

Issue 34 Autumn 2010



South East **Newsletter**

Covering Kent, Sussex, Surrey & London south of the Thames

Anglo-Saxon CSI: Sittingbourne

Community Science Investigation project on finds from the Meads

Anglo-Saxon CSI: Sittingbourne is an investigative conservation lab working on finds from an Anglo-Saxon cemetery found at the Meads, Sittingbourne. It's a unique community-led, public heritage conservation project. It allows public access to the conservation techniques involved in treating objects from an archaeological dig. The project has been a local initiative involving locally-based conservator, Dana Goodburn-Brown, Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) and Sittingbourne Heritage Museum, backed by Kent County Council. Following excavation by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust at the Meads between May and December 2008 (see KAS Newsletter), the



cleaning and conservation of the large quantity of finds from the site presented a major challenge. Many of these were of metal, predominantly iron but also including finds of copper alloy, silver and gold. Many objects were heavily corroded or had been lifted in blocks of soil. Organic products such as wood and textiles were likely to have been preserved by mineralisation where they were in contact with the metal finds and the analytical potential of the objects, if properly cleaned and conserved, was very high. However, quotes to get the finds dealt with in a conservation lab were in the area of £200,000. Given that the site had been an unexpected discovery, the financial pressure on the project was (and remains) great. Dana Goodburn-Brown then suggested an innovative response to the problem; set up a conservation facility in the heart of the town and train and supervise local volunteers to carry out the conservation of the artefacts. CSI: Sittingbourne was born.



Garnet-inlaid brooch showing West Kentish influence

After much preparation and a long search for suitable premises the project finally opened in Sept 2009 in a vacant unit within the Forum shopping centre in Sittingbourne, with an associated exhibition in an opposite unit providing background on the site and excavation. Since opening more than 7700 people have visited. The shop units were generously provided at no cost by Tesco's, the owners of the Forum. Funding was provided by KCC Heritage Conservation along with one of the developers, Marston's

Inns and Taverns. The project would not have been possible without the help of other businesses and individuals both local and national and without donations of equipment from museums and collections. In particular, it has been reliant on the hard work and dedication of over 50 local volunteers, both to carry out the conservation work and to keep the exhibition open. Overall, the project has been a superb example of what can be achieved when a community works together for a common cause, in this case the preservation of a spectacular range of artefacts so that future generations can study and enjoy them.

CSI: Sittingbourne aims to not only conserve the artefacts, but to also involve the local community and raise interest in Sittingbourne's

important and often forgotten history. The discovery of this site and the subsequent CSI: project is an exciting and valuable commodity for Sittingbourne and Swale as a whole and will hopefully attract more visitors to the area.

The project also aims to promote the conservation profession, which has not hitherto enjoyed a reputation as the most accessible part of the heritage sector! This has all changed with CSI: Sittingbourne. The fact that the project is so public ensures that people know what conservators do and how important the profession is to our understanding of the past. Hopefully this project will be the first of many that bring the hidden science of archaeological conservation firmly into the public consciousness.

For more information on the project see the project's dedicated website <http://anglosaxoncsi.wordpress.com> or the CAT website <http://www.canterburytrust.co.uk/meads01.htm>. The lab and associated archaeological exhibition are located in The Forum shopping precinct in Sittingbourne. Admission is free and the facility is open from 10am to 5pm Monday to Saturday at least until early May but hopefully until September 2010. Do make the most of this project whilst you can and if you can help out and show support in any way at all then it would be greatly appreciated.

Dana Goodburn & Andrew Richardson

Medieval corpus from Sussex

Between the 12th and 15th centuries Limoge in France was famous for its production of highly decorated enamelled objects, both in gold and the cheaper copper-alloy, such as the Becket Casket in the British Museum. This hollow corpus of Christ would originally have been fixed to an enamelled cross attached to a wooden back forming a large processional cross. There are traces of enamel in the eyes and loincloth and incised decoration forming a belt and other features under the gilding. It is damaged with the hands and feet, the points of attachment to the backing cross, missing. Similar figures have been found in Salisbury and London (Saunders 2001: 40 and Ward Perkins 1940: PI LXXXI) and are dated from the late 12th to early 13th centuries although such a fine piece may have continued in use for many years. The findspot suggests it may be associated with the Palace of the Archbishops of Canterbury in Mayfield, thought to have been founded in the 10th century. The Great Hall was built in c. 1325 and it was

popular with the Archbishops as a residence until being handed to the crown at the Reformation.



