



- The reburial of John of Wheathampstead at St Albans Cathedral
- In The Shadow of The Castle: The Story of St James' Dover
- Ask an archaeologist at the Guildhall Museum

- Dover medieval Maison Dieu hospital
- Bringing order to the CAT's paperwork archive
- Unlocking our past: find of the month

## Commercial

### The reburial of John of Wheathampstead at St Albans Cathedral

On Saturday 30 July, Ross and I attended a special Evensong service at St Albans Cathedral held for the reburial of John Bostock (born c 1390), better known as John of Wheathampstead, a fifteenth century abbot of St Albans Abbey.

The reburial marked the end of a journey for the abbot which began with the discovery of his remains in 2017 during archaeological excavations prior to construction of the new cathedral Welcome Centre as part of The Alban, Britain's First Saint Project.

Abbot John was elected to his post at St Albans twice during his lifetime. His first term spanned 1420 to 1440 when ill health led to his resignation, but he was unanimously re-elected as abbot in 1451 and remained in position until his death in 1465. An education at Gloucester College, Oxford inspired in John a love of learning and especially of books. He was recorded to be a man respected for his intellect but also for his ability to meet the needs of the community in his role as abbot. In 1423 John was chosen by the Archbishop of Canterbury to travel to Italy as representative for the English clergy at the general meeting of the Roman church in Pavia.

Never a man to neglect his duties he left a clear set of rules to be followed by the monks of St Albans in his absence, the details of which show a hearteningly familiar collection of frustrations that the abbot must have struggled with on a routine basis. These included not

staying up late, no chatting in the vestry, not showing visitors the abbey treasures without prior arrangement and no chatting with women or visiting the local nunneries without permission to do so!

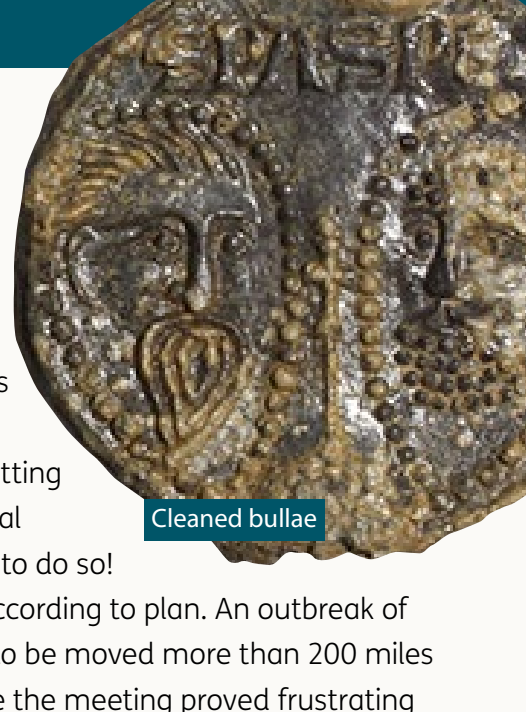
The trip to Italy did not go according to plan. An outbreak of plague forced the delegation to be moved more than 200 miles south to Siena, and once there the meeting proved frustrating to John who decided to travel an extra 150 miles to Rome to seek an audience with Pope Martin V himself. Unfortunately, upon his arrival in Rome John became exceedingly sick, his condition deteriorating so quickly that the pope thought him unlikely to recover. But recover he did, and when he finally met with Pope Martin he presented him with gifts and a request for three privileges to be conferred upon St Albans Abbey. The pope readily agreed to all of them. The privileges meant that the monks of St Albans no longer had to adhere to the custom of fasting throughout Lent, were allowed the use of a portable altar, and had permission to lease their properties under new terms. The documents were each sealed with an official lead bull of Pope Martin V which Abbot John appears to have retained throughout his life as a memento of the special favours granted to the abbey.

It would appear that upon his death John requested the bulls should be buried with him, as it was their discovery that led to the initial identification of his remains in 2017. Prior to this, the location of Abbot John's grave had been a mystery – the place he would have occupied in a tomb adjacent to the shrine of St Alban in the cathedral presbytery was instead used for the interment of his friend Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester who died in 1447. The 2017 excavation revealed John was instead buried in a small brick and flint built tomb within a lost chapel that lay south-west of the presbytery.

