

FRIENDS
of CANTERBURY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUST

Newsletter

*Strip, Map and
Sample.*
(see page 6).

SPRING 2023

Nº 120



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.....

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

The next Newsletter will appear in July 2023. Please send contributions to: chairFCAT@canterburytrust.co.uk by the beginning of June.

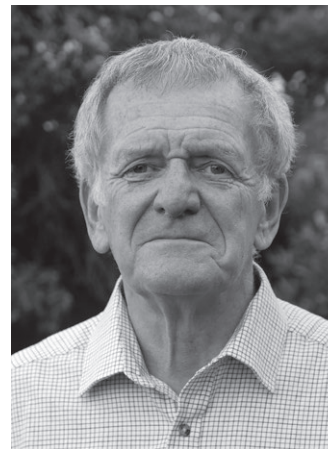
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Please note

Donation suggested in support of the Trust for all talks:
 FCAT members £2; non-members £3; registered students and
 C-A-T 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,
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 are up-to-date.**



Dear Friends,

At the time of writing this letter it is good to see the days lengthening and indeed a succession of days with blue skies. Again, Canterbury is rather more vibrant than this time last year with both locals and visitors returning to the city. Let us hope that it is all a portent of things to come, in spite of the troubled world around us. I hope that we will see more Friends now at live events.

As usual there are some interesting and varied contributions in the Newsletter ranging from an update of CAT's current activities by Alison Hicks, through an introduction to 'Unlocking Our Past' on CAT's website, to

a review of Jake Weekes' visit to the Theoretical Archaeological Group conference in Edinburgh, to work on an important Canterbury medieval cartulary.

I would, however, like to focus on two things. Jon Rady's introduction to 'Strip, Map and Sample' takes me back to my own archaeological experience with projects such as Kent road schemes and indeed that enormous undertaking, the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. It is worth reflecting that apart from a few projects, such as Mucking, the landscape approach to archaeology is a comparatively recent innovation and yet its benefits to the understanding of the past are so immense. A very real advantage archaeologically of strip, map and sample over trial trenching and then selective excavation is that decisions are being taken on what to excavate in detail based on seeing the totality of the plan of a given area rather than sometimes only a fraction of the area being developed – perhaps as little as 2% of the total area being developed but hopefully more. This can be particularly advantageous where a given piece of landscape may contain dispersed features of limited size such as Anglo-Saxon sunken featured buildings (Grubenhäuser) or indeed isolated Beaker burials. Total stripping also enables the archaeologist to see where parts of a landscape are completely devoid of features and, indeed, it can also be argued that the blank spaces between and within settlements and other areas of activity are sometimes as informative about the evolution and meaning of the landscape as areas where more is visible. Jon's introduction to 'Strip, Map and Sample' sets it all out so clearly.

And then you will see under Events that on 31 May Keith Parfitt will be talking to the Friends about his life in archaeology, indeed very much his life in Kentish archaeology. Keith will be retiring in the spring – not that I expect that he will then be any less energetic in his archaeological endeavours! We will celebrate in the next newsletter not so much his retirement but all his contributions to CAT and the archaeology of Kent, and the talk will be an excellent opportunity to hear it all from Keith in person in a

live talk. The last 50 years have seen so many changes in the world of archaeology in this country, in terms of its organisation, the role of development-led archaeology, the introduction of scientific techniques and so much more besides, see for example my previous paragraph. I am certainly looking forward to Keith's talk – indeed I have just been arranging to spend some time visiting historical sites in Rome but I will be coming back on 30 May so as not to miss the talk the next day.

I am hoping that all will go well with the fundraising for the archaeological work at East Wear Bay (see FCAT newsletter 118) and that the late summer will see another campaign of work there, which will both help to recover more of the site's interesting story and also provide opportunities for Friends to engage in onsite archaeological work. In the meantime let us hope for a spring and summer where we will be able to enjoy the past and the present in town and the countryside.

John Williams, Chair FCAT



Dear Friends

Dear Friends,

Since the writing of the last newsletter, the field teams have been busy in various parts of Kent, coping with the worst of the winter weather. In November and December, it seemed that the rain would never stop falling and some of our sites were, quite literally, under water whilst others turned into a sea of mud. And then, towards the end of the year, the rain changed to snow. Thankfully January saw drier, albeit cold, weather with some incredible frosty mornings and consequential

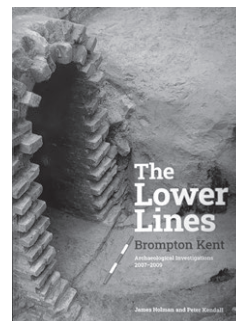
frozen ground. But the teams have, as always, risen to the challenge and continued to uncover archaeological remains in advance of development. They have been busy in Faversham and near Ashford, and also on a number of sites in Thanet where we are revealing multi-period features and deposits within a cluster of sites earmarked for housing.