SUSS-383C61; 12th to 13th century corpus from a crucifix with Limoges enamel and gilding.

Saunders, P. 2001. Salisbury Museum Medieval Catalogue, Part 3. Salisbury: Salisbury and South Wilts Museums

London Museum and Ward Perkins, J B, 1940. [The London Museum Medieval Catalogue](#) : HMSO

THE PAST UNEARTHED: ISSUES IN COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY **Public Archaeology Conference and CBA South East AGM**

Unearthing the Past

Language, Ownership, Value and Meaning in Public Archaeology

Friday 24th (evening), Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th September 2010

University Centre Folkestone

Canterbury Christ Church University and the Council for British Archaeology South East are hosting a three day conference on Public Archaeology at the

University's campus in Folkestone. The event will also include the CBA South East AGM and will provide an introduction to 'A Town Unearthed: Folkestone before 1500'; the new HLF-funded community archaeology project for Folkestone.

The conference will explore a range of subjects concerning public and community archaeology, and ways in which people imagine, define, value and use the past. Examples of innovative community-based archaeological projects from across the country will be presented and the conference will also feature a range of panels, workshops and stalls.

The conference will include a chance to visit Folkestone Roman villa, being excavated as part of 'A Town Unearthed'. This will be the first chance to see this important, scheduled, site exposed since 1989 and will provide an example of community archaeology in action.

Tickets: £30 for the weekend (inc Friday evening reception and lecture) or £15 per day (Saturday or Sunday only) or £5 for Friday evening only.

CBA Members tickets are £25 for the weekend (including Friday evening), £12 per day (Saturday or Sunday only) or £5 for Friday evening only.

Students (those in full time education) and Shepway Residents can purchase tickets at the concessionary rate of £15 for the weekend (inc Friday evening) or £7.50 per day (Saturday or Sunday only) or £5 for Friday evening only.

For tickets please contact: Stuart Edwards, 81 Birch Grove, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3RE CBASEConference@gmail.com

Cheques should be made out to 'CBA South East'.

FRIDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER - 6.30- 11PM

DRINKS RECEPTION AND KEY NOTE SPEAKERS AT THE GRAND, MARINE PARADE, FOLKESTONE.

WELCOME: PROF JAN DRUKER SENIOR PRO VICE CHANCELLOR CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY

LESLEY HARDY CCCU & ANDREW RICHARDSON CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

OPENING ADDRESS: GUEST SPEAKER TO BE CONFIRMED

ARCHAEOLOGY MUSIC EVENT IN SUPPORT OF 'A TOWN UNEARTHED PROJECT'

VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED

SATURDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER –

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PLENARY SESSION AT UCF, MILL BAY, FOLKESTONE

MORNING - 10-1.20 / STRAND ONE

READING THE STONES: REPRESENTATIONS OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN CULTURE

10 -10.20 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

LESLEY HARDY CCCU – SOME THOUGHTS ON THE ANTIQUARIANISM OF 100 OBJECTS

THEMES AND ISSUES –PAPERS FOR DISCUSSION

10.20 -11. 30 VISUALISING THE PAST - CHAIR MIKE BUTLER

BRYAN HAWKINS: LANDSCAPE AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN ART

PETER WOODCOCK : THE NEO-ROMANTICS TO PSYCHO-GEOGRAPHY

11.30 COFFEE

11.45 – 1.20 WRITING THE PAST CHAIR –LESLEY HARDY

ANDY BROCKMAN – Research Director of the Digging Dad's Army and University of Southampton: **THE HOUSE ON THE CLIFFS: REPRESENTATIONS OF ROMAN**

FOLKESTONE AND KENT IN THE NOVELS OF ROSEMARY SUTCLIFFE

ADAM GUTTERIDGE , INSTITUTE FOR THE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE PAST, UNIVERSITY OF YORK: **DIGGING FOR METAPHORS: ARCHAEOLOGY AND**

CONTEMPORARY FICTION

SALLY MINOGUE: DIGGING WITH THE PEN

MORNING - 10-1.20 STRAND TWO

ON THE GROUND - COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY ISSUES AND DEBATES

10-10.20 : INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

SUZIE THOMAS, COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY: **ARCHAEOLOGIES AND COMMUNITIES IN THE UK**

10.20 –11.30 PROJECTS AND ISSUES PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

CHAIR –**ANDREW RICHARDSON**

CHRIS TRIPP, COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST AND DIRECTOR XCAVATE!

