NEWSLETTER

C·A·T
Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd

Welcome to our newsletter

13
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IN THIS ISSUE

Positive initial feedback from CIfA inspection panel

Completion of trainee training

Outreach excavation in the Westgate Gardens

Other Outreach undertaken in Canterbury

Purchase of new Leica GS 18T surveying system

Cockering Farm, Thanington

Award for C·A·T's Canterbury map!

On show in Dover Market Square

Positive initial feedback from CIfA inspection panel

The Trust is a *Registered Organisation* with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and as such is subject to a three-yearly inspection by a CIfA panel. As noted on their website, CIfA's *Registered Organisation* scheme is a unique quality assurance scheme and the Registered Organisation logo is a badge of commitment to professional standards and competence. The purpose of the inspection is to ensure not only that the Trust is upholding these standards but can demonstrate that it does. I believe that the Trust would uphold these standards whether or not we were required to do so by CIfA, but the inspection provides an opportunity to gain insights into methods of best practice and see how other units approach particular issues.

The day-long inspection delved into various facets of the Trust's activities, including management, resourcing, training and CPD, welfare, health and safety, outreach, finds and archiving. Prior to the meeting, they were sent copies of literally dozens of Trust reports, including not only a variety of small and large client reports but also all the Trust H&S and policy documents that are produced and updated each year. These documents formed the basis for some of the discussions.

An important consideration of the panel was the experiences of Trust staff and I would particularly like to thank those people who talked to the panel over a Zoom link. The panel were very impressed with the staff they talked to, noting that everyone came across as being professional, dedicated and articulate, and a credit to the organisation. The Trust has always known that staff form its greatest resource, and it was great to hear the opinion reinforced by an outside body.

Overall, the day went very well and CIfA were impressed with the organisation. We await the final inspection report, but we know that the panel learnt much about the Trust's current work and approach and we, in turn, gained much useful feedback.

The Trust actively encourages membership of the Institute, at all levels, and will support the application of any member of staff who would like to join. Should anyone wish to know more, about CIfA membership, the application process or anything else CIfA related, please get in touch with me.

Alison

Completion of trainee training

The first four trainees to undertake our new, CIfA-approved, Trainee Training Program, Jamie, Rob, Heather, and Jack, all passed, having successfully completed the required skills and desk-based elements within the allotted 12-week period. A considerable amount of time and effort went into the training, in the finds department, in the environmental department, in the office and, in particular, on site, so huge thanks are extended to everyone involved.

The feedback from the trainees was all positive, not just because of the quality of the training they received but also the way they were welcomed and encouraged by existing members of staff.

Three new Trainees, Thomas, George and Hector, have recently started the scheme, joining Kate and Bobbie-Jo, with the aim of keeping Trainee numbers at existing levels. We have introduced some changes to the training program on feedback from Trainers, while Julie Martin has the job of keeping an eye on the overall quality of the scheme. If you have any comments or ideas for improvements, please let me know.

Mark Houliston

C·A·T Outreach

Outreach excavation in the Westgate Gardens

Jake Weekes and Andrew Macintosh led a small excavation in Westgate Gardens on the 15th and 16th October, with the Friends of Westgate Parks and archaeology students, looking for further evidence of Romano-British buildings next to Watling Street. A possible ditch was revealed at the base of the sequence, cutting alluvial clays containing a sherd of late Iron Age pot, suggesting that the building known from earlier excavations did not extend as far as the Whitehall Road edge of the Gardens.

Other Outreach undertaken in Canterbury

Alison led a well-attended Canterbury Festival Walk on the Religious Houses of Medieval Canterbury. The walks are organised by Doreen Rosman, one of the Friends of Canterbury Archaeological Trust (FCAT). The Friends exist to support the work of the Trust, by the provision of grants to the organisation and to staff, and also seeks to promote our work to a wider audience. Profits from the walks go directly to the Friends. Alison's talk took a group from the Cathedral, to the Dominican Friary (Blackfriars), Eastbridge Hospital, the Franciscan Friary (Greyfriars) and Poor Priests Hospital, ending at the site of the Austin Friars, better known as Whitefriars. Further talks are planned by Jake Weekes (Roman-British Canterbury) and Keith Parfitt (An Introductory Tour of Dover Western Heights), as well as by a number of Friends and supporters of the Trust. On the 19th October, Jake co-presented an online talk, also for the Canterbury Festival, with Canterbury Christ Church University's Lisa Duffy, entitled Roman Canterbury and its People. (https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/events/roman-canterbury-and-its-people.aspx).

C·A·T Commercial

Purchase of new Leica GS 18T surveying system

C·A·T has recently added a new Leica GS 18T surveying system to its existing Leica Total Station and GNSS systems. This top range model has 555 UHF multifrequency channels with 4G cellular coverage and incorporates SmartLink technology, which compensates for signal fallout in areas with poor or zero cellular coverage. This allows for usage without recourse to base station data. The model includes Tilt compensation allowing for measurement of points without having to level the staff creating up to 20% greater efficiency. In addition, difficult to measure points such as walls or obstructed points such as beneath cars or close to fences can be reached. Staff have already received training in using the system and we anticipate significant increases in surveying efficiency to follow.

Ross Lane

Cockering Farm, Thanington

You can read Richard's full report on our website

Our fieldwork team have been working at Cockering Farm, Thanington, a 42 hectare greenfield development with on behalf of Redrow Homes. The site lies to the north of Cockering Road on the southern edge of the River Stour valley, and occupies undulating arable farmland dissected by a dry valley which slopes steeply towards the river, with views towards the city and cathedral.

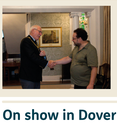
Richard Helm

Excavating the Pond Barrow and surrounding features.

Palaeolithic bifacial tool recovered from surface of river gravels.

Placed middle to late Bronze Age pottery vessel.

Award for C·A·T's Canterbury map!



CAT's Research Officer Jake Weekes received the John and Peggy Hayes Award, presented by the Lord Mayor, for his work on the new *Historical Map of Canterbury, from Roman Times to 1907*, in September. The official Canterbury launch of the map will take place at Waterstones later in the month (https://www.waterstones.com/events/historical-map-of-canterbury-talk-with-slides-and-artefacts/canterbury-rose-lane) as we begin to develop the *Canterbury Historical Atlas* project, again in partnership with the Historic Towns Trust. All proceeds from map sales after printing costs are going towards the Atlas project.

On show in Dover Market Square

Following previous evaluation trenching, in August the Trust was commissioned by Dover District Council to conduct formal excavations in the central part of the Market Square at Dover, ahead of planned new development work. The area of the Market Square has a high to very high archaeological potential, the region being at the epicentre of the historic settlement since the late Roman period, even if its use as a formal market place did not occur until more recent times.

Keith Parfitt

Work on site and the guildhall in 1788.

You can read Keith's full report on our website

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BACK TO TOP