We have also been engaged in nurturing new archaeological talent, both in the office and in the field. Martha and Rich have joined us in the Finds Department, Martha specialising on the pottery assemblages and Rich the registered finds. In the field, three new trainees – Aedan, Humaira and Olivia – joined us in January, enrolled on our 12-week CIfA approved training scheme which will give them the skills and knowledge to work as field archaeologists. In November last year, we appointed one of our senior archaeologists, Mark, to the position of Trainee Geoaerchaeology Fieldwork Technician, to

record, analyse and report on geoaerchaeological sequences identified on site, and we are currently in the process of recruiting a new environmental assistant who will learn the skills associated with the extraction of remains from environmental samples.

Hopefully some of you were able to travel over to Rochester Art Gallery to see the exhibition by CAT's artist in residence, Bryan Hawkins – *The Ghost of Other Things* – which ran from 28 October to 14 January. The exhibition, a collaboration between Medway Archives Centre, Rochester Guildhall Museum, Medway Council and CAT, was inspired by the excavations conducted at Innovation Park Medway, where remains spanning the late Bronze Age to early Roman period were uncovered on the site of the former airfield. The exhibition was very well received and was a wonderful mix of art and archaeology. Discussions are now taking place to see what can be devised to engage audiences as part of the 2023 Canterbury Festival.

Audience engagement with archaeology is something the Trust has promoted since its inception, and we have an excellent history in this regard. The Friends of CAT, of course, form a big part of this. It is good, though, that our outreach and education activities are reviewed from time to time and, thanks to a successful application for NHLF funding, we are now doing just that. There is no suggestion that we would do less – after all, our charitable remit is 'to promote the advancement of public education in the subject of archaeology' – but rather we wish to understand better the groups and individuals we are reaching with our work, and explore how we can both continue to engage with them and also reach further afield. External consultants have been conducting a survey and talking with interested parties both inside and outside the Trust. Over the next couple of months, they will be reviewing the feedback and we will be reflecting on the results of their study, ensuring that our delivery remains current and relevant.



In the meantime, our social media output continues unabated and I hope all of you who are signed up to the various platforms enjoy our content. You will probably have spotted that we have a new publication out – *The Lower Lines, Brompton, Kent. Archaeological investigations 2005-2009*, by James Holman and Peter Kendall. This reports on CAT excavations at two sites associated with the Lower Lines defences of Chatham Dockyard and presents fascinating pieces of military history, particularly siege training during the nineteenth century. Another book shortly to hit the shelves is *Farming, everyday life and ritual. 6000 years of archaeology at Thanet Earth*, by James Holman, Robert Masefield, Jonathan Rady and Jake Weekes, presenting the results of the CAT excavations at Thanet Earth conducted between 2007 and 2008. Both of these publications will be a great addition to the collections of all those interested in the history of Kent.

Alison Hicks, Director

‘Strip, Map and Sample’ excavations

One of the main, and often larger scale types of archaeological work undertaken by the Trust consists of what are termed *Strip, Map and Sample* excavations. These are usually (but not exclusively) carried out in rural locations prior to development, and normally, but not necessarily, after phases of archaeological assessment and/or evaluation (such as desk-top assessments, intrusive evaluation trenching and sometimes geophysical work) have indicated the presence of archaeological remains which require further investigation. This type of excavation has proved to be a useful method of adequately investigating large areas and eventually understanding the nature and date of the remains exposed and providing indications of landscape and environmental changes over time.



Topsoil stripping in progress.

The areas intended for excavation will usually be determined in consultation with developer's archaeological agents and Kent County Council planning archaeologists and can vary widely in size, from a few hundred square metres to hectares in extent, though larger projects can be done in phases. The Trust has carried out at least five excavations of this type across Kent during the winter months, three of which are ongoing at this time (mid-February).

The process involves the removal of topsoil and often underlying subsoil deposits over a wide area (the *Strip*), down to the natural undisturbed geology, at which level archaeological features can be observed. This requires the use of large mechanical excavators equipped with wide, toothless buckets, driven by highly competent operators, and under constant direction by an experienced archaeologist. The aim is to leave a clean and smooth surface so that features can be clearly seen without much, or any, further cleaning by hand – this can mean that the machine operative may need to remove just a few millimetres of soil with a bucket up to 2m wide to give the required finish, a very skilful task, particularly on heavy clay soils. The soil is separated by type and moved by dumper trucks (across unstripped areas) to designated spoil heaps outside the proposed excavation limits.