PUTTING THE PUBLIC INTO PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY

ABBEY GUINNESS COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGY AS COMMUNITY REPARATION

ANDREW MAYFIELD, SHORNE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

SHORNE WOODS ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

11.30 –11.45 COFFEE

11.45 –1.20 PANEL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION CHAIR PAT REID

TEACH US ABOUT THE PAST: MUSEUMS, EDUCATION, HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

IAN COULSON HISTORY ADVISOR KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

MARION GREEN EDUCATION OFFICER CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

SAMANTHA BELCHER COMMUNITY CURATOR COUNTY DURHAM

LUNCH 1.30 – 2.30

AFTERNOON – 2.30 – 6.00 IN THE FIELD – ISSUES AND QUERIES

2-30- 3.15 STRAND ONE

CBA SOUTH EAST AGM - 2:30PM

2 30 – 3.15 STRAND TWO METAL DETECTION

MAURICE WORSLEY KAMSU AND NCMD

HOW TO HANDLE A METAL DETECTOR –DEMONSTRATION AND TALK

3.15 –3.30 COFFEE

COMMON GROUND? IDENTITY AND POLITICS & OWNERSHIP IN ARCHAEOLOGY

3. 30 –5.15 THEMES AND ISSUES –PAPERS FOR DISCUSSION - IDENTITY

CHAIR IAN COULSON

3.30 –3.40 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW ANDREW RICHARDSON

3.40 – 5.15 PAPERS FOR DISCUSSION

STEPHANIE HAWKE, RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE, INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CULTURAL AND HERITAGE STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

PEOPLE MAKING PLACE: COMMUNITY HERITAGE ACTIVITY AND SENSE OF PLACE IN THE NORTH PENNINES

FAYE SIMPSON, POST-GRAD RESEARCH FELLOW IN COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

WORKING IN EXARCH

PAT REID, COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST **JOBS FOR THE BOYS**

5.30 DRINKS AND BUFFET

6.30 –8 PANEL PRESENTATIONS AND PLENARY DISCUSSION

OWNERSHIP AND COST CHAIR BRYAN HAWKINS

STUART CAMBELL – NATIONAL MUSEUMS SCOTLAND

COMMON GROUND? PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF THE PAST.

MICHAEL LEWIS, DEPUTY HEAD DEPT. PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES & TREASURE

WHO OWNS THE PAST: LAW AND REALITY VERSUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL UTOPIA

PAUL BENNETT – DIRECTOR CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED

SPEAKERS DINNER FOLLOWED BY DRINKS IN BRITISH LION PUB

SUNDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER –

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PLENARY SESSION AT UCF, MILL BAY, FOLKESTONE

MORNING - 10-1 STRAND ONE – THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF EMOTION

10 –11 PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

PHILLIP RICHARDSON AND CARA JONES, ARCHAEOLOGY SCOTLAND

GETTING TO KNOW YOU, GETTING TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU: VOLUNTEERS AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS AT PRESTON GRANGE

SALLY RODGERS – COMMUNITY HERITAGE OFFICER HEELEY CITY FARM, SHEFFIELD

COLIN STEPHENS AND STEPHANIE FAIR **THE IMPACT OF A TOWN UNEARTHED**

LIFE AT NO 57

11 – COFFEE

THEMES AND ISSUES –PAPERS FOR DISCUSSION CHAIR LESLEY HARDY

1115 -1.2.30 FEELING THE PAST –ISSUES ABOUT EMOTION AND REACTION

11- 11.20 **ANDREW RICHARDSON** CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

**A TOWN UNEARTHED – SOME OBSERVATIONS ON ATTACHMENT AND A
'SENSE OF PLACE'**

PETER CONNELLY PROJECT DIRECTOR HUNGATE EXCAVATIONS YORK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

**PERCEPTIONS OF PLACE – PSYCHO-GEOGRAPHY AND THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF A
LOST URBAN COMMUNITY**

VICTORIA PARK RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CULTURAL
AND HERITAGE STUDIES NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

SKELETONS IN THE NEWSPAPERS

12.30 LUNCH

1. 30 –2.30 FINAL PLENARY SESSION – WHAT'S COMING - WAYS FORWARD?

