

C.A.T.

**FRIENDS**  
of CANTERBURY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
TRUST

# Newsletter



A remarkable  
Anglo-Saxon burial  
discovered at  
Canterbury Christ  
Church University,  
p 22.

WINTER 2019

**Nº110**

## FCAT Committee


- Chairman: ..... *Dr John Williams*  
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*Mrs Sue Chambers, Mr Martin Pratt, Dr David Shaw,*  
*Dr Anthony Ward, Dr Eleanor Williams*

.....

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

The next Newsletter will appear in March 2020. Please send contributions to: [chairFCAT@canterburytrust.co.uk](mailto:chairFCAT@canterburytrust.co.uk) by the beginning of February 2020.

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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 CAT 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](mailto:memsecFCAT@canterburytrust.co.uk), or leave a message at 92A Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU, tel 01227 462 062) so that our records are up-to-date.**



# Dear Friends,

The end of another year is with us and indeed when this newsletter reaches you we will very much be wondering what the future holds for us as individuals and more collectively as a country. As we turn more locally to the activities of the Trust we can see that a lot is happening. Rather, however, than drawing attention to the array of most interesting work reported on within these pages I would like to focus on two things.

Firstly, while a major concern of the Friends is to support the work of CAT they themselves can benefit from a fascinating and varied programme of talks and visits throughout the year – the forthcoming talks for the spring are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. In



the summer there were guided visits to St Eanswythe's watercourse at Folkestone (Newsletter 109) and to the excavation of the seventh-century church at Lyminge (this Newsletter and also the forthcoming FCAT talk in January 2020). The current autumn programme of talks started with a fascinating voyage into the world of music in Roman Egypt. Professor Ellen Swift from the University of Kent has been working with others examining musical instruments within the Petrie collection of University College, London, which came from excavations in Egypt – not just looking at them but considering how they

were made and indeed creating accurate replicas, some of which Ellen brought with her. There were a number of small percussive instruments but perhaps pride of place was taken by a set of pan pipes. A number of us tried to play the replica; one had to purse the lips a little to blow across the top of the pipes – it was possible to get individual notes but I don't think anyone managed a tune. The pitch of the individual pipes had been established and the seven notes comprised two overlapping tetrachords (four-note chords) giving a scale of D, E flat, F, G, A flat, B flat and C. It was interesting returning home to play the scale on the piano; what would the melodies have sounded like in Roman Egypt? As I write this letter, I am looking forward to hearing about medieval wooden chests from Kent at the November talk. Perhaps I can encourage those of you who do not already do so to come to our lectures and visits!

Secondly, since taking over the chair of FCAT I have become so aware of the assistance of Jane Elder and Mark Duncan in preparing the four-monthly FCAT newsletter. Sadly for us Jane is retiring from CAT in February, although I get into trouble for using the



term 'retiring'. She and I have worked closely together in getting the newsletter together over the last two and a half years and I have so much appreciated working with her. Jane started with CAT in 1979. After some time in the field she became involved with editorial matters in 1982 (initially using an ordinary typewriter and then a 'golfball'; the Trusts's first computer, known fondly as 'Constance', I am told, did not appear until 1986). And a testing baptism it was, resulting in the appearance of the major Marlowe monographs (see FCAT newsletter 36). Since then eight more monographs and eleven occasional papers have appeared, with number 12, on New

Romney, in the pipeline. While the Friends have organised publication of the Newsletter themselves at some times, at others, as at present, she has been much involved and able to lend her considerable expertise. CAT and FCAT have been most fortunate to have been able to benefit from her knowledge and skill over such a long period. She will be much missed and I am sure that we all wish her well in the future.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

*John Williams, Chair FCAT*

## Dear Friends,

In these pages Alison Hicks has prepared a brief summary of the work we have been doing in advance of landscaping to the south and west of the cathedral for the *Cathedral Journey*. Rupert Austin has been continuing his recording of the north and south triforia (organ lofts) and in the western part of the cathedral crypt; Richard Helm has been leading a team excavating a major late Roman cemetery to the rear of Palamon Court, Rhodaus Town; Tania Wilson has been supervising excavations against the Sturry Road in advance of the City Council's new Canterbury Riverside development, a small Trust team has been monitoring excavations for security bollards across the city and we have made further advances at Wincheap, where additional works have been undertaken to make the premises secure and to house the Trust's paper archive.