On larger sites this expensive process can take weeks or even months and require the excavation and transportation of thousands of tons of soil. Topsoil and subsoil stripping is particularly difficult in wet weather when wheeled dumpers often get bogged down and form deep ruts – sometimes they cannot move at all on badly drained sites. This not only slows down the operation significantly, but rutting and compaction also damages the underlying archaeology, often making further work in those areas difficult or impossible. Unfortunately, many of our excavations are undertaken over the wet winter months due to developer schedules – on two recent sites we have had to employ dumpers with tracks rather than wheels, due to the weather and soil conditions. They can at least move and leave archaeological levels undisturbed but cannot take large volumes of soil per load and are relatively slow moving.

During the *Strip* the supervising archaeologist, sometimes with an assistant, marks the location of features with flags and outlines their limits with brightly coloured spray paint, so that they can be easily located later, or after bad weather has obscured their edges or position. The *Strip* is closely followed by a surveyor, who *Maps* the arrangement of features and deposits with GPS (Global Positioning System) equipment. This expensive piece of kit (The Friends have contributed to the cost of such equipment – see Newsletter 116) is generally accurate to tens of millimetres in terms of position and elevation. The process is considerably quicker and more precise than in the past when this had to be done with theodolites, or even tapes. The data is downloaded to a CAD (computer aided design) program and a site plan showing all the features can then be quickly produced and updated as the *Strip* progresses.



Overhead (drone) view of a site showing ditches and archaeological interventions.

Excavation follows. Most sites of this sort contain many archaeological features over a wide area: ditches for example can span hundreds of metres. It would be prohibitively expensive and not necessarily more productive of information to hand-excavate all of every feature (particularly ditches), so a *Sampling* strategy is devised using the *Mapping* plan, which will then show all the planned hand-dug interventions. Even so, excavation can take many weeks with quite a large team of archaeologists.

The main aims of this phase of works are to define the physical nature of all the features, recover dating and environmental evidence from them, and determine the relationships between them when they intersect. In this way the development of the site over time, and what activities are occurring at any moment, can (hopefully) be reconstructed. Dating is usually determined by pottery or other finds, although radiocarbon-dating or other scientific methods are often employed if suitable material is recovered. Environmental remains can tell us what the surrounding environment was like at specific periods (through insect remains and snails for example) and also what crops were being grown or consumed, while animal bones reveal animal husbandry and butchery practices. Human burials are also often found and can provide information about the people themselves, their illnesses, origins and their funerary rites.

In the excavation strategy, ditches are usually sampled at 10% of their length in addition to all intersections with other features being investigated. The exceptions are ring-ditches of burial mounds or ring gullies around Iron Age buildings, which are usually fully excavated. Pits are half-sectioned or sometimes completely if they prove to contain significant remains (such as animal or even human burials). Structures, often defined only by post-holes, or sunken-featured buildings are fully excavated, and of course, so are human burials (which ideally have to be exhumed within 24 hours). Controlled metal-detecting is normally specified – this can locate significant finds within the site which can be recovered first, and also deters illegal metal detecting.

Once the excavation has finished, and all the finds and environmental samples processed, many hours of analysing and assessing the results by CAT staff and outside specialists is required with the final aim of producing an assessment report (which is not usually published), and, if the results warrant it, a final publication which synthesises all the information in a well-presented and accessible way.

Work continues on the sites underway, and further very extensive *Strip, Map and Sample* excavations are likely to start in the next few months.

Jon Rady



Excavation (of a sunken-featured building) in progress.