CHAIR PAUL BENNETT - EVERYONE WELCOME TO CONTRIBUTE

2.30 GUIDED WALK AND VISIT TO FOLKESTONE ROMAN VILLA AND BAYLE

LED BY ANDY LINKLATER, KEITH PARFITT CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

(PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE)

CBA SOUTH EAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of CBA South East will take place on 25th
September 2010 at the University Centre Folkestone, Kent, at 2:30pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of AGM held 31st October 2009
3. Matters arising
4. Annual report
5. Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts
6. Election of independent examiner
7. Election of Chairman, Officers and Committee
8. **Any other business**

The minutes of the 2009 AGM are available on the CBASE website
www.cbbase.org.uk or may be obtained by application to the Secretary.

Surrey Archaeological Society
Autumn Conference 2010 - The Research Framework

Building Materials - From Timber to Tiles

Saturday 20th November 2010 - 09.30 – 16.30 at the Dixon Hall, The Institute, Leatherhead, Surrey.

Presentations on a Range of Materials by eminent Specialists from English Heritage and the Commercial World. Tickets from the Society, Castle Arch, Guildford, GU1 3SX - £8 in advance, £10 on the day. Full programme & booking form at www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk



KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1857

Registered Charity No. 223382

Website: www.kentarchaeology.org.uk

Kent Historic Buildings Conference



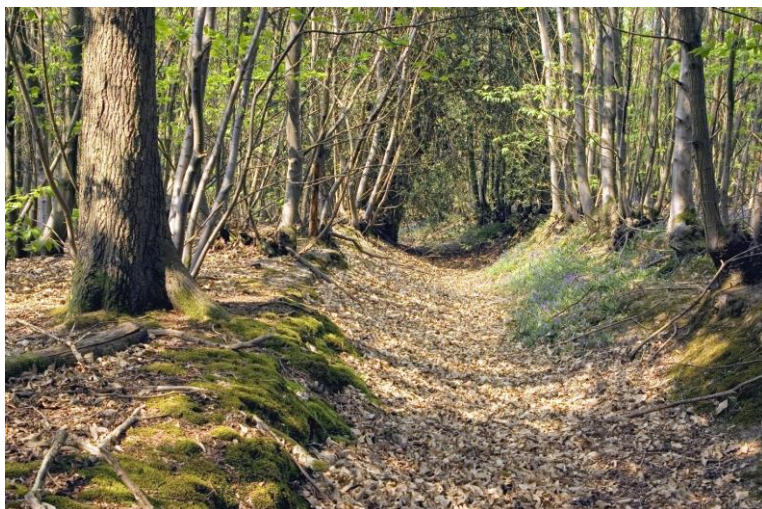
KAS' annual Historic Buildings Conference at Harrietsham Village Hall on Saturday, October 9th will include a presentation on the new project, 'Peopling Past Landscapes'. Co-ordinated by Roger Cockett, the project covers 30 parishes in an area extending from the weald to the Thames coastal marshes and aims to encourage local people to research their own parishes. Other speakers at the conference will include David Martin of Archaeology South-East, whose subject will be 'Historical Buildings: linking to documentary and physical evidence' and David Carder, KAS, on 'Kent's agricultural heritage in buildings'.

The conference will begin at 10:00am and end at about 3:00pm, and will be followed by a guided tour of St Margaret's Church, Wuchling.

The conference is open to the public. Tickets £10 from david Carder, 53 The Ridgeway, Chatham, Kent ME4 6PB, david.carder@talk21.com
Some tickets available on the day, Lunch (£6) must be booked in advance, cheques payable to Kent Archaeological Society.