One of many projects being undertaken within and around the cathedral church at this time has been to reposition the organ console from over the pulpitum screen at the crossing, to the north choir aisle, and to divide the organ pipes and associated systems between the north and south triforia. Desk studies and an evaluation of the new organ position were undertaken a while ago to ensure that historic fabric would not be harmed by the development. More recently, in the north and south organ lofts, following an extended period of photographic recording and cleaning (using specialist hoovers) by Trust staff, Rupert has been studying the built fabric, including the timber roofs and masonry vaults. In the north triforium, fragments of William of Sens original roof have been identified and dated by dendrochronology to c 1180. Additional masonry details have also been recorded confirming a change of design for the north triforium roof, during the period of the rebuilding of the eastern arm of the cathedral from a fully vaulted system to a simple, pitched, timber covering. To the south, another change in design was apparent, from an intended barrel-vault to a taller, pointed vault form. Both triforia contained a wealth of mason's marks with the south triforium containing a surprising amount of graffiti, most if not all of it dating after 1820 when the organ pipes were first installed in the space.

In the western part of the crypt, east of the passage linking the transepts at the crossing, a Trust team has systematically cleaned and recorded deposits below the floor of the former treasury museum, after fixtures, fittings and the concrete floor covering had



North triforium showing arcade of Purbeck marble columns, cleaned during the work.

been removed. This was the first opportunity we have had in over forty years to inspect the western crypt walls in detail and the first time with good lighting. Original standing Lanfranc fabric dating to the early 1070s was recorded together with Anselm period (c 1100) arcade sleeper walls supporting repositioned Lanfranc and Anselm columns. Some significant discoveries were made, casting some doubt on interpretations made in the late 1970s, including a west doorway in the central vault giving access from the crossing passage to the crypt. It would be true to say that the survey has posed rather more questions than it has provided answers or confirmed past interpretations for that matter. What can presently be seen in the west wall is surviving Lanfranc fabric to vault level, over-built with Anselm period ashlar. North and south engaged columns are early, but the two intermediate columns, though incorporating elements of Lanfranc fabric, have been relocated on Anselm period sleeper walls. Scars for the original intermediate column positions can be seen in the west wall, defined in part by original Lanfranc render. North and south walls are mainly of Lanfranc fabric, but here there is evidence in the form of a vertical straight-joint, mirrored north and south, for perhaps some form of intermediate strengthening (or door openings), with both elements over-built with later ashlar.

Richard Helm is leading a team excavating late Roman burials on a site near Augustine House between two recently-built student accommodation developments. All three developments provided evidence for a cemetery landscape outside the southern walls of the Roman town between Ridigate and Worthgate, including a possible timber shrine or temple under Augustine House. Although some early burials have been located, most date from the mid-third into the early fifth century, with more than one cemetery represented. The largest cemetery located beneath Palamon Court was flanked by straight boundary ditches, forming a roughly rectangular plot aligned on its long axis north-east to south-west, and set parallel to the line of the town defences to the north-west. Our present excavation falls within the north-east corner of the large cemetery and once complete will provide us with most of the burial ground. To date a significant number of burials have been excavated together with features of early Anglo-Saxon date. Difficult weather conditions are not helping, but the team is coping admirably. The results of the work will be of immense importance for our understanding of burial practices at the end of the Roman period, and for other scientific studies that have the potential to provide greater insights into the make-up of the population at that time.

A second team led by Tania Wilson is excavating a site against the Sturry Road, destined to become part of the Canterbury Riverside development. Here traces of long, narrow property blocks fronting the road have been exposed, the individual blocks defined by ditches, banks and perhaps hedge or fence lines. Some of the plots contained groups of rubbish and cess pits together with traces of perhaps flimsy outbuildings. The houses accompanying the blocks were set against an earlier street frontage now beneath modern Sturry Road. An early phase of land use may perhaps date from the eighth



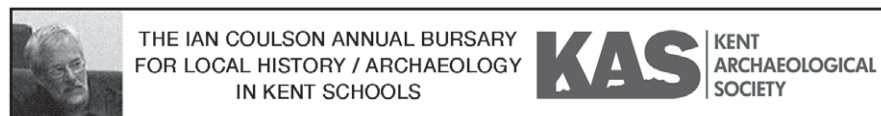
The western crypt during the work.

century when the Anglo-Saxon manor of Barton existed nearby. Some of the property boundaries may relate to Christ Church Priory rentals dating from the twelfth century, but most features are likely to date from the fifteenth to seventeenth century and later.

