

FRIENDS

of the

CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



The abbey church and cathedral of St Alban (pp 9–11).

Newsletter 105 spring 2018

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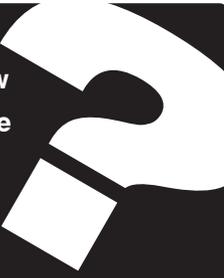
The next Newsletter will appear in July 2018.

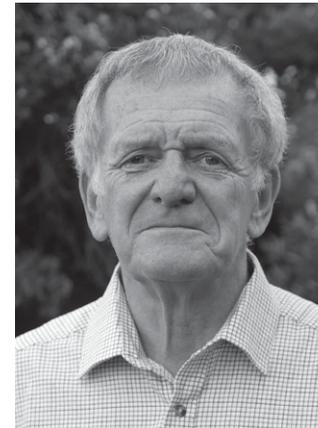
Please send contributions to chairFCAT@canterburytrust.co.uk by the beginning of June 2018.



Please note
 Donation suggested in support of the Trust for all talks: FCAT members £2; non-members £3; registered students and CAT staff very welcome without charge.

Have you moved house or changed your bank?
Don't forget to let our Membership Secretary know
(via memsecFCAT@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.





Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter to you looking out across a snow-covered Canterbury and if I switch my attention to the CAT web pages I can see live feeds of the Slatters site from three different cameras, all revealing a snow-covered and clearly very cold excavation. It takes me back quite a few years now to digging through the winter months – a testing time for archaeologists battling against the elements and sometimes rock-hard frozen stratigraphy; field archaeology is not just a fair-weather occupation and CAT's excavators very much need and deserve our help and support. The challenges have certainly been brought home to me this week. Two days ago, in the morning I was wandering among the pyramids on the Giza plateau outside Cairo basking in temperatures approaching 30° centigrade; later on the same day I arrived at Heathrow airport to

begin the drive home with temperatures also close to 30°, but this time fahrenheit! It was a real shock to the system.

Most of you will probably be aware of the sad break-in and vandalism at CAT's finds' store at Kingsmead and Paul Bennett discusses this further in his letter. You may rest assured that the Friends will be playing their part in providing help where they can.

After Paul Bennett's MBE last year, it is pleasing to see Tim Tatton Brown, the Trust's first director, being appointed OBE in the New Year Honours. Tim's work as Director of the Trust and Archaeologist to Canterbury Cathedral will be well known to many of you. In addition, he has been consultant archaeologist to Westminster Abbey, Westminster School, Lambeth Palace, St George's Chapel, Windsor and the cathedrals of Rochester, Chichester and Salisbury.

To return to Slatters, the much-awaited excavations are now fully underway, as Alison Hicks reveals elsewhere in this Newsletter. I am particularly interested to see whether the Roman theatre in all its grandeur, though by then almost certainly ruinous, acted as some sort of focus in the Anglo-Saxon period. It is most heartening that the developers have agreed to an elevated walkway where the public can view the excavations in progress. It also provides us with a major opportunity in a prime location in the centre of Canterbury, as on the Whitefriars excavations, to publicise the work of the Trust and hopefully increase the number of Friends. The intention is for Friends to act as stewards to explain what is happening on site to the hopefully many visitors. At the time of going to press we are not sure of what will be possible but when available requests to Friends for assistance will be circulated by email and posted on the Friends' part of the CAT website. Hopefully mid to late March will see things underway. Please keep watching these spaces but in the meantime if you would like to help with stewarding please email Annie Partridge: annie.partridge@canterburytrust.co.uk.

I trust that you really enjoy the various offerings in this Newsletter which all underline the Trust's ongoing interesting and important work and the commitment of its staff. Please continue to support CAT generously.

John Williams, Chair FCAT

Dear Friends,

We had a very bad start to the calendar year with burglaries at our Kingsmead finds' store. The damage inflicted to the premises by the thieves has been repaired and a more efficient alarm system has been installed. The losses to our education collections have been assessed and one remaining finds archive is presently being studied to establish what has been stolen. Although a significant number of objects have been taken from our education collections, particularly but not exclusively metal objects, Marion Green, our Education Officer and Andrew Savage, have cleared-up the terrible mess the criminals made, recorded what has been stolen and re-established both CAT Kit and CAT Boxes, so that our schools loans service is once again open for business.

Images of many of the stolen objects have been widely circulated to the police, to national databases, antique shops, auction houses and collectors. A number of our friends are keeping an eye on car boot sales, websites and e-bay, and we are forever hopeful that the police and our supporters will help us recover the lost elements of this really important resource. The only way we can fully establish what has been stolen is to check the entire archive and this work is nearing completion with the help of volunteers.

We are so very grateful to those of you who made donations to our 'disaster' fund to help pay for the damage to the archive store and to enhance security. The report of the break-in published on Facebook and our website went 'viral' in a very few days – now with over a million hits – and we have received messages of support from friends and well-wishers as far afield as America, New Zealand, Libya and Iraq. It has been a very difficult time but I for one have not given up hope that we will recover some of what has been stolen and I am very determined to see the criminals in court.

Elsewhere in these pages you will see reports on our excavations at St Albans and the start of our work on the former Slatters Hotel site in Canterbury.

The work at St Albans, brilliantly led by Ross Lane and Jess Twyman and undertaken by a small, hard-working team, has brought much credit to the Trust. The team won many admirers from the general public, the Dean and Chapter of St Albans and site contractors for their hard work and dedication. In the latter stages of the project, post-Christmas, a small band of volunteers travelled up from Canterbury to St Albans each Saturday to assist with the work and we are very grateful to them, particularly as it seemed to rain every Saturday. We are also grateful to a wonderful band of volunteers, including students from Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Kent who have been washing human bones recovered from the lay cemeteries of both Canterbury and St Albans cathedrals. They have done a truly marvellous job.

