

Issue 38 Autumn 2012



South East **Newsletter**

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



MARKING PAST LANDSCAPES

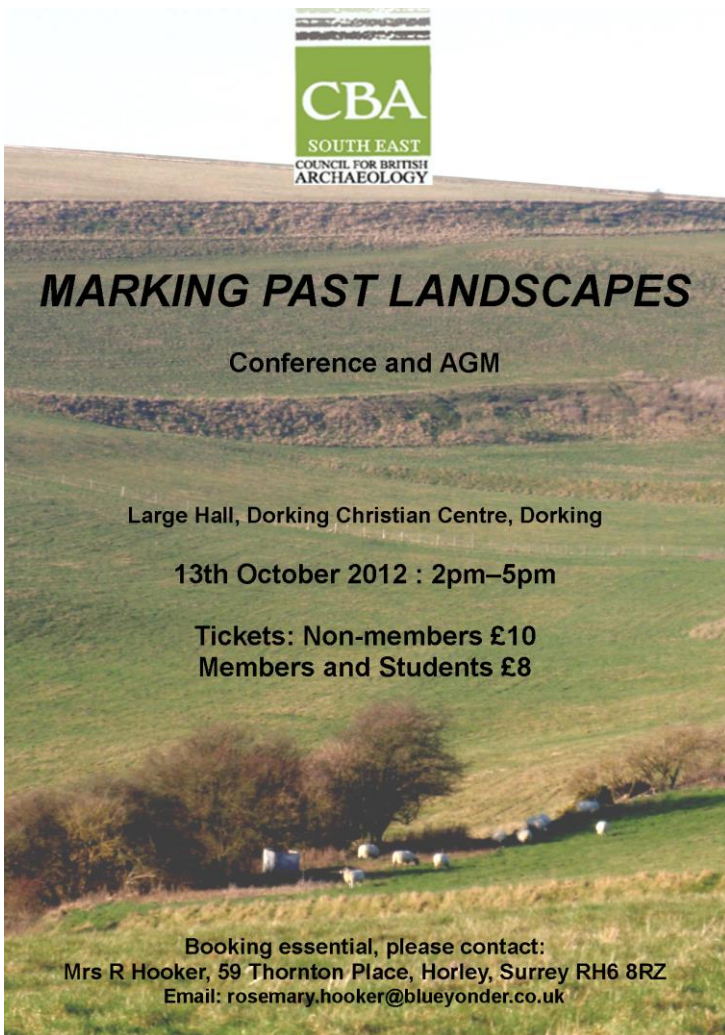
Conference and AGM

Large Hall, Dorking Christian Centre, Dorking

13th October 2012 : 2pm–5pm

Tickets: Non-members £10
Members and Students £8

Booking essential, please contact:
Mrs R Hooker, 59 Thornton Place, Horley, Surrey RH6 8RZ
Email: rosemary.hooker@blueyonder.co.uk



AGM and Conference

MARKING PAST LANDSCAPES

- | | | |
|------|--|---------------|
| 2.00 | Welcome | David Rudling |
| 2.05 | <i>The geology of building stones from the North Downs landscape</i> | Roger Birch |
| 2.50 | <i>Places of significance and transformation in the Medway valley: creating the earliest Neolithic communities in Britain.</i> | Paul Garwood |
| 3.35 | Tea and AGM | |
| 4.15 | <i>Netting the land – social context of prehistoric field systems</i> | Judie English |
| 4.55 | Close | |

Bookings from: Mrs R Hooker, 59 Thornton Place, Horley, Surrey RH6 8RZ
rosemary.hooker@blueyonder.co.uk

Are you still a member of CBA-SE?

Our numbers are dropping seriously and one possible reason is that the recent changes in the way membership fees are collected may be causing some confusion. If there is a red cross at the top right-hand corner of the front page of this Newsletter we have not received a fee from you and will remove you from our list. Please check which of the following situations pertain to you and act accordingly:

- a) it may be that your membership comes due between August 2012 and March 2013 in which case, if you wish to remain a member of CBA-SE please check that your payment to CBA in York is £39.00
- b) it may be that your membership became due between April and July 2012 and the fee paid remained at £34.00 – this now only covers CBA membership, not that of a branch. If you wish to remain a member of CBA-SE please send a cheque for £5.00 payable to CBA-SE to David Worsell (page 11) and amend your payment for next year to £39.00
- c) it may be that you no longer wish to be a member of CBA-SE in which case we're sorry to lose you!