A small team continues to monitor the cutting of pits in strategic locations across the town for the installation of static and rising bollards, to counter possible terrorist threats. A number of pits have been archaeologically excavated, providing new evidence for road formation and in some locations traces of medieval and Roman buildings, including part of the Roman Theatre at the south-west end of St Margaret's Street.

At Wincheap, our new store, finds processing and outreach facility continues to take shape with staff now embedded in the first-floor offices, over a racked-out and well-organised store at ground level, the floors linked by the Friends-funded goods lift. Site security has been recently improved with the building of a fenced compound with gated entrance designed by Peter Atkinson. Building improvements are continuing with the racking-out of the Titan portacabin to create accessible storage for the Trust archive. A number of our courses have taken place in the new building, with encouraging and even enthusiastic responses from participants. Volunteers are now welcomed at the new facility and it is marvellous to see so many assisting our finds team there and also our environmental team at Broad Street. Our grateful thanks to you all.

*Paul Bennett, Director*



## The 2018-9 award: Investigating Aspects of the History of Kent at Key Stage 3

The Ian Coulson Bursary for 2018-19 was awarded to The Archbishop's School, Canterbury. Sarah Martin, Director of Humanities at the school, has been developing a scheme of work, with accompanying resources, based on the History of Kent. The materials are designed as a synoptic unit for pupils at the end of Key Stage 3 which will help them to:

- increase their awareness of the history of the country in which they live
- make connections with aspects of national history which they studied earlier in the key stage and
- develop some of the analytical skills they will need for the GCSE History course

They consist of 9 'snapshots' of important episodes from the History of Kent, ranging from the arrival of the Romans at Richborough in AD 43 to Operation Fortitude during



An inflatable dummy tank, like those used in Operation Fortitude, 1944.

the Second World War. Each one is designed for a single lesson and contains a range of resources and activities. They focus on a variety of locations in the county in order to appeal to as many schools as possible. The approach is flexible so that teachers can decide how many of the 'snapshots' to study, they could add some of their own or use any of them to provide a local perspective in courses of national history.

The sequence of work culminates in pupils producing a piece of extended writing in which they argue which event had the greatest impact on the people of Kent, based upon previously discussed criteria. I have been liaising with the school during the year and am currently in the process of editing their final materials and presenting them in our house-style. This material, which will consist of a scheme of work, a PowerPoint presentation and accompanying student resources, will be available as free downloads on the CAT and KAS websites soon.

## How to apply for a bursary

Further information about the bursary, including how to apply for it and teaching resources funded by it, can be found at the following websites:

Canterbury Archaeological Trust:

[www.canterburytrust.co.uk/learning/schools/coulson-bursary/](http://www.canterburytrust.co.uk/learning/schools/coulson-bursary/)

or the Kent Archaeological Society:

[www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/news/ian-coulson-annual-bursary](http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/news/ian-coulson-annual-bursary)

**Please help us to publicise the bursary by telling any teachers you know about it and encouraging them to apply!**

*Andy Harmsworth*

# Canterbury Cathedral landscaping works

Anyone walking through the cathedral grounds over the past eighteen months or so is likely to have observed the presence of CAT archaeologists, largely undertaking works associated with the *Canterbury Journey* landscaping scheme. The core team of Phil Mayne and Frances Morgan has been involved in the South Precincts scheme since February 2018, with other archaeologists joining them during more intense periods of the project. The work has involved a combination of watching brief and excavation, a watching brief being maintained during the removal of upper levels of overburden, following which excavation proceeded to required formation depth. The ground was then left ready for the laying of new paving, and the archaeologists moved to the next area.