The Slatters excavation managed by Alison Hicks and directed by Tania Wilson has been underway since Christmas and has made good progress despite a very wet



Cleaning the Cathedral nave ceiling. Photo courtesy Canterbury Cathedral.

couple of months. After discussion with the developers we have arranged for the public to have access to an elevated scaffold walkway so that visitors can view the work as it unfolds. Watch out for notices in the local papers, our website and Facebook.

Our work assisting with the Cathedral Journey project continues, with a small team led by Phil Mayne completing groundworks beneath the new Visitor Centre and during landscaping. Rupert Austin and Neil Chaney are recording parts of the western towers, the clerestories and the triforia roofs, in advance of repairs to the fabric. Meanwhile, a separate team (Alex Vokes, Esther Lunardon and Mark Richardson) is systematically cleaning decades of dust and cobwebs from the nave ceiling. A scaffold 'crash-deck' – a marvellously engineered structure – has been built over the nave and our team are using scaffold towers and specialist hoovers from the deck. Even here new discoveries are being made on a daily basis, including early figurative devices, concealed beneath later armorial shields and many new masons' marks on window jambs and vault ribs.

Elsewhere Trust teams have been busy in past weeks in Dover, Whitfield, Thanet, Maidstone and Dartford. The first half of 2018 may prove to be very busy indeed. Watch this space and keep your fingers crossed that we catch our criminals!

Paul Bennett



Slatters Hotel, St Margaret's Street

Work is now well underway at the former Slatters Hotel site in the heart of Canterbury. The site is being developed, by Slatters Development Limited, to provide a new hotel for the city but prior to the start of construction a major archaeological excavation is taking place. The first few weeks of the project were occupied by machine work, involving the stripping away of the modern levels, the emptying of basements and the truncation of wells (even being found within the site boundary!). On 11 December, with the site strip complete, excavation of the archaeological levels commenced.

The archaeologists have 26 weeks to complete the excavation. At the time of writing, the team is well into the medieval levels. During this period, buildings would have stood along the St Margaret's Street frontage and the ground to the rear, where the main excavation lies, was expected to contain outbuildings, pits and boundary walls associated with them. These features have all been found, but in addition there is a complex of remains which appears to comprise walls, workshops and industrial features. A lovely double oven lies on the eastern side of the site, each oven built with circular brick walls and a compact clay floor. Flues originally led out to the north, but a later build of the western oven saw the flue relocated to the west. Although the finds from this feature have not yet been dated, it seems likely that the ovens are post-medieval, perhaps dating to the sixteenth or seventeenth century.

Further west there is a series of walls and yard surfaces and, to the north, a small building containing a room with clay floors and a small hearth. The hearth was constructed from a re-used piece of stone, possibly Marquis limestone, the centre hollowed out to form a bowl and the outer edges supporting a raised brickwork surround. The feature may have been used for metalworking, perhaps of bronze or lead, since metal droplets

were visible throughout the soil filling it. Other pits with metalworking debris cut the adjacent yard surface, one containing droplets of lead which had dribbled into the surrounding ground. Interestingly, when the hearth was dismantled, and the re-used stone turned over, it was found to have originally formed the base of a column.

Towards the south-west of the site, the yard surfaces abut a series of boundary walls, almost certainly demarcating the rear ground of road frontage properties. The site is, however, close to the churches of St Mary Bredin. The first church lay towards the western end of Rose Lane, originally constructed of timber in the second half of the eleventh century and rebuilt in stone in the late twelfth/thirteenth century. During the thirteenth century, the church was relocated eastwards to stand at the junction of Rose Lane and Gravel Walk. Pieces of worked stone, recovered from the backfill of one of the brick ovens and from deposits overlying the yard surfaces, may have come from these structures; a particularly fine stone face (above) has been provisionally dated to the mid twelfth century.

Work has also been taking place within the standing building on St Margaret's Street, as the floors are lowered to accommodate the new hotel. Here, sealed below modern debris are the remains of a building, comprising three narrow lengths of wall enclosing clay floors and a hearth. The structure is probably medieval in date and demonstrates the type of building which once stood along St Margaret's Street.



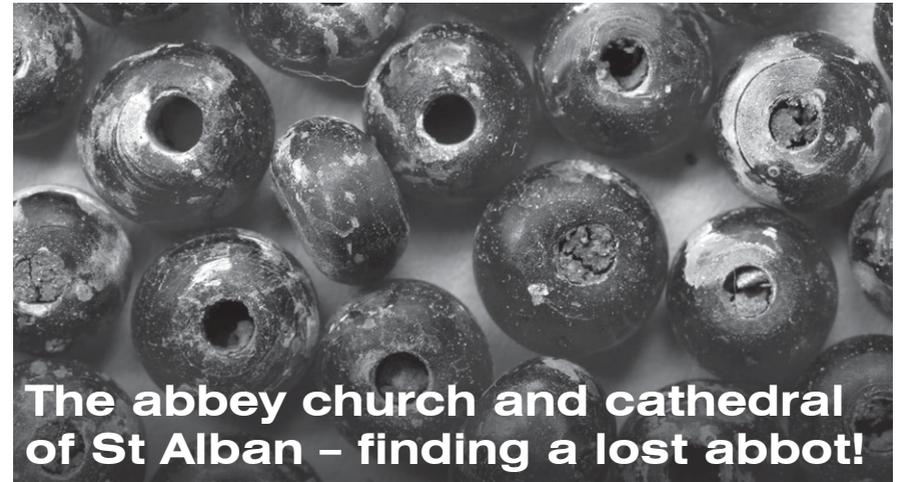
The double oven.