Sussex
Archaeological
Society



The Archaeology of Wooded Landscapes

Saturday 12th February 2011 at Meridian Hall, east Court, East Grinstead. Tickets £30 (or £20 for students) from Lorna Gartside, Barbican House, 169, High St., Lewes BN7 1YE, 01273 405737, email: members@sussexpast.co.uk

0930 Registration

1000 Woodland usage in Anglo-Saxon England as illustrated in contemporary documents and place-names – Della Hooke

1045 Hunting, farming and fuel: the transitory character of English woodlands – Mark Gardiner

1150 You can't see the wood for the trees – locating and recording modern military features in woodland – Roger Thomas

1230 The flora and fauna of archaeological sites in woodlands – Patrick Roper

1410 New technology, new sites, new insights: discoveries across the Weald Forest Ridge through LiDAR – Vivienne Blandford

1440 Wyre Forest – on transcription and validation of LiDAR using volunteers – Adam Mindykowski

1530 Our woodland – divided, but still united! A case study of multiple ownership and archaeological investigation – Waste Wood Owners

1550 Understanding the history of wooded landscapes: are we asking the right questions? Towards a new research agenda – Nicola Bannister

On Sunday 13th February a choice of three free walks is on offer, from 10:20 – 12:10 – Booking essential.

Brede High Woods, Cripps Corner, East Sussex – David Brown

Broadwater Warren, Tunbridge Wells – Vivienne Blandford

Gravetye manor, West Hoathley, West Sussex – Nicola Bannister

Archaeology of Woodland Lecture on Saturday 13th November, 11:00 – 12:00, by Vivienne Blandford to be held at Barbican House, Lewes. Cost: £5, numbers limited, contacts as above.

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

Continuing Education Programme in Buildings Archaeology

This new one year p/t programme of study for 2010/11 entry will increase your knowledge of the fabric, form and context of historic buildings in South-East England and teach you how to record and interpret them. Building recording skills are taught to English Heritage Levels 2 and 3. The Programme comprises three courses: Understanding Historic Vernacular Buildings (Wednesday evenings and 2 Saturdays; tutor: Mike Standing); Recording Historic Vernacular Buildings in South-East England (6 Saturday sessions; tutor: David Martin); and The Archaeological Investigation of a Church (4 Saturday sessions; tutor: Robert Hutchinson). Two of the courses can be taken as stand-alone/CPD modules. 60 credits at undergraduate level 1 or 2.

Continuing Education Programme in Practical Archaeology

Hands-on fieldwork and workshop exercises combine with more traditional classroom teaching to enable you to develop a working knowledge of modern archaeology and its methods. This two year p/t programme of study comprises: Archaeological Survey (Monday evenings; tutor: David

Rudling); Archaeological Excavation and Post-Excavation (Monday evenings; David Rudling); The Archaeology of Past Societies (Tuesday evenings; Caroline Wells); The Recording and Analysis of Artefacts and Pottery (Wednesday evenings; various tutors) and an Option course. 120 credits at undergraduate level 1 or 2. Ideal CPD training for commercial site assistants, amateurs, etc, and this programme will enable participants to gather much of the evidence needed for the National Occupational Standards Level 3 Qualification in Archaeological Practice.

Continuing Education Discovering Landscapes Programme

'Landscapes' can have many different meanings; but have you ever wondered why they are the way they are? Discover the links and interactions between the physical, natural and human landscapes. Sussex is exceptionally rich in its geology and vegetation types, ranging from the dramatic South Downs, supporting species-rich chalk grassland, through the Greensand heaths and the Weald Clay meadows and marshlands, to the magnificent sandstone outcrops of the High Weald. A combination of classroom sessions and field trips will enable students to fully appreciate the way nature and human activity have shaped the landscapes we see today. This programme will appeal to all those who wish to understand more about the landscapes they experience every day.

MONDAYS, 6.30-8.30PM PLUS SATURDAY OR SUNDAY FIELD TRIPS

AUTUMN TERM 2010: THE PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

TUTORS: RENDEL WILLIAMS AND GEOFFREY MEAD - 18 CREDITS

SPRING TERM 2011: THE HUMAN LANDSCAPE

**TUTORS: RICHARD CARTER, GEOFFREY MEAD, WILL PILFOLD
18 CREDITS**

SUMMER TERM 2011: THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE

TUTORS: SARAH MCKENZIE AND JACQUI HUTSON - 24 CREDITS

Applications for F/T or P/T **MPhil or DPhil archaeology research degrees** are welcome.