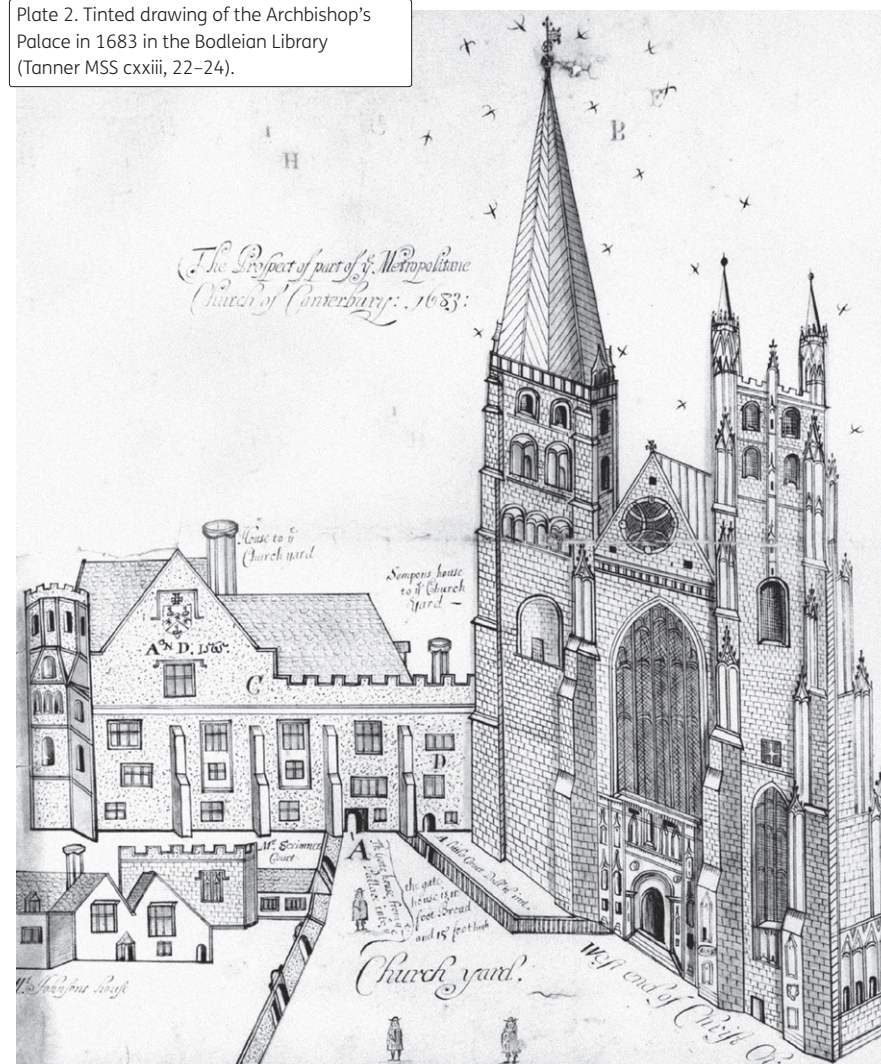
The investigations have certainly been fruitful. In the far north-west corner of the precincts, south of the gates of the current Archbishop's Palace, structural remains associated with Lanfranc's palace were identified. His Great Hall, forming the main range of the eleventh-century palace, extended westwards from the north-west tower of the cathedral church. The excavation work revealed walls of the hall, though inside only dumps of later infilling material were exposed, the floor levels lying below at greater depth.

Immediately to the south a series of medieval walls survived, underneath a depth of structural debris, in places just 15cm below the current ground surface. One of the walls

Plate 1. View of the area exposed to the west of the west front of the Cathedral Church, looking west from the top of the scaffolding. The Archbishop's Palace boundary wall, running east-west, lies towards the right, the area of structural debris further right concealing the surviving walls of a building.