Register E research rewarded

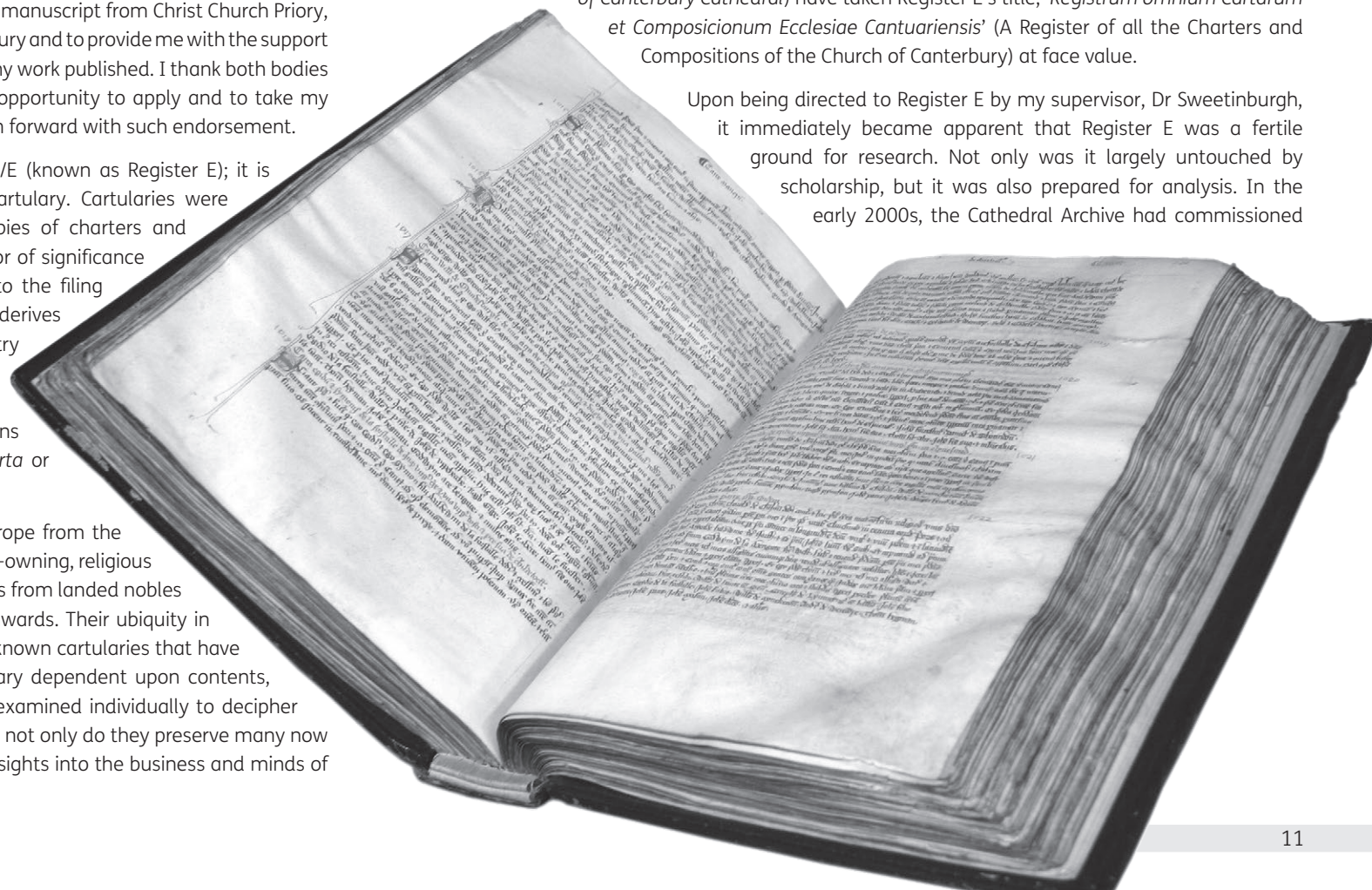
I am enormously grateful that as of January 2023, I became the recipient of two prestigious awards; Kent Archaeological Society's bi-annual Thirsk Prize and Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society's annual research grant. Both were bestowed in recognition of my MA research on a late thirteenth century manuscript from Christ Church Priory, Canterbury and to provide me with the support to get my work published. I thank both bodies for the opportunity to apply and to take my research forward with such endorsement.

The manuscript in question is CCA-DDc/Register/E (known as Register E); it is a particular type of medieval book called a cartulary. Cartularies were manuscripts (or rolls) produced to contain copies of charters and documents, notably those that were owned by or of significance to their owner. They are a common ancestor to the filing cabinet and logbook, which is apt as 'cartulary' derives from *chartularium*, which translates as 'an entry book of charters'. An individual cartulary was often called a *registrum* by contemporaries and for this reason many antiquarians and historians have used the term 'register' (as well as *pancarta* or *codex diplomaticus*).

They were produced in varying forms across Europe from the sixth to the sixteenth century by nearly every land-owning, religious or political institution, although secular cartularies from landed nobles were also produced from the twelfth century onwards. Their ubiquity in the British Isles is attested by the roughly 2,000 known cartularies that have survived to date. Their style and composition vary dependent upon contents, owner and purpose, and so each one must be examined individually to decipher its meaning. This variety is part of their charm, as not only do they preserve many now lost documents, but they also offer tantalising insights into the business and minds of their creators.