Once the medieval remains have been removed we will record the succession of earlier features and structures expected to survive below. The Roman theatre lies at the junction of Watling Street, Castle Street and St Margaret's Street. Whilst extending below the standing property in the corner of the site, it does not reach as far as the main excavation area, though occupation immediately adjacent will be revealed and is likely to comprise the type of Roman buildings and streets which were uncovered on the excavations beneath the Marlowe Arcade just a short distance away. A piece of Roman wall has already been exposed in the side of a modern pit, testament to the high quality remains which are likely to survive.

Perhaps more interesting, however, could be the Anglo-Saxon remains. It is known that the Roman theatre remained a focus for occupation into the Anglo-Saxon period, perhaps being used as a market or meeting place. One cellared structure has already been identified on the edge of the Slatters site, within a trench cut in the 1970s in Slatters Hotel yard, and others could well exist, perhaps similar to the complex of Anglo-Saxon buildings exposed during the Marlowe excavations. But will domestic occupation similar to that observed at Marlowe be seen so close to the theatre or could the space next to the remarkable theatre structure have been used for higher status buildings, or for other functions or activities? By the time of the next newsletter, we may have found out.

The team has until 24 June to uncover the remains. During this time, we hope to have a viewing area established in the near future along the side of the site, so that members of the public can see the work progressing. In the meantime, if you want to see the archaeologists at work, there are links to live camera feeds on the CAT website, at www.canterburytrust.co.uk.

Alison Hicks



The abbey church and cathedral of St Alban – finding a lost abbot!

The Trust has been working at St Albans Cathedral for the past six months ahead of the construction of a new visitor education and welcome centre. Commissioned by the Dean and Chapter and overseen by the Cathedral Archaeologist, Professor Martin Biddle, the team was tasked with excavating ground situated within the angle of the south-east transept and presbytery. The project *Alban, Britain's First Saint* is being primarily funded through a Heritage Lottery Grant, but also by numerous others, including members of the local congregation. The cathedral, thought to have been built over the third-century AD grave of St Alban, is famous for being the oldest continuous place of Christian worship in England.

The work has involved the identification, recording and removal of up to 140 post-medieval burials dating from between 1750 and 1850, when the area was used as a parish graveyard. These post-medieval graves reflect a wide demographic of the local lay population, who were commonly laid to rest in coffins. Infants and sub-adults were found close to the presbytery; an enigmatic child burial here had a string of plain blue glass beads wrapped around the left hand. Further away from the presbytery walls family plots were common, often with two or more individuals interred one above the other.

Preserved beneath the burials were the remains of a large medieval structure. Substantial foundations formed what must have been at least a two-storey building constructed against the presbytery and transept walls. Located within the centre of this chapel was a brick-lined tomb that contained the remains of an aged male. Associated were three papal bulls, granted to the abbey of St Alban by Pope Martin V in November 1423.

The presence of the bulls, together with documentary records, indicates that the tomb was almost certainly that of Abbot John of Wheathampstead. John was an abbot of

international renown, who died in 1465 and is recorded as being buried with three lead bulls, and indeed it was John who built the chapel in which he would later be buried.

Of particular interest is that these bulls are recorded in documents as being copies. The originals presumably remained with the documents to which they would have been attached and are now lost. They were purchased by the abbot directly from the Vatican and represent a personal memento, not only to what must have been extremely prestigious achievements but also to his good relationship with the pope.

The papal dictates granted to St Albans Abbey formed part of a successful attempt to make the abbey stand out amongst the monastic community of England, and in particular from Westminster and Canterbury Christ Church. The first exempted St Albans from the traditional abstention from meat for the whole of Lent, reducing it to just the period from the Sunday before Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, together with the vigil of the feast of St Alban. The second permitted the use of a portable altar at the abbey's London hostel and at property in Oxford that was used to accommodate student monks. Abbot John had very close links with the University of Oxford, having undertaken his degree there and made contributions to its library. Perhaps the most significant bull, the third, renewed a privilege granted by Pope Boniface VIII (1294–1303) allowing the abbey to farm the income of its properties (including churches) without recourse to papal, episcopal or other licence.

Cut by the chapel and John's tomb were the remains of the massive apse-ended chapels of the Norman cathedral. The existence of the apses was anticipated due to the presence of Norman features surviving inside the cathedral. The area of the site was also used as an early cemetery, with at least twenty burials identified and excavated from this phase of activity. These grave cuts, rather than being simple rectangles,



One of the papal bulls.

respected the human form (opposite left), as was common in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. A few burials were placed within tombs constructed from re-used Roman tile and mortar (opposite right). Documentary evidence indicates that many of the occupants of this cemetery, being buried close to the church, were early benefactors and monks of the abbey. The earliest feature on the site is a large ditch, potentially of late Anglo-Saxon date.

Ross Lane

The Osteoarchaeological Project: a weekend workshop

Over the weekend of 18th and 19th November I attended a practical human osteology course at North Hertfordshire Museum in Hitchin.