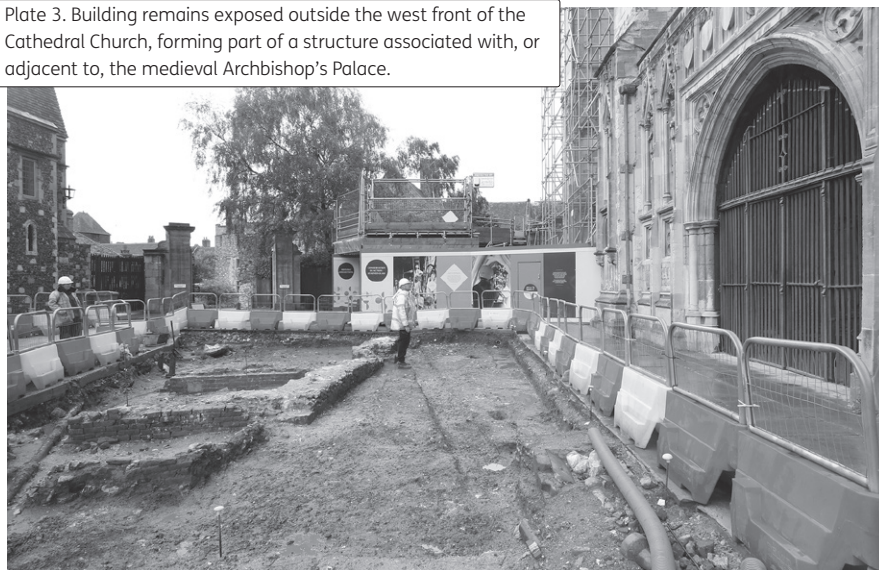


Plate 2. Tinted drawing of the Archbishop's Palace in 1683 in the Bodleian Library (Tanner MSS cxiii, 22-24).



was aligned east-west and formed the southern boundary of the Archbishop's Palace (Plate 1). The walls abutting to the north comprised a building forming part of, or lying adjacent to, the palace, perhaps parts of the buildings represented on a tinted drawing dated 1683 (Plates 2 and 3). At least three phases of wall were revealed, together with two fireplaces, a doorway and a window reveal. Areas of white plaster render survived in places adhering to the internal faces of the masonry. The bonded chalk and flint walls suggest a fourteenth-century or later date. The buildings they represented perhaps stood, with the modification of later brick structures, until the nineteenth century, when the southernmost range of the former Archbishop's Palace was dismantled.

Plate 3. Building remains exposed outside the west front of the Cathedral Church, forming part of a structure associated with, or adjacent to, the medieval Archbishop's Palace.



Another area to reveal significant remains lay immediately outside the south-west door of the Cathedral Church. Here, phases of masonry pre-dating the early fifteenth-century porch were observed during the laying of a new service run (Plate 4). They comprised what appeared to be two possible buttresses, offset both southwards and westwards from the upstanding porch masonry. The masonry was constructed predominantly of flint, though included pieces of Reigate stone. Curiously, the buttresses, if this is what they were, were not symmetrical, the easternmost protruding further south than the western. The remains are such that they suggest a structure extending further west than the current Cathedral Church, yet to date there has been no evidence of previous masonry in this area and we have no knowledge of what these masonry remains could have formed. It is hoped that future investigations which progress around the south-west corner of the church may reveal more.

To the south, outside the rapidly rising new Welcome Centre, ground reduction as part of the landscaping work revealed parts of two structures, one of internally rendered bonded brick and the other of mortared stone blocks. A conduit house is known to have stood in this general area, recorded on a plan of the precincts dating from 1669 (Wilkes) and again in 1680 (Thomas Hill). William Gosling, writing in 1774, described it as 'a small stone house, with a cistern in it, which had a common cock for the use of the church tenants in the neighbourhood, and was supplied with water from the great reservoir in the Green-court'. A subterranean brick vault, interpreted as being associated with the conduit house, was observed in 1985–6 during construction of the former Welcome Centre but its location was never accurately recorded. Having wondered for over 30 years where the conduit house might have been, there now appear to be two candidates for its location!

Across other parts of the landscaping area, the remains largely comprised metalled and crushed stone surfaces which would have lain within the precincts during the seventeenth to early twentieth century. They have clearly been laid and relaid many times to aid passage around the cathedral and no doubt to accommodate the fairs held in the precincts, including the Michaelmas Fair. Also exposed have been a number of drains, including the Great Drain of Prior Goldstone, of late fifteenth-/early sixteenth-century date, seen in the pathway leading to the south door of the Cathedral Church. A small number of burials and the tops of graves have been revealed, but the depth of the landscaping has ensured that no articulated burials have required exhumation.

The works are projected to last until Christmas 2019, after which there will be a long period of post-excavation work, analysing what has been discovered and writing up the results into an appropriate publication. What is undoubtedly true, even at this stage, is that the scale of the works will have ensured that the remains significantly increase our understanding of activities within the precincts over previous centuries.