Roman 'curse scroll' from East Farleigh, Kent



The names of 14 people who may have lived in East Farleigh, Kent, nearly 2,000 years ago have been deciphered on a lead scroll found during Maidstone Area Archaeological Group's 'dig' on the site of a Roman farmstead in a field off Lower Road. Measuring 60 mm by 100 mm and only one millimetre thick, it is likely to be a 'curse tablet'. Used by the Romans to cast spells on people accused of theft and other misdeeds, the tablets were rolled up to conceal their inscriptions and then hidden in places considered to be close to the underworld, such as graves, springs or wells. The scroll bears in capital letters the Latin names SACRATUS, CONSTITUT[US], CONSTAN[...] and MEMORIA[NUS], the Celtic names [ATR]ECTUS and ATIDENUS, and eight others which are incomplete.

Funded by a Kent Archaeological Society grant, Dana Goodburn-Brown of Sittingbourne-based Conservation Science Investigations is conserving the scroll and seeking ways to read its inscriptions. It was taken to the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland for neutron computed tomography imaging, but the resolution of the tomography was not good enough to see the writing. A more advanced neutron tomography instrument is being built at the ISIS Neutron Facility at Harwell, Oxfordshire, to be in service by 2015, so it will be possible to do high-

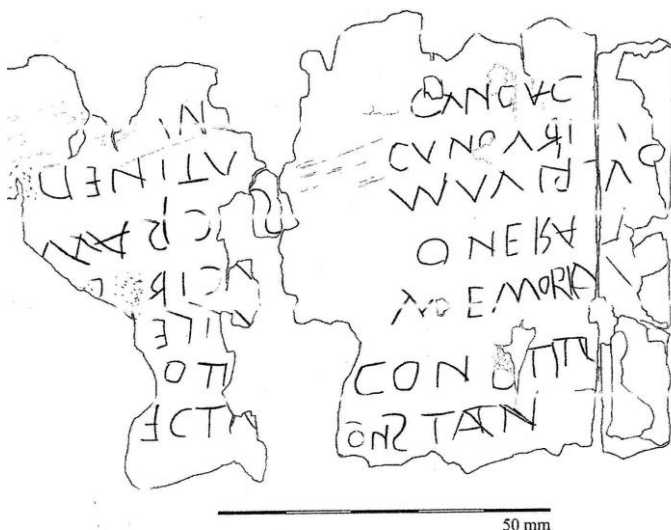
resolution neutron CT imaging of lead artefacts here in the UK soon. Meanwhile the scroll had to be unrolled and enlargement allowed some of the letters under an electron microscope.'



Dr Roger Tomlin, Lecturer in Late Roman History at Wolfson College, Oxford, took the project a stage further but the scroll still holds many mysteries. It is not dated and since it is written in capital letters it is not possible to date it by handwriting. It's possible that it was made in the third century AD.

'Lists of names are quite often found on lead tablets. Sometimes they accompany a complaint of theft addressed to a god, and name persons suspected of the theft. In one case, a tablet found in Germany, the names were explicitly those of enemies. This is likely to be the purpose of this tablet, especially since some of the names are written backwards or upside down; by "sympathetic magic", to make life difficult or perverse for them. If this is a curse tablet, which it seems to be, it is presumably a product of its local community. So it is a reasonable guess that the persons named on it lived there'.

The last time a Roman lead scroll was found in Kent was more than 40 years ago, in 1970, at the site of a Roman villa at Eccles.



Dr Tomlin's transcription of the scroll

CBA-SE events

Monday 17th Sept 2012 Knole House, Sevenoaks, Kent: site tour

A 'behind the scenes' tour has been arranged with the National Trust. Starting at 10.30am and for £15 per person. Advance booking and payment (£15.00) essential.

Saturday 3rd Nov 2012 Hollingbury – An Iron Age hill-fort in Sussex A walk around the ramparts, the interior and outer lands looking at the panorama of an ancient landscape. Meeting Place: Westbourne Garage, along the upper part of the Ditchling Road with the junction of Woodbourne Avenue, Brighton. TQ 315079 (Explorer 122 map 1:25 000). A circular walk taking about 2 hours. Easy walk with only slight inclines. Members £1 and non-members £3, children free. Dogs are permitted if controlled and on a lead.

Saturday 26th January – Lewes- Ancient and Historic Town – 10:00am. Meet at Lewes Castle. A day in Lewes, with a lunch stop, that will include visits to Lewes Castle, museum, Anne of Cleves House, Lewes Grange, Lewes Priory, the site of Lewes Friary and the Church of St John sub Castro. Lunch and the entrance fees to Lewes Castle and Anne of Cleves are not included in the price. Entrance is free to Sussex Archaeological Society members.

Further details on all three of these events from John Funnell john.funnell@brightonarch.org.uk or call 07789245106.