From Sept 2010

X9554 Ancient Egypt	Crowborough
X9054 The archaeology of Buildings	Chichester
X9478 Archaeology of West Sussex Region	Emsworth
X9561 Discovering experimental archaeology	Falmer
X9260 Exploring local vernacular buildings	Rye
X9551 Exploring the Roman World – history & culture	Fishbourne
X9543 Hunters and landscapes of Ice Age Sussex	Falmer
X9546 Intermediate Latin	Chichester

From January 2011

X3155 Recording and analysis of artefacts and pottery

X3157 Recording historical vernacular buildings in SE England

Contact: Centre for Community Engagement, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9RF; T 01273 678300; E cce@sussex.ac.uk; www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/archaeology

Kent Archaeological Field School

October 2nd and 3rd, Anglo-Saxon Weekend with Paul Blinkhorn

October 16th and 17th, Archaeological Drawing A beginner's and refresher course introducing participants to drawing archaeological artefacts. There will be practical sessions each day demonstrating how to illustrate pottery, bone, metal. Course led by Jane Russell, who was senior illustrator of the UCLField Archaeology Unit.

October 30th and 31st, Professional recording in the Field with SWAT Archaeology. Learn how to set up the 'Site Archive': Free to members.

November 13th and 14th, Professional recording in the Field with SWAT Archaeology. Learn how to survey on site, site plans, sections, and the site grid

KAFS is celebrating its 10th anniversary with an exhibition at the Fleu de Lys Galleries of the Faversham Society in Preston Street from 2nd – 30th September. There will also be a lecture at 8pm on Tuesday 7th September at the Fleu de Lys and an Open Day at the excavation in Syndale Park on September 11th.

Further details from KAS website

Whitehawk Hill – At last an Archaeological Success Story

Whitehawk Hill in Brighton, Sussex is the site of a scheduled ancient monument, a Neolithic causewayed enclosure. For decades it has been neglected and abused by a variety of people including parking coaches, a fair ground, motor cycle scrambling and more recently as a summer camp for travellers. The most recent dwellers on the hill have buried their refuse and undesirable material in cess pits dug into the ramparts of the monument. Brighton and Hove City Council planning department, the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society and Dr Matt Pope from Sussex University have all campaigned for years to have this nationally important site protected.

Earlier this year new and improved protective measures have been undertaken at Whitehawk Hill. After an archaeological assessment, and a watching brief during soil removal, an arrangement of steel and

concrete filled bollards have been installed either side of Manor Hill effectively removing the access routes for travellers onto the monument on both the south and north sides. The funding was a joint venture by BHCC and English Heritage, who approved the specification for the bollards and the method of recording any archaeological features in the small areas of the monument affected by the intrusive posts.

The next phase is now underway with display boards, interpreting the site, being commissioned. Summer walks and an open day organised by Dr Pope last September, which attracted large crowds, made BHCC aware of the interest shown by local residents and the people of Brighton and Hove. The area is a mixture of archaeological remains, adjacent allotments and a nature reserve. The archaeology is now protected and all credit must be given to Brighton and Hove City Council for taking such a positive approach to protecting its important archaeological remains.

John Funnell

Guided walk in Ashdown Forest

On Sunday May 8th 2011 from 10:30 to 12:30 Lyn Palmer will lead a walk through Ashdown Forest examining results from a LiDAR survey. Max. number 20. Further details & meeting point in next Newsletter.

CBA-SE Conference 2009 'Archaeology of death and remembrance' (part 2)

Maire McQueeney talked about death and memorabilia during the Victorian period, focusing on the Lewes Road cemeteries in Brighton. The cemetery was started as a business enterprise during the 19th century when the cemeteries of the parish churches of Brighton were overflowing with little or no land left for burial. She mentioned the early trend for catacomb and above ground internments which tend to suggest a preoccupation with a fear of being buried alive. The cemetery is an interesting collection of carved grave stones, mausoleums and family vaults. Maire talked about the rich variety of grave adornments with the gothic and classical styles both being present, and even an Egyptian pylon being one of the features of the Brighton cemetery. She stressed the changes happening in cemeteries with the current trend of child cemeteries, tree cemeteries and the importance of organic and recyclable materials being contemporary fashions. Other topics covered included ethnic cemeteries and the dramatic change during the First World War when simplicity in grave stones, mainly due to the large quantities required, replaced the Victorian artistic creations.