For two days, under the supervision of Dr David Kingle of the University of Cambridge, we analyzed twenty-four individuals from 2-month-old infants to 60-plus year old, both male and female. All the skeletons are part of the museum's collection from the excavations at neighbouring Baldock. Since 1925, when the first burials were discovered, more than 2,000 inhumations have been recorded from at least twenty-two formal cemeteries currently known in the town, including five pre-Roman square enclosures, an early inhumation cemetery and early Roman mixed-rite (cremation and inhumation) and late to sub-Roman inhumation cemeteries (*The cemeteries of Roman Baldock*, K J Fitzpatrick-Matthews, 2016).

In a communal brainstorming of ideas and professional opinions we managed to complete the paperwork for all the specimens. This included the inventory and description of the condition of the bones, and finalizing all the metric traits in order to assess the sex and the age of death and, where relevant, the stature of the individuals.

I had the chance to observe unusual pathological traits, such as a mandibular tumour, and also a severe case of vertebral osteoporosis on an old female, whose lumbar vertebrae had almost collapsed into each other. I learnt too about non-pathological traits, which are harmless but abnormal disorders, and how often we find them in ancient remains. There were numerous examples of bone infection and different traumas, for example the skeleton of a male who lived with a dislocated shoulder



Remains of woman from Baldock (aged about 40 and 1.50m tall) with three babies, buried c AD 70–90:
1 = probably stillborn, 2 = breech in birth canal and probably the cause of the woman's death, 3 = unborn.

for so many years that the proximal end of the humerus enlarged massively, trying to compensate for the gap in the articulation. Seeing all these examples on real individuals made me aware in a way of how very alive is the human skeleton, and how eloquent.

Although the name Baldock was familiar to me when I heard where the course was to be held, it was only when I arrived and met archaeologist Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews that I realized it was he who supervised the 1989 excavation at Baldock where they found the 'woman with three babies', the earliest known case of triplets. This caught my attention when I saw the documentary, made by Professor Sue Black from Dundee University in 2011 (www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNW2HWtXT_U&t=3s). To my delight and great excitement, the remains were displayed in the museum and we had the chance to see them while listening to Keith telling us all about the excavation.

At the end of the second day, David presented his brilliant research regarding health in Roman and early Anglo-Saxon Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. This compares skeletal issues like nutritional stress markers, dental pathologies, infections, degenerative joint disease etc in hundreds of individuals from both periods, with some impressive conclusions and results. It is an area in which I am particularly interested.

I would like to thank the Friends for this amazing opportunity, providing a grant to cover the costs of attending this course. I hope that I can utilize both my existing skills and the guidance I received over the weekend to provide advice on dealing with human remains both in the field and in post-excavation work at CAT.

Adelina Teoaca

HABATA: Iron Age buildings from Canterbury and beyond

In 2013 the Trust carried out a major excavation at the site of Turing College on the hillside overlooking the valley floor to the north of the city of Canterbury. The team uncovered a major Iron Age settlement, much of which seemed to have been devoted to the production of metalwork, textiles and ceramics, each manufactured in distinct zones within the settlement. The discoveries represent a rich and important chapter in the history of Canterbury and south-eastern Britain, which is slowly being pieced together by Ross Lane in his post-excavation analysis of the site. The major *floruit* of activity occurred in the early and middle Iron Age, between 800 and 350 BC – some 90% of the pottery retrieved from the site was of this date. Of particular interest was the range of structural evidence: small four-post buildings thought to be granaries, possible round-houses typical of the Iron Age, rectangular buildings and unusual sunken-floored structures.



Reconstructed houses at Samara Archaeological Park, Amiens, France.

In 2016 the Trust was invited to collaborate in an international 'PCR' (Collective Research Programme) by the University of Lille and INRAP. The programme is entitled 'HABATA' (*L'habitat de l'âge du Bronze à La Tène ancienne*) and aims to bring together archaeologists from northern France and neighbouring countries to study settlement architecture in the Bronze and Iron Ages of the Transmanche zone. Clearly the Trust's discoveries at Turing College and elsewhere in Kent had much

to contribute to this study, and likewise our involvement could only enrich and enhance our understanding of our own material. We therefore gladly accepted this invitation.

Several meetings of the project team followed, and in November 2017 a one-day conference was organised at Lille University (*L'habitat de l'âge du Bronze à La Tène ancienne dans les Hauts-de-France et ses marges*) to present and discuss the preliminary results of the project. Both Ross Lane and I attended the meeting thanks to generous financial assistance from the Friends. The main focus of the project is on the archaeology of the newly formed region of Hauts-de-France, but also encompasses that of Normandie, Grand-Est, Île-de-France and Centre in France, Flanders in Belgium and Kent in the UK.

Yann Lorin and Natalie Buechez presented the results of the team from Hauts-de-France, an ambitious programme attempting to articulate the chronological development of structural architecture from the late Neolithic through to the later Iron Age. This was an impressive paper bringing together a host of data and many unpublished sites that I was not previously aware of. This was the starting point of the day; how would their model stand up to scrutiny as the net was widened to include the archaeology of the regions surrounding Hauts-de-France?