Jess Twyman, Senior Archaeologist



Jess and Ross at St Albans Abbey



Cleansed bullae



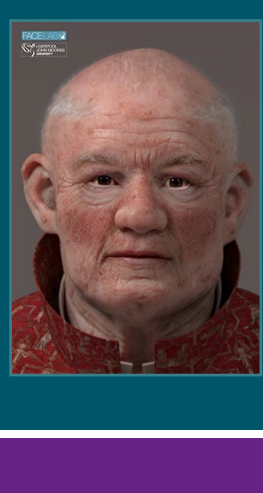
Skeleton: John of Wheathampstead



Dr Emma Painsroy (The University of Cambridge)

#### FULL REPORT

For the full story of the facial reconstruction click here

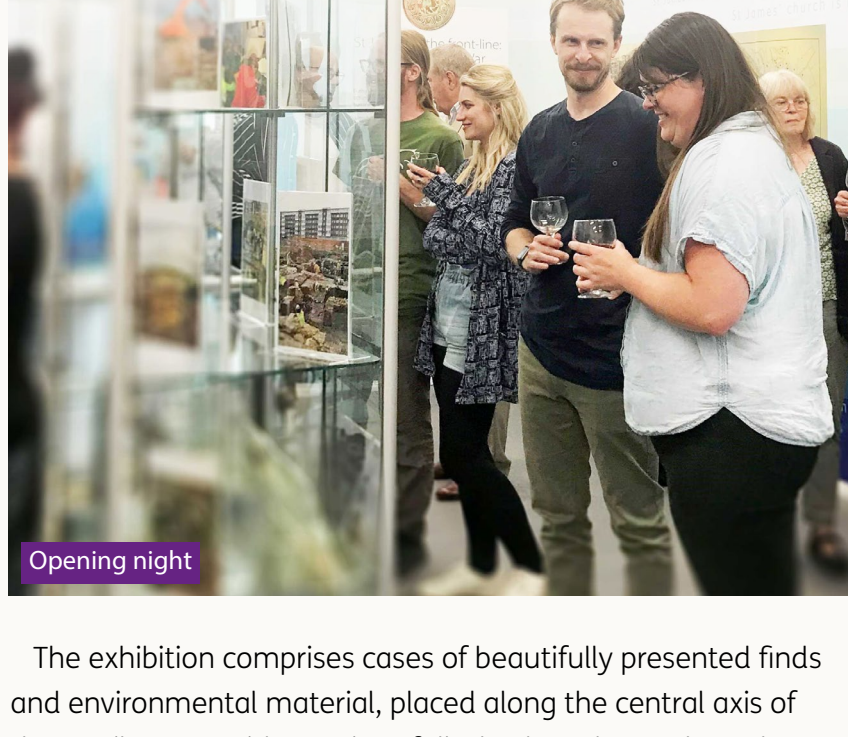


## Outreach

### In The Shadow of The Castle: The Story of St James' Dover

On 22nd July an exhibition of material recovered during CAT's 2015 to 2017 excavations of the St James' area of Dover was opened on behalf of the mayor of Dover by Councillor Susan Jones. For those of you that haven't had a chance to see it yet, we've taken over an unused retail unit in the St James' shopping centre (next to Holland and Barratt and near Greggs). The exhibition is set to run until Monday 29th August.

After enjoying an illustrated talk by Keith Parfitt, the manager in charge of the project, CAT staff, colleagues from Dover Museum and invited guests had a chance to view material recovered from the excavations and learn what on-going analysis of the site records is revealing about the history of the area.



Opening night

The exhibition comprises cases of beautifully presented finds and environmental material, placed along the central axis of the retail space, with a series of display boards set along the side walls. The boards represent a stunning testament to the design skills of Alf – his last major exhibition before retirement – while Enid Allison and Adelina Teocava were responsible for the fantastic displays.