Register E, as I discovered in summer 2021, was one of the many cartularies that had been appreciated more for the former (i.e. its charters) than the latter. I would argue this has resulted from the fact that everywhere Register E has been studied, it is described as distinctly unambiguous. In G R C Davies' seminal catalogue *Medieval Cartularies of Great Britain and Ireland* it is labelled a 'general cartulary' or one whose configuration is the most common and predictable. This format is typified by regal, papal and episcopal charters at the beginning, followed by the institution's charters topographically arranged, which is exactly how Register E is composed. In addition, Register E's design is aesthetically uninspiring. When compared with other cartularies like Matthew Paris' *Lon. BL. Cotton MS Nero D I* (1250–1259), which contains illuminations of St Albans Abbey's patrons and portraits of its abbots, one does feel that Register E is one of the many forgettable 'colourless books' (Nigel Ramsey's words) that were purely pragmatic. It is, therefore, not surprising to find that most scholars (including the authors of *A History of Canterbury Cathedral*) have taken Register E's title, '*Registrum omnium Cartarum et Compositionum Ecclesiae Cantuariensis*' (A Register of all the Charters and Compositions of the Church of Canterbury) at face value.

Upon being directed to Register E by my supervisor, Dr Sweetinburgh, it immediately became apparent that Register E was a fertile ground for research. Not only was it largely untouched by scholarship, but it was also prepared for analysis. In the early 2000s, the Cathedral Archive had commissioned



Simon Neal and Louise Wilkinson to calendar (i.e. to index) Register E for their catalogue and that process essentially handed me a fully untouched spreadsheet in which all the owners, contents and estimated charter dating was laid bare. After getting access, I rapidly began formatting, colour-coding and cross-referencing with the digital imagery available. Through an initial paleographical and codicological analysis, I quickly came to recognise the hands of scribes writing in phases, how the charters had been intentionally organised around social groupings and political events, and most significantly, how Register E was revealing itself to be a living book.

With further direction from the Archive staff, I encountered one other scholar who suggested there was more to Register E; it was Dr John Moon, whose 2012 PhD on Register E's commissioner Prior Henry of Eastry (1285–1331) sparked inspiration. Moon suggested that Register E had been created not just to record the Priory's 2,000 charters, but also to preserve the Priory's institutional memory. His argument was persuasive but brief and needed further substantiation. Thankfully what my analysis was providing was just that, and so, after more research into burgeoning ideas of memory and pragmatism in wider cartulary and charter historiography, I began to reinterpret Register E.

Although I won't go into depth regarding my findings here, I will mention one of the more interesting discoveries. A recent strain of historiography has argued there is significance in chronologically ordering charters. They argue it was done with purpose considering that dating charters would have required research and precise selection, as the majority were not given dates by their original authors. This is especially true of Anglo-Saxon charters which are rarely dated, which made the isolated twenty dated eighth–eleventh century charters in Register E's 'codicellus' section particularly intriguing. What I realised from cross-referencing with the original single-sheet charters (many of which do not belong to the period their text purported) was that a hand contemporary with Register E's was assigning estimated dates on their dorses. As such, it became evident that not only was someone in Prior Henry's scriptorium researching the Priory's past, but they were deliberately doing so in order to build a timeline in Register E. This chronology illustrated the Priory's glittering past of patronage from kings, nobles and archbishops stretching back to Mercian King Offa (d.796), whom Register E's scribe purposefully chose to call 'Rex Anglorum' (King of the English), a title which didn't exist until a century following his death.

With the generous support of both KAS and CHAS, these and more discoveries will hopefully be published soon. From here on, I hope to tackle Register E's twin manuscript (now Registers A–D) and explore more of the intermingling of memory and pragmatism that was occurring in Prior Henry's monastery. If you are interested in learning more, you can find my dissertation in Canterbury Cathedral Archive as 'Thesis 63'.

George Knight

The Theoretical Archaeology Group (TAG) Conference, Edinburgh: December 2022

I must first gratefully acknowledge the kind assistance of the Friends, who made such a helpful contribution towards the conference cost, my travel and accommodation for this international conference. I wasn't just attending, however: I was also, this time, a conference session organiser, along with my old friend Professor Andrew Gardner of the Institute of Archaeology, UCL.

Andy had contacted me earlier in the year to see if I was interested in co-organising and running a session entitled 'The revolution will not be televised: the phenomenology of past social change', which first had to be submitted to the conference organisers for ratification, and then populated with good speakers from a wide variety of archaeological subjects and backgrounds.

It is a typically broad subject, as might be expected at a TAG conference, which is one of the best things about TAG. Such a cross-cultural subject invites us to compare the human experience throughout time and anywhere on the planet. Consider Andy's suggested title, for example. 'Phenomenology' is a philosophical viewpoint that studies (Greek *λόγος*) not just a thing or things ('phenomenon (-a)', as we might use it), but how things *seem* or *appear* (deriving from the truer sense of the Greek verb *φαινόμαι*, on which the word phenomenon (-a) is based: *φαινόμενον*, -a). This actually gets to the heart of change as it is *recognised* by those bringing about or experiencing changes. Rather than just describing change as an observer, therefore, we are trying to interpret it, to understand *how* and *why* change occurs and how it seems to those involved: not just recording changes in the archaeological record for the sake of it!