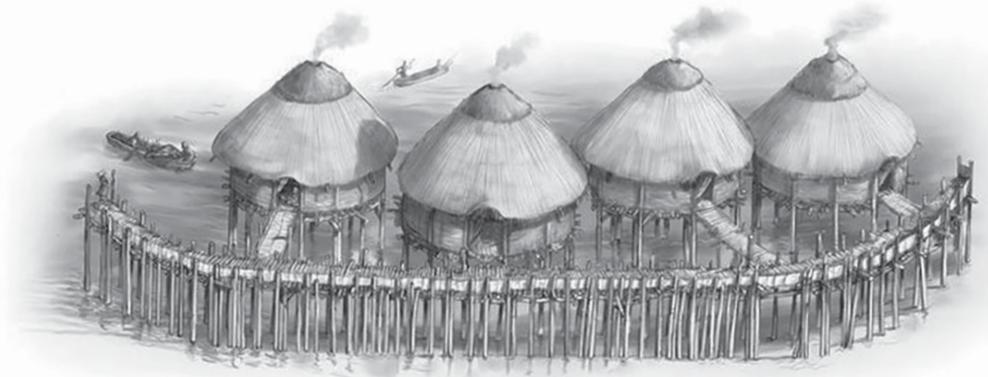
Guy de Mulder from Ghent University described the development of buildings of the Bronze and Iron Age in Flanders. These were mostly of rectangular form with some regional variation (the mid second-millennium houses of eastern Flanders seem to be smaller and of simpler 'single-nave' construction), and there may be a chronological move from post-built to wall-trench construction. Though relatively uncommon, round-houses are known from western Belgium such as the late Iron Age example from Sint-Martiens-Latem in East Flanders.

Vincent Riquier gave an excellent wide-ranging presentation of later prehistoric buildings in Champagne (Grand-Est), emphasising the influence of underlying geology (limestone/chalk/granite) on both archaeological survey (nearly all survey work has taken place on the chalk plains of the region) and the types of building

(mostly rectangular post-built structures, but with some with dwarf walls of daub, and the occasional circular round-house - it was surprising to learn of such structures so far east). Chronologically there seems to have been an enormous expansion of settlement after 1325 BC which then declined in the later Iron Age towards 175 BC. Intriguingly, he also presented some plans of what appeared to be simple four-post structures, that we would consider to be 'granaries' here but interpreted there as larger squarish buildings, the four posts merely being central supports. When I asked him about the evidence for this, he showed me that in some instances there are traces of minor post-holes marking the position of the external wall. These would easily be lost if the site had been truncated. In an excellent case study, he showed the effect of truncation in identifying buildings; a slide showed an archaeological site with no truncation where over 14 buildings could be traced; losing 20cm to truncation (by ploughing or some such) meant that only 8-9 buildings could be seen; with 30cm truncation no buildings were visible at all! Perhaps we in the UK should be more cautious when automatically interpreting our four-post structures as 'granaries'...

Rebecca Peake then spoke about the settlements of the Parisian Basin (Centre/Île de France) during the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age transition. She focussed on the hierarchy of settlement types; simple farms (*fermes*) represented by clusters of pits without organisation, hamlets (*hameaux*) with basic rectangular buildings and 'aristocratic' sites (*sites aristocratiques*) with very large 'family houses' sometimes set within imposing fortifications, as at Villiers-sur-Seine (Seine-et-Marne).

Emmanuel Ghesquière and Cyril Marcigny took yet another perspective on the late prehistoric settlements of Normandy. Here they had identified an alternating pattern of cold and warm environments throughout the first millennium BC, each lasting around 100-350 years. There seems to be a correlation between settlement types and the climate; during warm periods farms were often set within enclosure ditches, whilst in cold periods open settlement was the norm. Why this should be was not clear.



Reconstruction of the houses at Must Farm, Peterborough. Illustration courtesy Adolfo Arranz and Chris Bickel.

Professor Colin Haselgrove from Leicester University presented the results of two major research projects into the late prehistoric archaeology of north-west Europe, highlighting outstanding problems and areas where more research is required. Finally, Mark Knight from Cambridge stunned us all with his spectacular images of the perfectly preserved late Bronze Age pile-dwelling at Must Farm, Peterborough, surely one of the most impressive archaeological sites undertaken anywhere in Europe in recent years.

So, all in all a very useful day with so many researchers approaching their material from different perspectives and a wealth of new data to think about; the proceedings of the conference will be published in a special edition of *Revue du Nord*. Thanks again to the Friends for allowing Ross and me to attend.

Peter Clark

The Ian Coulson Annual Bursary for Local History and Archaeology in Kent Schools

This annual bursary has been established by Kent Archaeological Society in memory of Ian Coulson, following a proposal from the KAS Education Committee of which we are both members, Marion being secretary. Ian was Adviser for History in Kent schools for over 25 years and a close friend and supporter of the Trust. Two of his great passions were Kent's local history and archaeology and teachers in primary and secondary schools are invited to apply for the £1000 bursary to develop digital classroom resources based on either or both of these subjects, for the benefit of other schools in the county.

The winner of the 2017 bursary was St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, Gravesend, where teachers are currently developing with their students a local history project based on the First World War. Using as a starting point the names on their local war memorial, pupils are carrying out research to produce biographies of soldiers from their local area. With the help of local historians and surviving family members, they are using a variety of sources including local newspapers, census returns and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website. A visit to the First World War battlefields and cemeteries is an integral part of the project.

The first name on the war memorial to be researched was Thomas Boucher. Pupils found out that he was born in Northfleet in 1897. His parents were John, a butcher and fire brigade officer and Mary. Mary Boucher had six children and the family lived at 7 Dover Road, Northfleet. Thomas was training to be an engineer when war

Pte. T. W. G. Boucher (Northfleet)

The Tanks.

KILLED IN ACTION.

