanding of extra-mural activity south of the city.

Above lectures held in association with Centre for Kent History and Heritage, CCCU



Donation suggested in support of the trust for all talks
FCAT members £2; non-members £3;
registered students welcome without charge

FCAT Excavations Visits

Paul Bennett hopes that visits to on-going excavations can be arranged including the long-awaited investigation at the important Slatter's Hotel site, Canterbury. It is not possible, given the unpredictability of such work, to indicate a date at present. Information will be circulated as and when dates are known.

But there is one certain opportunity for Members to visit a Trust excavation ...

Saturday, 29th July

Festival of Archaeology Open Day: East Wear Bay (see p 12).

The site has long been known as a Roman Villa. CAT training excavations in recent years have revealed that it was also a late Iron Age trading settlement, as well as the production site for a major industry producing querns from the local sandstone. The site will be open on 29th July as part of the Council for British Archaeology's Festival of Archaeology. Although the site will be open to visitors throughout the excavation, this Open Day will be something a little more special with finds displays and tours of the site. Further details at www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk/events/2726.

The Friends have been supporting the work financially so do come along to see the latest results.



Other events

Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society Summer Outings

Three summer outings have been arranged by the Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society. FCAT members are very welcome to join the trips. Details are on the CHAS website (www.canterbury-archaeology.org.uk) or contact the organiser as given below.

Saturday 10th May

Guided tour around Charing village and parish church, followed by a cream tea in the church hall. Contact Bob Collins, 01227 711458, email: korkydorch@hotmail.com.

Saturday 24th June

A visit by minibus to Hythe and Dymchurch. Contact Pauline Walters, 10227 766331, email: paulinewalters25@googlegmail.com.

Wednesday, 12th July

A day of Thanet churches. Travel will be by coach from Canterbury. Contact Gill Wyatt, 01843 294542, email: gillresearch@phonecoop.coop.

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

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

t: 01227 825280

f: 01227 784724

e: friends@canterburytrust.co.uk

w: canterburytrust.co.uk



Part of a memorial from
St Peter's Church, Sandwich.

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