The less said about the train journey to Edinburgh just before Christmas 2022, the better, but I will note that it was a 14-hour Odyssey of constantly raised and dashed hopes about even reaching the destination! I had to get to Edinburgh though, as Andy had sadly pulled out through illness, meaning it was up to me to chair the entire morning session from 9am the following morning! I finally made it to the Premier Inn at 10.30pm, had a single malt whiskey and some peanuts and retired to my room, ready for an early start. The conference centre was a half an hour bus ride and walk, and then I had to register at the conference, find the right room, and make sure all was ready: that the equipment was working and that various PowerPoint presentations and videos were loaded on the computer.

The conference, as usual, was attended by a wide range of heritage professionals (including many from organisations CAT competes with for tenders on a daily basis) and

students, so it's probably a good thing to have at least one CAT representative there. I bumped into Martin Bates, CAT's Geoarchaeology Consultant, and Lindsey Büster, who has recently taken up a lectureship in prehistory at Canterbury Christchurch University; just as well, as Lindsey was one of the speakers in our session (!).

I personally introduced the session at 9 o'clock sharp with a paper which included 'plugs' for CAT's new book on the Thanet Earth excavations (out early March), including examples of Neolithic, Iron Age and Medieval rituals, as well as my own chapter on individualism in Romano-British funerary practice, which appears in a new Oxbow book, also out soon. I was honoured to be followed by: Matthew Johnson (Northwestern University, USA), author of the Bloomsbury Introduction to Archaeological Theory, with a paper on 'Material revolutions and everyday life in the modern world' focussing on two specific early post-medieval carvings as active media for change; Heidi J Miller (Middlesex Community College, USA) on the material culture social change at the Neolithic centre at Chanhu-daro, Sindh from the Integrated Harappan Phase to the Localized Late Harappan Period; Sadie Watson (Museum of London Archaeology) on 'London's fires as real and imagined events', and specifically the Boudican destruction horizon; Anton Ye. Baryshnikov (Russian State University for the Humanities) on the 'concept of chronotope and multi-perspective approach in Romano-British studies'; Rosamund Fitzmaurice (University College London) on 'individual social change in Prehispanic Mesoamerica'; Lindsey Büster (Canterbury Christ Church University / University of York), on 'Recognising revolution: from excavated evidence to emotional experiences' with specific reference to the amazing archaeology of Iron Age houses at Broxmouth in south-east Scotland; and finally independent researcher Ana Amor Santos, who presented superb examples of 'representations in portable art and late prehistoric "body worlds" of Iberia'. As you can see it was wide-ranging, but it wasn't actually difficult to chair discussion throughout, as all the papers brought new perspectives to the common theme, and the session was very well attended by interested and vocal delegates. I was very happy with it and very tired by lunchtime!

Some of the other sessions at TAG were (as is often the case), a bit idiosyncratic and not particularly relevant to my work at CAT; two sessions in particular, however, were an absolute treasure trove. The first was the Saturday morning session run by conference organiser Manuel Fernández-Götz of the University of Edinburgh and his colleague Søren Sindbæk (Aarhus University), on 'Revolutions in the archaeology of early urbanism: Conceptual and methodological innovations'; among other things, Manuel's own paper on Iron Age urbanism, and its characteristic 'agglomeration' were especially significant in terms of late Iron Age Canterbury, and will be a tenet of its treatment in the Historic Atlas of Canterbury, which CAT is working on with the Historic Towns Trust and a local team of experts. Secondly, the Saturday afternoon session 'Beyond migration: How can biomolecular data help us interpret past social worlds' organised by Ian Armit (University of York), Lindsey Büster (University of York/Canterbury Christ Church University), Claire-

Elise Fischer (University of York), and Chris Fowler (Newcastle University). Here we were treated to case studies from cutting edge experts on archaeological science and bioarchaeology, and in particular the revolutionary approach of genome-wide studies of ancient DNA. Highlights for me included the extensive family tree this approach had evinced from human remains in the Neolithic cemetery at Gurgy 'les Noisats' in France: the male 'founder burial' was a bundle of curated bones placed in the inhumation burial of an adult female; his remains had probably been brought to the locale and kept for some time before burial, perhaps in the grave of his wife! The new context such studies bring to our understanding of kinship and origin of prehistoric people is indeed a revolution in archaeology, and I was able to apply it in writing the final afterword of the Thanet Earth book, which is now with the printer!

My return journey from Edinburgh by train was remarkably, thankfully, and splendidly uneventful.