His parents have learnt through another son that Pte. Thomas Walter Guy Boucher, of The Tank Corps, third son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Boucher, of Northfleet, was killed in action on November 23rd, in the great push on Cambrai. He enlisted as a Gunner in the M.M.G.C. in the early part of July, 1915, a few weeks after he had attained his 18th birthday. When the Tank Corps was formed he was drafted into it. He was only 20 years of age when he met his death. Having been educated at the Modern School, Gravesend, the deceased was apprenticed as an engineer to Messrs. J. and E. Hall, Dartford. Before leaving for France in February, 1916, his C.O. gave him the opportunity of returning to his own trade, but he elected to remain in his Corps and fight for his Country. He went through the battle of Messines, and when the driver of his Tank was wounded early in the action, Pte. Boucher took his place, gained the objective and brought the crew back to safety. On August 16th the officer in charge of the Tank was killed, as well as one of the Gunners, the sergeant died of wounds, and three other members of the crew were taken away wounded, leaving only the driver and himself out of the original crew.

From the Kent Messenger, 15 December 1917.



Thomas Boucher 1897-1917.

broke out in the summer of 1914. He enlisted with the Royal Field Artillery in 1915 and was later transferred to the Machine Gun Corps and then the Tank Corps. He fought at the Battle of Messines in 1917, taking control of a Mark IV tank when its driver was seriously wounded. He was killed, shortly after his 21st birthday, when his tank was hit by artillery during the Battle of Cambrai on 23 November 1917. Thomas Boucher has no known grave but his name is inscribed on the Cambrai Memorial at Louverval.

The project is forging powerful links between pupils and the young men, not much older than they are, who volunteered to serve their King and Country one hundred years ago, never to return. There is no doubt that Ian would approve of this project.

Full details of St John's project, including guidance for teachers, will be posted on the CAT and KAS websites later in 2018. Applications for the 2018 bursary will be accepted after April 1st. See www.canterburytrust.co.uk/learning/schools/coulson-bursary/ for how to apply.

Andy Harmsworth, FCAT and
Marion Green, CAT Education Officer

canterburytrust.co.uk

Community Archaeology from Hampshire to Glasgow

As winter set in so did the season of conferences in archaeology! Before Christmas I was fortunate to secure funding from the Friends to attend two conferences on community archaeology, one in Lyndhurst, Hampshire, and one in Glasgow. Both were fantastic opportunities for networking with fellow community archaeologists from across the UK (and beyond!), and for seeing how other community groups across the country are engaging with their heritage.

In Hampshire I was invited to the 'New Forest Knowledge Conference' by James Brown, a fellow ClfA Voluntary and Community Group committee member who is the community archaeologist for the New Forest. Amongst other things he works with LiDAR survey data to find new sites buried in the forest; this is then followed up by a site visit and sometimes a geophysical survey. LiDAR is an aerial survey usually carried out from a plane but sometimes by drone. A laser is fired at the ground and the time it takes to return to the source is recorded, enabling very close-contour terrain modelling to be achieved. This can show up what are now subtle earthworks but which could be the remains of old banks and ditches and other landscape features. LiDAR has gained popularity in archaeology because it can penetrate vegetation masking sites, even tree cover, something which can be frustrating when studying aerial photographs. In the New Forest a LiDAR survey of the entire forest was commissioned, and the results have allowed groups to find dozens of new sites which they have fed back into the Historic Environment Record for anyone to use.

Several LiDAR surveys have been undertaken in Kent. In 2010 Kent Wildlife Trust undertook a LiDAR survey of the Blean outside Canterbury. Another survey has looked at the interesting earthworks around the Bigbury hillfort. LiDAR survey has also been undertaken as part of the Medway 'Valley of Visions' project and the Shorne Woods and Cobham community archaeological projects. More about these projects can be found via the links below.

The second conference I attended was 'Scotland's Heritage Community Conference' in Glasgow. This annual conference aims to celebrate community projects but also discuss serious issues around community engagement. One of the big topics was funding, especially outside the Heritage Lottery Fund, and I gave a short paper on this with East Wear Bay as a case study. The paper was very well received and resulted in many of the conference attendees finding me out through the weekend to discuss the topic further. One gentleman even chased me down the street after the conference ended, which is a bit disconcerting in Glasgow, I can tell you! There are deep concerns among community archaeologists about our over-reliance on the HLF to fund our projects (and therefore our jobs!) especially as interest in the National Lottery dwindles

and ticket sales are in decline. Further discussions were had concerning accessibility, audience participation, expectations (of both archaeologists and volunteers), and the use of technology in archaeological interpretations, amongst many other things.

It is my hope that in the next few years there could be an archaeology conference in Kent for community groups to come together and share their projects. There is so much great community work going on in Kent, not just through CAT but through local groups and KCC, and it would be wonderful if we could all get together and share our projects and ideas. Who knows - some interesting collaborations might come out of it!

Annie Partridge

Historic England's notes on LiDAR: www.historicengland.org.uk/research/methods/airborne-remote-sensing/lidar/.

The Blean: www.theblean.co.uk/blean-lidar-project/lidar-map/.

Bigbury: www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/infcd-8gz33.

'Valley of Visions': www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/infcd-8zkbks.

Shorne Woods: www.shornewoodsarchaeology.co.uk/cobham-landscape-detectives.

See also, Forest Woodland and Settlement conference, p 27.

St Edmund's Chapel, Dover

A little under 800 years ago in 1253, during the reign of King Henry III, a unique chapel was built in Dover, under the orders of the Augustinian monks who were resident in the nearby St Martin's Priory. The chapel played a significant part in the quest of pilgrims journeying to the shrine of St Thomas Becket in Canterbury. It has been named the 'Miracle Chapel' due to three significant events which have nearly caused its total destruction, the latest in the second half of the twentieth century when road-widening was proposed, but more about this further on.