*Alison Hicks*

Plate 4. View of the masonry exposed below the south-west porch, looking north-west. Scale 2m.



# Outreach summer 2019

The Outreach team has been busy this summer with our usual array of summer events and the move to Wincheap in July. We are in the process of settling in and we hope to be fully open in spring 2020.

Our Education Loans Service is still partially suspended after the burglaries of 2018. I have started sorting through the collection to assess the extent of the damage, but it will take some time before we are running at full capacity again. On the plus side the boxes that can be loaned are going out to schools in Canterbury, Thanet, Sittingbourne, Wye, Folkestone, and Ramsgate. Anglo-Saxons have proved to be our most popular loan this year being taught in KS2 Years 4 or 5. Some of our collections have been supporting our staff at talks and events, particularly our Roman and Anglo-Saxon collections, and this always goes down well with the attendees. Over the winter I will start to replace stolen items and look to expand the collection with money generously granted by the Friends.

Visits to schools continue, with Martin Crowther delivering workshops on Anglo-Saxons and on Prehistory in Deal and Ospringe, with plenty more schools booking in for the autumn and winter. I have continued to deliver workshops in the Beaney Learning Lab, to international schools of French, German, and Belgium students, on the Romans in Canterbury. It is hoped that the disruption caused by the current uncertain political climate will not put the groups off coming to enjoy Kent and take part in these workshops.

We have hosted nine week-long work-experience placements at the Trust during June and July. The students were predominantly from Canterbury schools, but some travelled from Rochester, Ramsgate and Ashford. We try to give the students a rounded experience with tasters in finds processing, data entry and archiving, and wherever possible we get them on site. Students applying for university find the experience invaluable. We have plans to attend more careers fairs in local schools to help inspire young people into taking up a career in heritage.

We have supported the Charing Palace Project at its stand celebrating the archaeology of Charing at Charing Fete, with some artefacts from our handling collection and the Little Dig activity. We attended the Canterbury Medieval Pageant with Christ Church Canterbury University, presenting a display of medieval finds from the St Gregory's and Whitefriars excavations, maps of Canterbury through the ages, and the Little Dig activity. Our thanks go to St Paul's Church for hosting the event, and to CAT staff Frances and Jacqui for assisting with the stand.

Finally, we have been working with the Horsebridge Centre in Whitstable on their Young History Makers project. The project combines Arts and Heritage to explore the story of the Roman Pudding Pans: late second-century Roman samian bowls, perhaps part

of a cargo from a shipwreck, found by Whitstable fishermen dredging for oysters off the coast in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They brought them back to their homes where they are rumoured to have been used for cooking. A local shop owner used to buy the 'pans' off the fishermen, and they can now be seen on permanent display in Whitstable Museum and the Roman Museum in Canterbury. We have been involved not only in talking to the group about the Pudding Pan story, but also in exploring how museums present information, how the stained glass and wall paintings in Canterbury cathedral told stories and how we can use the arts to engage people in heritage. The group will be creating pieces of art to present their version of the Pudding Pan story in an exhibition in the Horsebridge in February.

We are looking forward to the Becket 2020 celebrations planned for Canterbury. We will be taking part in quite a few of the planned events so watch this space!

*Annie Partridge*

Canterbury Medieval Pageant in St Paul's Church.





## Excavations in Woods Court Field, Badlesmere

During September for the past two years I have been commissioned by the Kent Archaeological Society to lead excavations at Badlesmere to the south of Faversham, as part of the Society's long-term landscape study across the Lees Court estate. The project has been very enthusiastically supported by the landowner, the Countess Sondes.

In 2017 no-less than three hoards of late Bronze Age metalwork were discovered in Woods Court Field, Badlesmere during a metal detector rally. Subsequently, the KAS organised an excavation programme aimed at establishing the context of these hoards. Our investigations in 2018 focused on the area where Hoards II and III had been discovered, towards the north-western side of the field. The excavations produced some interesting results but no further metalwork. The work in 2019 covered a wider area and was in three parts. Firstly, an unfinished portion of the previous year's excavation needed to be completed; secondly, the area around the site of bronze Hoard I on the opposite side of the field was examined and lastly, a long evaluation trench was cut between these two main excavations.