Jake Weekes

Unlocking Our Past

CAT's Unlocking Our Past website was formally launched on 20 December 2021 and has since been well received, with positive feedback and great interest from both the general public and CAT colleagues. The website was created following the award of a grant from Historic England given to heritage organisations in order to encourage public engagement with archaeology and history throughout the pandemic restrictions. The Trust used the grant to produce a website that could provide an insight into CAT's varied finds archive and demonstrate Kent's diverse heritage by utilising the wealth of archaeological data gathered since the formal inception of CAT in 1976.

Whilst pandemic restrictions have long since been lifted, content for the website is regularly updated, added to and improved. Such work has previously been undertaken by Alf, Adelina and myself, but following on from Alf's retirement last year, we have welcomed Karen Kelly (CAT's Designer) to our 'Unlocking' team. At present, 20 finds are being showcased on the website, with more added on a regular basis. The most recent finds to the showcase 'display cabinet' include those recovered during archaeological investigations in Dover, Canterbury and Ramsgate.

Forming an unexpected and unusual finds assemblage, a small collection of Ancient Greek pottery sherds was recovered during an archaeological watching brief on sewer construction works along Snargate Street, Dover in October 1991. The sherds were from a build-up of deposits within a cellar of a nineteenth-century building, along with vast amounts of broken pottery with a date range of c 1650-1900. Documentary

research, coupled with other associated artefacts, suggests the building containing the cellar may have once functioned as an antique dealer's shop that was demolished sometime between 1950 and the 1960s. The Ancient Greek pottery assemblage probably derived from at least two different artefacts; how or when they were broken remains a mystery, but a loss of such valued items would no doubt have caused some upset for the shop proprietor!



An iron knife with a bone handle, exquisitely decorated in tenth-century Anglo-Scandinavian style, was found at 77-79 Castle Street, Canterbury during the Trust's founding year (1976). The knife has a very short, stubby iron blade and was mostly likely used as a leather-, wood- or bone-worker's knife, although it has also been suggested that it might have been used by a scribe.



ANGLO-SCANDINAVIAN KNIFE, CASTLE STREET, CANTERBURY

This iron knife has a bone handle which is finely decorated with Anglo-Scandinavian ornament, dating it to the tenth century AD. It was probably a leather-, wood- or bone-worker's knife. The style of the artwork suggests an origin in northern England, perhaps the Viking kingdom of York.

Date: Late Anglo-Saxon (c 900-1000AD)

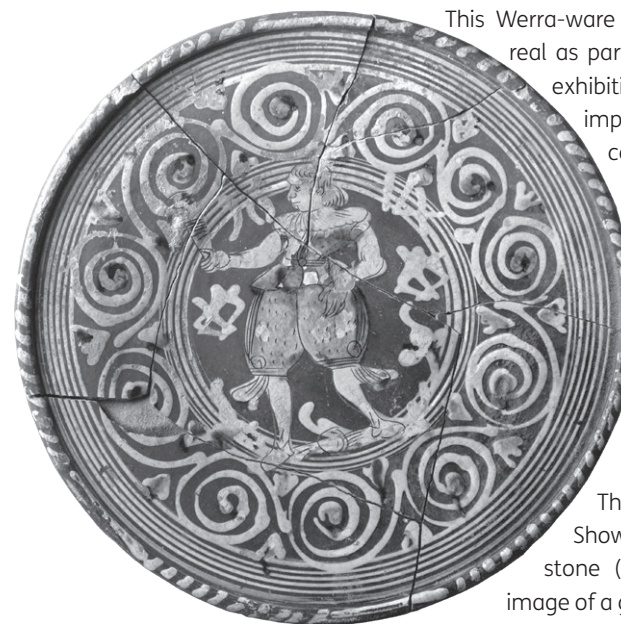
OBJECT >

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A varied assemblage of over 2,500 pieces of struck flint, most of which dates to the late Neolithic period, was collected during archaeological fieldwork at Ellington School in 2005. The flint assemblage was largely recovered as residual finds from features dated to the middle and late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and from mechanically removed layers of overburden. A significant proportion (approximately 1,100 pieces) of

the flint assemblage was recovered from just six features of earliest Iron Age date (800-600 BC). Flint implements from the assemblage include hammerstones, polished axes, scrapers and blades, some of which, such as the polished axes, were deliberately placed artefacts. A small assemblage of residual late Neolithic pottery was also recovered from the site.



This Werra-ware plate was recently showcased for real as part of the successful St James Dover exhibition. Werra-ware is a high-quality imported tableware made in north-central Germany from the second half of the sixteenth century to the first half of the seventeenth century. The plate is a fine example that would have added prestige to any sixteenth- or seventeenth-century household and would have likely adorned the table of someone of wealth and perhaps local prominence.

The most recent addition to the Finds Showcase is that of a carved architectural stone (see back cover) that depicts the image of a griffin-like animal, that was found as part of the Whitefriars excavation in Canterbury.