Today the chapel stands as a jewel in the town centre, located between the ruins of the priory of St Martin (now in Dover College grounds) and the ancient Maison Dieu (formerly the site of the pilgrims' hospice). It has attracted, and still attracts many visitors who wish to visit the building and marvel at its simple structure. It complements the town's many ancient and historic sites such as Dover Castle, the White Cliffs, the Napoleonic fortifications on the Western Heights, and the Maison Dieu (latterly the Town Hall). It is almost certainly the second oldest functional building in Dover.

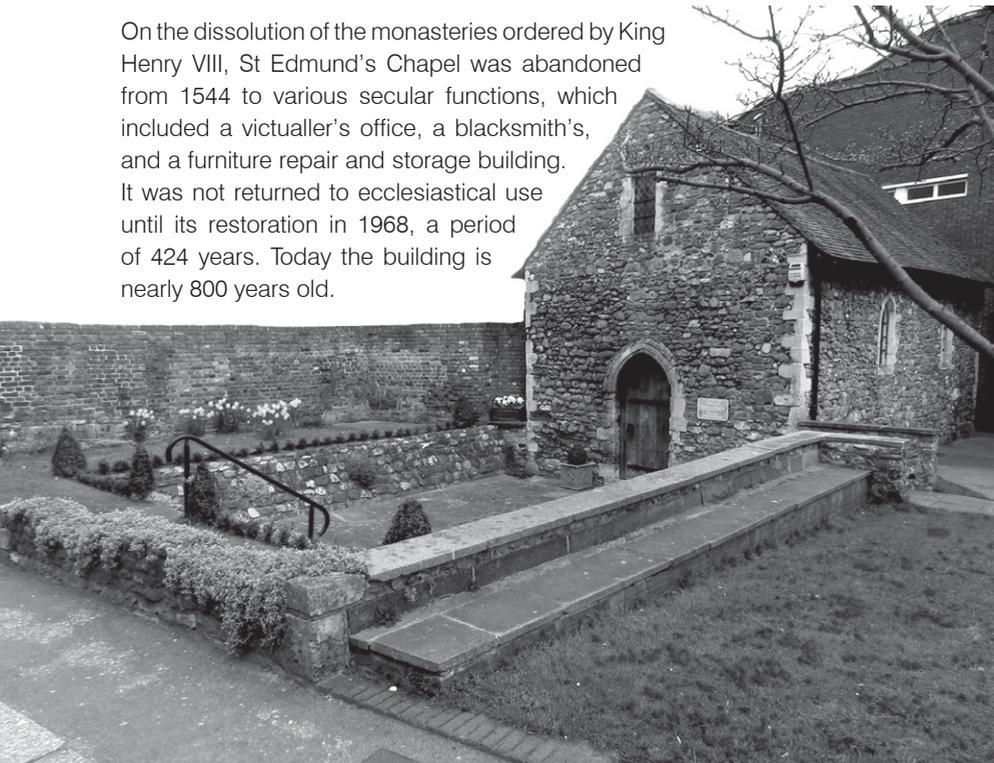
History of the chapel

In 1131, King Henry I granted a charter which founded the priory of St Martin of Tours at Dover under the jurisdiction of Archbishop Corbeil of Canterbury. It was built just outside the town walls on the site of what is now Dover College, between Priory Road and Dover Priory railway station. In addition to their monastic duties of prayer and

worship, the monks managed a large farm and provided well-used shelter for pilgrims who were travelling from Europe to Canterbury. They also catered for crusaders, pilgrims and VIPs going to the Holy Land or to the pilgrim shrines of Europe. In order to ease the pressure on accommodation, the Earl of Kent, Baron Hubert de Burgh, built the Dover Maison Dieu in 1203 (now beneath the stone hall part of Dover Town Hall). From 1231, the Maison Dieu was run by a series of masters and brethren appointed by the prior of St Martin's.

The monks established a cemetery outside the priory walls for the poor of the town and for those who died on pilgrimage. Within the cemetery they built a small chapel, which Bishop Richard of Chichester was asked to consecrate in March 1253. Sadly, Richard was frail and ill, and died in the hospice in the Dover Maison Dieu just four days later, but he chose to dedicate the chapel to his former master and patron, Saint Edmund of Abingdon, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1234 to 1240. Bishop Richard himself was canonised in 1262 and so St Edmund's Chapel achieved the unique distinction of being the only place of worship in England dedicated to an English saint that was also consecrated by an English saint. Bishop Richard celebrated his last mass and preached his last sermon in St Edmund's Chapel.

On the dissolution of the monasteries ordered by King Henry VIII, St Edmund's Chapel was abandoned from 1544 to various secular functions, which included a victualler's office, a blacksmith's, and a furniture repair and storage building. It was not returned to ecclesiastical use until its restoration in 1968, a period of 424 years. Today the building is nearly 800 years old.



Following the desecration by Henry VIII, the chapel escaped the shellfire of two world wars. A Second World War shell did, however, fall in front of the chapel destroying buildings along the pavement but not the chapel. Lastly its demolition was ordered by Dover Borough Council for road-widening purposes, but the patronage of the then Prime Minister Harold



McMillan had an arresting effect. It was finally saved from this 'redevelopment' by Fr Terence Edmund Tanner, RC priest of Dover, who organised an emergency private purchase with the help of friends and associates and raised funds for its subsequent expert restoration, which was carried out under the direction of the late historic buildings consultant architect, Anthony Swaine of Canterbury. The work was paid for by private subscriptions, mainly from Anglican and Roman Catholic sources and the St Edmund of Abingdon Memorial Trust was created, charged with the conservation of the chapel, which was re-consecrated in 1968 by the Archbishop of Southwark.