Dr Paul Garwood talked about the distinct nature of Beaker burials, their place in the landscape and the almost regulated method of burial with a similar fixed foetal burial position and the almost ritualistic finds associated from interment in this period. It appeared to be a very formal and organised rite. The subtle changes occurred in the later Bronze Age when the predominantly male only burial pattern saw the beginning of female burials, but for women a variation in the individual orientation of the body. The later beaker burials also showed local pottery becoming a feature of the grave goods, while the earlier had 'imported' wares perhaps linked to distant home lands. The development of new, later linear barrow arrangements showed an affinity to closely align with other ancient sites.

Casper Johnson and Jim Stevenson focused on the rich Iron Age 'Warrior' burials found recently at Ashford. The burials have characteristics very similar to the Yorkshire Arras burials at Wetwang, but despite being located very close together were strikingly different in a number of aspects. The burials were separated by only 30 years. The early interment was at the bottom of a deep shaft and dated by a 'Butt beaker' to AD10. It appeared to have had a coffin and possessed grave goods that included a large sword, possible shield boss and a spear thrust into the side of the grave wall. The pottery was located outside of the actual interment. The second burial was in a very shallow, and within a less well constructed ditched enclosure. The body was smaller but had a much larger sword, pointing towards the skull, and the pots were buried inside of the 'coffin' area.

The burial locations were located within a varying and changing landscape. The field systems and trackways dated from the Bronze Age through to the Roman periods with patterns and changes in the landscape clearly observed. Close to the inhumation site is another cemetery consisting of cremations. The cremation cemetery was quite apart from the larger enclosed inhumation burials, but both areas were respected and fitted into the broader, panoramic ancient landscape.

The conference was diverse and encompassed a large range of topics and periods of interest. The general view would suggest that death and remembrance are a continuing theme and only the methods and fashions changing over time. It is the ones who remain that appear to need some focus for the dead. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of

the conference was the view that grave goods are not necessarily a direct link with the deceased, with many objects clearly not items that could have been used during their lifetime. A number of extremely large swords would have been of little or no use on the battlefield. They may provide evidence for intended use in any afterlife, or may be mantles or symbols of authority.

In his closing remarks the chairman Andrew Richardson mentioned the ethics of digging up bodies which he justified on the grounds that perhaps after thousands of years our ancestors were being restored to their rightful place in our modern consciousness. This topic could be the subject of a future conference.

It was an excellent conference and the committee of CBA South East would like to thank all of the speakers for their splendid presentations, Andrew Richardson for chairing the meeting, the catering staff at the venue, and those members that assisted with the organisation of the conference. The committee will now have to consider future conferences and whether it is worthwhile to organise such splendid events for such a limited audience.

CBA-South East Branch

The CBA is a charity which aims to advance the public's knowledge of archaeology and history in their local area and to share information across counties.

Committee members 2010

Chairman: Andrew Richardson, Kent

Vice-Chairman: Jake Weekes, Kent

Treasurer / Grants: John Funnell, Sussex

Secretary: Rose Hooker, Surrey

Webmaster / Membership: Stuart Edwards, Kent

Newsletter Editor: Judie English, Surrey

Education Liaison Officer: Lyn Palmer, Kent

CBA Trustee: Joe Flatman, Surrey

Other members

Peter Youngs, Phil Stanley, Sy

Maurice Worsley, Kent

Laura Burnett, Dick Tapper, Sx

Enquiries and Membership: Debbie Wood, 81 Birch Grove, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3RE, Debbie_wood@blueyonder.co.uk

Contacting the Newsletter: if you have news, an article, a conference report, book review or letter that you think might be of interest to people in the South Eastern region please contact the editor: Judie English, 2, Rowland Road, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8SW, judie.english@btopenworld.com. Please send documents as email attachments or send discs or hard copy to the above address. Please note that items may be edited due to space restrictions, photographs should be of as high resolution as possible.

CBA-SE website: www.cbase.org.uk

Printed by NCC Print Services, Unit 14, Dunsfold Park, Stovolds Hill, Cranleigh, GU6 8TB