More CAT finds are waiting to be showcased and suggestions from staff have been taken on board, so watch the website for updates! We encourage all to submit ideas for future content and will do our best to keep the Showcase as varied as possible. Our aim is for the website to be easy to navigate and we encourage all website visitors to leave comments/suggestions and complete a feedback form. We will also do our best to answer any questions regarding website content. Please follow the link on the website to give us your feedback and thoughts. Thank you.

Here is the link for the website: <https://unlockingourpast.co.uk>

Laura O'Shea-Walker

EVENTS

FCAT lectures with the Centre for Kent History and Heritage

Wednesday May 31, 2023, 7pm

CCCU Lecture theatre to be agreed (an email will be sent out nearer the date of the event and details will also be placed on the FCAT website, fcat.uk)

Fifty years fossicking in east Kent: a light-hearted review of my archaeological journey

Prompted by a series of commonly asked questions, Keith will briefly talk about a selection of a dozen interesting sites with which he has been involved in some way with over years. Several of these sites will be well known to many people but others, less so.

Keith Parfitt has been excavating in Kent for over 50 years. After a degree in British Archaeology at University College, Cardiff, 1978, Keith was employed with Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit between 1978 and 1990. He moved to Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 1990 and worked on the Dover A20 project, which culminated in discovery of the Bronze Age Boat in 1992. Running parallel with his full-time career he has been Director of Excavations for the amateur Dover Archaeological Group, also since 1978. He has served on the Kent Archaeological Society (KAS) Fieldwork Committee since 1992 and acted as Director for KAS excavations at Minster Roman villa, 2002–2004. He was elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 2000. He co-directed the joint project between CAT and the British Museum excavating the complex Bronze Age barrow site at Ringlemere, 2002–2006 and has been engaged in overseeing major CAT excavations in the centre of medieval Dover, 2015–2017. Most recently Keith has undertaken fieldwork for CAT at Folkestone Roman Villa and for the KAS Lees Court Estate project.

Other Events

Translation: Encounters with the sacred in objects and places: A symposium for all of those interested in why the past matters to us

Saturday, March 25, 2023 at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge. *Join historians,*

archaeologists, artists, theologians and scientists to discuss what it means to work with sacred objects and sites.

Programme: The Relics of St Eanswythe (Dr Andrew Richardson), Encountering Eanswythe: Studying the bones of a saint (Dr Ellie Williams), Caring for relics (Dana Goodburn-Brown), Encounters with relics in medieval ecclesiastical treasuries (Professor Julia Smith), The thief of time – time slicing and being human (Revd Dr Lesley Hardy), Walking Widdershins: Kits Coty, Kent, as a centre of enchantment (Bryan Hawkins), Conversations with stones: it's only rock and roll, but I like it (Professor Timothy Darvill), Objects of faith in place (the Revd Dr John Inge).

To book a place please visit <https://translation.eventbrite.com> or email Lesley Hardy at threedaysinjanuary@gmail.com. Translations is a free community event; lunch and refreshments are provided – Donations of £5–£10 are welcome.

Tudors & Stuarts 2023

The Tudors & Stuarts 2023 History Weekend will take place from **Friday 28 April to Sunday 30 April 2023**, primarily at Old Sessions House, Canterbury Christ Church University. The CCCU Bookshop will have a stall there throughout the Weekend.

The lectures and guided visits showcase recent research on the period of the 'Tudors & Stuarts', making it readily accessible to a wide audience. Among the exciting internationally known scholars and well-known, more popular historians who have been invited are Alec Ryrie, Vanessa Harding, Richard Hoyle and Elaine Hobby, who will cover topics across the period from Henry VIII's marriages and the problems of the succession to Aphra Behn, the first professional woman writer in English.

This is the 8th History Weekend which will offer audiences the opportunity to gain access to recent scholarship from experts and to hear new interpretations, ideas and knowledge across a wide range of early modern history topics. Lectures and guided tours are classified under five themes: 'Kings and Queens'; 'War and Politics'; 'The Church', 'Books and Manuscripts' and 'Social History'. The Weekend is organised by the CCCU Centre for Kent History and Heritage in conjunction with Canterbury Cathedral Archives & Library, which will provide two tours. Those attending lectures book their chosen events using a pick-and-mix approach.

For details and to book: <https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/tudors-stuarts>

Tickets: £10/person per event. Discount: for those buying 10 or more tickets in one transaction, then each ticket is £8/person per event. Any surplus from the Weekend goes into the Ian Coulson Memorial Postgraduate Award fund to help postgraduates at CCCU who are studying Kent history and archaeology topics.



Unlocking our Past: latest addition to the Finds Showcase (see page 15).

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