Today we have a building which is 75 per cent the original structure. Its stones heard the prayers of St Richard himself in 1253, and witnessed the many attacks on the town in times of war and lifestyle changes to its inhabitants. The chapel is the property of the Saint Edmund of Abingdon Memorial Trust, a non-denominational Christian body whose policy is that the chapel should be conserved and available for worship by any Christian denomination.

We try and open the chapel every Wednesday from May to September from 10am-2pm. Do come along and visit us. We are very short of volunteers to man the chapel during this time so if anyone is interested in joining a rota please contact Paul Smye-Rumsby (email paul.sr@ntlworld.com or phone 07753 201839). The chapel is available for any Christian denomination to use. If you can't make one of our opening days or wish to bring a group for a visit, again contact Paul. If you would like to make a donation towards the chapel upkeep, either a one-off or a regular payment which can be gift-aided, please contact the Clerk to the Chapel Trust, Mary Smye-Rumsby (email marysmye@gmail.com or phone 07906 980035).

*Paul Smye-Rumsby, Chairman
St Edmund of Abingdon Memorial Trust*

A new CAT course ...and they came in droves!

A new Archaeology Course 'Pottery identification: a beginner's guide' was fully booked soon after being advertised. Delivered in November, the course was very well received, as some of the feedback comments below testify.

The day included an introduction, 'What is pottery?', outlining its value to archaeologists (why we spend so much time looking at it), how we recognise it among other ceramic material (and sometimes can be misled) and how we distinguish one type from another (not always easy). There were also presentations on the principal types of pottery found on Kent's prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval sites. Participants took away a booklet illustrating these presentations. To add variety and give the group the opportunity to see how much they had absorbed, a challenging handling activity, utilizing our fabric and form reference collections, was part of the day.

Participants came from near (Canterbury), pretty far away (Cambridgeshire and Suffolk) and points in between (Folkestone, Tunbridge Wells, Saltwood and London) and their interests and reasons for attending the course were varied. Feedback was very positive and people said they had learned a lot. One of the aims of the day was in fact to impress on people how complex pottery identification can be. It is only when you have experienced dealing with tonnes of sherds on a regular basis that you realise this. However, people still left happy and encouraged rather than being overwhelmed!

Several members of Trust staff had shown an interest in coming along, but unfortunately there is a limit to how many can fit in our library and this was soon reached by paying-participants. It is hoped, however, that there may be some opportunity for in-house tuition in the future. As it happened, the 'Introduction to Roman pottery' course followed on the subsequent Saturday and four members of staff came along. All really enjoyed the course and said how much they had benefitted from the day. It was good to see them.

Marion Green and Andrew Savage

ARCHAEOLOGY
COURSES

“A very interesting and useful course. Well worth travelling from Cambridgeshire for”

“Great that it was broken up with a mixture of slides, talking and handling activities”



“Thank you very much for a very enjoyable day. I learned a whole lot and am very grateful for the booklet”

We especially liked one response to our question 'What did you like least about the day?' which was,

“The end”



ARCHAEOLOGY
COURSES

EVENTS Spring – Summer 2018

FCAT lectures with CKHH

Thursday 22 March 2018, 7pm, Newton Ng03
Excavations on the site of Slatters Hotel, Canterbury
Alison Hicks

Thursday 10 May 2018, 7pm, Newton Ng07
Finding Eanswythe a community history and archaeology project on
Folkestone's Anglo-Saxon royal saint
Dr Lesley Hardy and Dr Ellie Williams



The parish church of St Mary and St Eanswythe after the first phase of restoration in 1865. Photo courtesy Kent Archaeological Society.

Advance notice!

Michael Wood has agreed to come to Canterbury to give an evening lecture on Tuesday 30 October 2018. The title is not yet confirmed, but his visit coincides with 'Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms' a major new Anglo-Saxon exhibition opening at the British Library on 19 October. The lecture is being organised by the Centre for Kent History and Heritage at Canterbury Christ Church University.

Other events

Canterbury Archaeological Trust
Saturday 24 March 2018, Canterbury Archaeological Trust Library
First Steps in Archaeology
One-day course. Fee: £45 (£40 for FCAT)
Andrew Richardson
For booking see http://www.canterburytrust.co.uk/community_archaeology/archaeology-courses/day-courses/

Centre for Kent History and Heritage
Friday 6 April – Sunday 8 April 2018, Old Sessions House and throughout the city
Medieval Canterbury Weekend
For programme details and booking see Newsletter 104 and <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/arts-and-humanities/school-of-humanities/medieval-canterbury-weekend/medieval-canterbury-weekend.aspx>

Friday 20 April – Sunday 22 April 2018, North Holmes Road Campus
Forest, Woodland and Settlement: Medieval Settlement Research Group
Spring Conference
<http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/arts-and-humanities/events/arts-and-humanities/soh/forest-woodland-and-settlement.aspx>

Centre for Kent History and Heritage with the Kent History Federation
Saturday 12 May 2018, Old Sessions House and throughout the city
Tudor and Stuart Canterbury
For programme details and booking see <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/arts-and-humanities/events/arts-and-humanities/ckhh/tudor-and-stuart-canterbury-conference.aspx>

Centre for Kent History and Heritage with the Royal Museums Greenwich and Kent Archaeological Society
Friday 22 June – Saturday 23 June 2018, Old Sessions House
Maritime Kent through the Ages
For programme and booking: artsandculture@canterbury.ac.uk or 01227 782994 or see <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/arts-and-humanities/events/arts-and-humanities/ckhh/maritime-kent-through-the-ages.aspx>



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