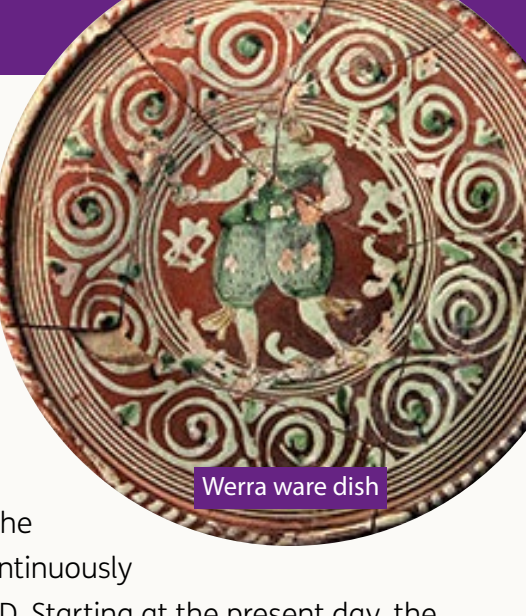
Exhibition storefront

The suburb of St James, the area located between the eastern banks of the Dour valley, the high ground dominated by the castle and the sea, is known to have been continuously occupied since at least 1150 AD. Starting at the present day, the exhibition take visitors on a journey backwards in time, starting with views of the construction of the shopping centre, followed by information on the post-war regeneration of Dover, sections covering the town's major role in both World Wars, and the 19th century construction of buildings such as an orphanage, a gas depot, houses and workshops.

The exhibition draws a distinction between the period covering the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries, when fine houses were first built in the area, and the earlier medieval period, when the area was characterised by small wooden houses occupied by poor families that worked in the fishing industry. Artefacts on display in the cases reflect this difference. A rare imported German Werra slipware plate represents one of the best items recovered from the post-medieval period, while early medieval material recovered from the waste pits of the fishing community includes a huge assemblage of fish bones, believed to be the largest every recovered from a site in Britain.

Thanks to the hard work of CAT staff, in particular Frances Morgan, over 1000 people visited the exhibition in the first four weeks. Additional events have included hands-on 'be an archaeologist' days for children and an opportunity to learn about the skills used in the recording of human remains.

Mark Houliston, Commercial Director



Werra ware dish

#### Exhibition ends

29th August

#### Special thank you

The exhibition has been funded thanks to the generosity of Legal & General Investment Management Limited and would not have been possible without the help of staff and managers at Bellrock, the management company that run the centre.

### Ask an archaeologist at the Guildhall Museum

At the end of July, Andy and I went to Rochester for a one-day joint event with the Guildhall Museum, which was supported by Medway Council.



Designing coins at the Guildhall Museum

This gave us a great opportunity to talk to the public about our excavations at the site of the new #InnovationParkMedway which is being constructed near Rochester Airport, and also about the work we do as a whole. The day was largely centred around families but had something for everyone who wanted to know more about the history and prehistory of the area.

Our Artist-in-Residence, Bryan Hawkins, led a fun drawing workshop exploring archaeological objects from the Guildhall collection. There was an opportunity to design an Iron Age coin and even try on some Roman armour, courtesy of the museum. People were invited to bring in finds of their own and 'Ask an Archaeologist', as well as have a look at finds on display from the Innovation Park excavation and surrounding

sites. Iron Age Frances even made a rare appearance, so thank you again to Julie for lending me your amazing kit!

I had never been to the Guildhall Museum, but fully intend on going back with my family, because what I did see was amazing and I want to explore it more!