Discover ... Visit ... Make ... Explore

YAC is the only UK-wide archaeology club for young people aged up to 17*

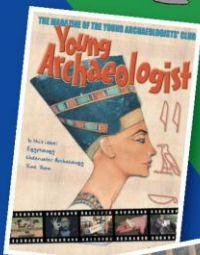
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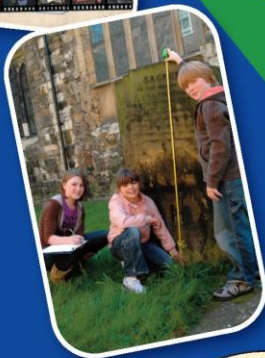
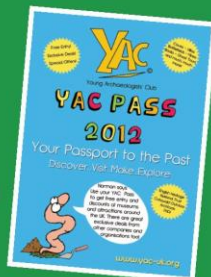
Website with news and activities



YAC

Young Archaeologists' Club®

www.yac-uk.org



Enjoy archaeology?
Get involved...
Join YAC today!

YAC encourages young people to look after and protect our archaeology. I am proud to be YAC's President!

Tony Robinson
Time Team



To join YAC contact:

YAC HQ, St Mary's House,
66 Bootham, York YO30 7BZ,

Tel: 01904 671417 Email: yac@yac-uk.org

*YAC is aimed at young people aged 8-16.
Young people aged under 8 can join if they wish.

YAC is part of the Council for British Archaeology;
Company Limited by Guarantee 1760254 Registered Charity in England and Wales 287815

Local YAC Groups

Canterbury YAC:

Branch Leader Abby Guinness (abbyguinness@hotmail.com)

22nd Sept – Day on a Dig, Randall Manor, Shorne Woods Country Park

20th Oct – Fieldwalking and metal detection

17th Nov – behind the scenes at The Beaney

15th Dec – A Victorian Christman in Gaol

Sussex Weald YAC

Branch Leader Hayley Forsyth (hayleyforsyth@hotmail.com)

Chertsey Museum YAC

Branch Leader Heidi Dawley (heidi.dawley@runnymede.gov.uk)

To book for any of these events please phone 01932 565764

Saturday 15th September: Chertsey Abbey Survey – we will be studying the Abbey site and will make our own decorated floor tile

Saturday 20th - October: Medieval Medicine – learn about the herbs the monks used and make a remedy to take home

Saturday 17th - November: Illuminated Manuscripts – find out about the manuscripts the monks wrote and make your own

Saturday 15th - December: Pilgrims' Feast - join the monks for a delicious feast!

Each day comprises two sessions, 11:00 – 12:30 and 14:00 – 15:30

NEW ARCHAEOLOGY DEGREE

We are pleased to announce that as from September 2013 entry the University of Brighton will be offering a full-time degree in Geography and Archaeology, ie a major/minor combination with one third being archaeology. We will hopefully have further details for our next newsletter, but anyone interested in applying for the new degree should contact Brighton University or visit its website.

ARCHAEOLOGY COURSES IN KENT

Canterbury Christ Church University

This coming academic year sees the provision of various Community Arts and Education day schools and short courses at a number of venues in Kent. The Saturday day schools at Salomons, near Tunbridge Wells, include:

10.11.12 Archaeological Field Survey - Tutor: David Rudling

01.12.12 Transitions in Archaeology: Hunting and Gathering to

- Farming - Richard Carter
 26.01.13 & 02.02.13 The Prehistory of the Weald - Richard Carter
 23.03.13 From Cowrie Shells to Credit Cards: The Archaeology of
 Money - David Rudling
 04.05.13 Discovering Archaeology - Richard Carter

The Sally Christian Archaeology Lecture 2012

On Thursday 18 October 2012 the University of Sussex Archaeological Society will be holding the annual lecture in memory of Sally Christian. This years lecture will be by Dr Matthew Pope on the subject 'How to Survive the Next Ice Age'. Time: 7-8pm; Venue: Fulton Lecture Theatre B, University of Sussex, Falmer. Admission free, but prior booking via University of Sussex web site (Sussex Lectures - www.sussex.ac.uk) essential.

Conferences

The Piltdown Centenary Conference Truth and Lies from the Deep Sussex Past Sussex Archaeological Society & The Lithics Studies Society

Saturday 22nd Sept 2012 at Lewes Town Hall from 0930 to 1700

- | | | |
|------|--|-------------------------|
| 1000 | Introduction | John Farrant |
| 1040 | The hoax in historical context | Becky Scott & Andy Shaw |
| 1140 | New investigations of the Piltdown Man fossil | |
| 1215 | The animal fossils of Piltdown | Andy Currant |
| 1350 | The lying stones of Sussex: what the artefacts tell us about the Piltdown fraud | John McNabb |
| 1425 | A brief history of crime: the curious career, finds and 'discoveries' of Charles Dawson, FSA | Miles Russell |
| 1525 | The case against Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: priest, palaeontologist and philosopher | Francis Thackeray |
| 1600 | Past, interrupted, stone age archaeology in 21 st century Sussex | Matt Pope |