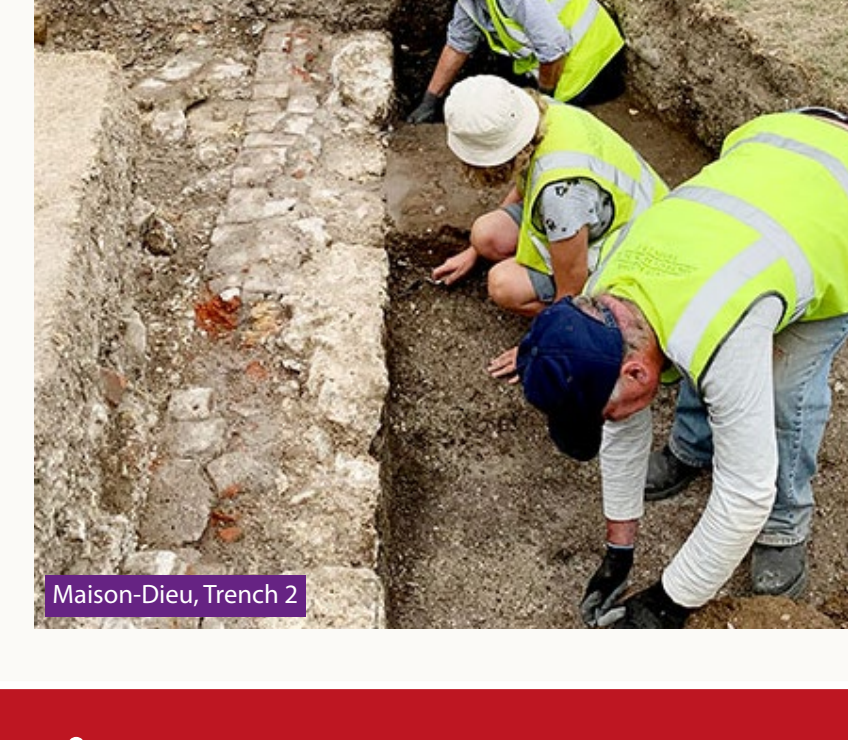
Andy and I had a great, if not slightly tiring, day meeting all sorts of interesting people. Most were local, including the first person who walked in who had actually worked at the airport. Others had come from further afield including London, and even one lovely family from the Netherlands! The Guildhall Museum were amazing hosts and I fully encourage you all to go and check out what they have on offer!

Frances Morgan, Senior Archaeologist

### Dover medieval Maison Dieu hospital; Trench 2

Work resumed at Dover's medieval Maison Dieu hospital complex at the end of July when the second of three community archaeology excavations was undertaken as part of Dover District Council's History Diggers project. Led by Keith Parfitt, the site chosen for the new excavation lay at some distance from the main medieval structures, across an area known to have once been occupied by various medieval and early post-medieval outbuildings to the complex.

Keith Parfitt



Maison-Dieu, Trench 2

#### FULL REPORT

For the full story click here

## Archives and Publications



### Bringing order to CAT's paperwork archive

After finishing an extensive project on the Finds Archive, work has continued on the paperwork archive – nearly fifty years of CAT sites! The material currently held at Wincheap is now fully labelled, recorded and reorganised to be completely searchable for anyone carrying out research into the sites that CAT has worked on, from 1975 to the current day. From small evaluations in small, neat folders to nearly a hundred files from long-running urban excavations, the files should be easy to find and clearly labelled to modern standards.

For more information about CAT's paperwork archive click here.

### And finally...

This newsletter could not be published without the Trust bidding a fond farewell to Alf, our Graphic Designer and Layout Artist. Alf has worked at the Trust for over 40 years and during this time has contributed immensely to the look and feel of CAT's outward-facing publication. Amongst Alf's many achievements, he has designed all the Trust publications, including the monographs, Occasional Papers and the Annual Review, and designed and produced the Trust websites, both old and new. Alf has also been responsible for the design of exhibitions, displays and, not least, the annual Trust Christmas card! Alf's flair for design and his respect, his attention to detail and his desire to reflect a Trust identity throughout his work, have all ensured that CAT has maintained its professional and well-regarded output over many decades.

By the time you read this newsletter, Alf will have retired and we welcome our new Layout Artist, Karen. All at the Trust would like to thank Alf for all that he has given to the organisation over the years. We wish him the very best for the future and hope that he has a wonderful retirement.

Alison Hicks

### Finds showcase

#### Find of the month

#### Neolithic flints

Archaeological fieldwork at Ellington School in 2005 produced a varied assemblage of over 2,500 pieces of struck flint, most of which dates to the late Neolithic period.



[unlockingourpast.co.uk](http://unlockingourpast.co.uk)

Remember to follow us on social media for all our latest messages, campaigns, on-site and in-office news.