Book online at www.sussexpast.co.uk, by phone on 01273 405737 or by post (sae) to Lorna Gartside, Bull House, 92, High St, Lewes BN7 1XH

Recent Research on Anglo-Saxon Kent Council for Kentish Archaeology

Saturday 20th October 2012 at The Old Sessions Lecture Theatre, Canterbury Christchurch University, North Holmes Campus between 2.00pm and 5.30pm

Monastic foundation and the Christianisation of Anglo-Saxon Kent: a review of recent excavation at Lyminge Alexandra Knox, Reading Uni

Kentish Anglo-Saxon acquisitions from the British Museum
Sue Brunning, British Museum
Discovery of a Major Anglo-Saxon Settlement at Eynsford Brian Philp

Tickets £5.00 available from C.K.A. 7, Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN1 8HP (S.A.E. please). Website www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk

This information is correct at the time of publication

Historic Buildings by the Seaside **Kent Archaeological Society**

Saturday 20th October 2012 at Harrietsham Community Centre, Church Road (off A20), Harrietsham, Kent from 09:30 to 16:00.

The main subjects and speakers will include Sandwich (presented by Sarah Pearson, author of 'Medieval Houses in Kent: a Historical Analysis'), Rye and Winchelsea (David Martin, Senior Historic Buildings Officer for Archaeology South-East), and the rise of suburbia by Peter Draper, followed by accounts of recent local research projects.

The conference is open to the public. Admission £10, lunch £7. Further details from David Carder, email: david_carder@talk21.com. Download a booking form from <http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk> or send an s.a.e. to Mr D Carder, KAS, 53 The Ridgeway, Chatham, Kent ME4 6PB.

Surrey Archaeological Society Autumn Conference 2012 **The Research Framework - Local History**

Saturday 10th November at The Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, Ashted, Surrey, KT21 2BE

09.15 Registration
09.55 Opening Remarks Gerry Moss
10.00 Settlements in Landscapes: using archaeological and documentary evidence Professor Chris Dyer
10.45 The Hearth Tax Dr Catherine Ferguson
11.55 Godalming Church, Town and surrounding Villages

Alan Bott

12.35 The Hassell Watercolours of Georgian Buildings in Surrey

Julian Pooley

14.15 The Gravett Award and Introduction to the Afternoon

David Calow

14.20 Seething Wells. From Cholera to clean Water

Howard Bengel

15.00 The Historic Records of Cranleigh Village Hospital

Keith Atkins

15.40 Conference Closing Remarks and Tea

1600 -1700 SyAS Special General Meeting and AGM

The Discovery and Excavation of the Roman Shore-Fort at Dover

Brian Philp



This new publication, eagerly awaited, deals with the discovery of the long-lost shore-fort of *Dubris*, listed in the Roman *Notitia Dignitatum*, but never before found. The year 1970 saw the start of more than a 30-year campaign of urgent rescue archaeology by the Kent Unit across the centre of ancient Dover. This resulted in the staggering discovery of a wealth of structures of Roman, saxon and medieval date.

The new volume, published as No. 11 in the Kent Monograph Series, covers the discovery of over 200m of the fortified walls of this massive fort, seven of its large bastions, the great defensive ditch, the rampart bank and much of the internal area. The latter contained the major military bath-house, originally constructed by the *Classis Britannica* and the East Building, an extension of the famous Roman Painted House.

Nearby was a deep terrace containing a unique collection of huts or pens.

The many finds from the site include two important Roman altars, a statue, two stone heads and a major collection of rare gemstones. The finest shows a gladiatorial scene, never before found in this country. Over 500 coins are listed and analysed.

This memorial volume is in a rigid case-bound A4 format, has 180 pages and over 40 colour plates. This very limited edition is only available from the Kent Unit. Price £24 plus £5 post and packing, cheques payable to Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit. Order or collect from Roman Painted House, New Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9AJ

CBA-SE is a branch (Charity No 1047378) of the **Council for British Archaeology** which aims to advance the public's knowledge of archaeology and history in their local area and to share information across counties.

Committee members 2012

Chairman: David Rudling, Sussex Vice-Chairman: Dick Tapper, Sussex
 Treasurer / Grants: John Funnell, Sussex
 Secretary: Rose Hooker, Surrey Newsletter Editor: Judie English, Surrey
 Education Liaison Officer: Lyn Palmer, Kent

Other members:

Peter Youngs and Phil Stanley – Surrey, Shiela Broomfield – Kent
 David Worsell and Hayley Forsyth – Sussex
 CBA Trustee: Joe Flatman, Surrey

Enquiries and Membership: Dave Worsell, 19, College Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 1JD, david.worsell@tiscali.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, judie.english@btopenworld.com 2, Rowland Road, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8SW, . 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.

SEE US ON FACEBOOK – ADDRESS: CBA South East
CBA-SE website: www.cbase.org.uk

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