The excavations of 2018, on the north-western side of the field, revealed a scatter of more than twenty pits and post-holes cutting into the natural Clay-with Flints. These were associated with significant amounts of prehistoric pottery, struck flint and calcined flint. All the pottery is datable to the late Bronze Age–earliest Iron Age period, c 1150–600 BC.

The 2019 excavations and aerial view.



The work in 2019 was initially concerned with completing the unfinished south-eastern quarter of the 2018 excavation where the full extent of several substantial pits previously located needed to be ascertained. The largest of these pits was oval in plan, measuring 5.65m by 6.80m. It was just over 1 metre deep and its filling produced further large quantities of prehistoric pottery and calcined flint. The feature was one of a group of seven partially intercutting pits, perhaps originally dug as clay quarries. Overall, the pit complex covered an area about 11 metres across, with the sites of Hoards II and III located short distances to the north and west, respectively.

On the south-eastern side of the field in 2019, an area about 9 metres square was opened up around the site of Hoard I, revealing three more prehistoric pits. Interestingly, one of these showed evidence of burning on its sides and base but finds were fairly limited and, again, no more Bronze Age metalwork was discovered. By chance, however, one of these pits produced a Lower Palaeolithic handaxe, clearly residual in its excavated context but suggestive of much earlier human activity in the region.

The 2019 excavation areas were linked by a continuous evaluation trench about 150 metres long. This was designed to establish the density of features across the intervening part of the field. The trench confirmed the presence of further prehistoric pits and post-holes. Towards the centre, the trench was expanded into a small area excavation with the purpose of examining a complex group of features. Directly below the ploughsoil, a dense spread of calcined flint covering an area about 5 by 8 metres across was exposed; this burnt flint layer sealed several earlier pits and post-holes. Time was not available for a full examination, but the complex may have been broadly similar to the group of pits revealed in the north-western area, whilst the post-holes suggest that there was a timber structure here. All the pottery is again of late Bronze Age–earliest Iron Age date.

Of the other features investigated in the main trench, one oval pit some 28 metres to the north-west of Hoard I was filled with a deposit of dense calcined flint and charcoal, identical to a number of other pits seen on the site. Three more pits produced significant amounts of prehistoric pottery and fragments of fired clay, including a complete pyramidal loom-weight of typically late Bronze Age form.

After two seasons of excavation in Woods Court Field it is now apparent that a sizeable late Bronze Age–earliest Iron Age period settlement existed here and the metalwork hoards must have been deposited within the area of this settlement, even if the reason for their deposition remains unclear.

Situated high on the clay-capped North Downs, at about 95 metres above sea-level, the Badlesmere site was apparently unenclosed, perhaps being defined and partially protected on several sides by deep dry valleys. The settlement itself lay on a relatively bleak and exposed plateau, with a heavy soil that would have been quite difficult to cultivate in the past. Perhaps the site existed within a clearing in wooded country rather than on largely open ground, but other evidence from the immediate area shows that Neolithic and Bronze Age man had been active in this vicinity for centuries before the present settlement, so it was not established within a previously untouched landscape. It remains from these earlier prehistoric times that our investigations will be attempting to target in future seasons.

Keith Parfitt

## Re-investigating the origins of the church at Lyminge

Many Friends reading this will be aware of excavations in Lyminge, some 12 miles to the south of Canterbury, over the past decade that have revealed a wealth of evidence for occupation in the period between the end of direct Roman rule and the Norman Conquest. 160 years ago, Lyminge was also at the centre of archaeological revelations. The Rector, Canon Robert Jenkins, was actively seeking the church of Queen Æthelburh (Latinised as 'Ethelburga'), widowed Queen of Northumbria, who traditionally was given the estate of Lyminge by her brother King Eadbald around 633. He began digging in the churchyard during the 1850s and soon encountered masonry.

Jenkins published his findings in a number of publications, including a series of papers in *Archaeologia Cantiana*. He drew upon the first Lyminge charter (dated 697 or 712) describing the church as a *basilica* and extrapolated from his findings to project a great three-aisled church on the model of contemporary basilican churches in Italy.

Excavation of the chancel.



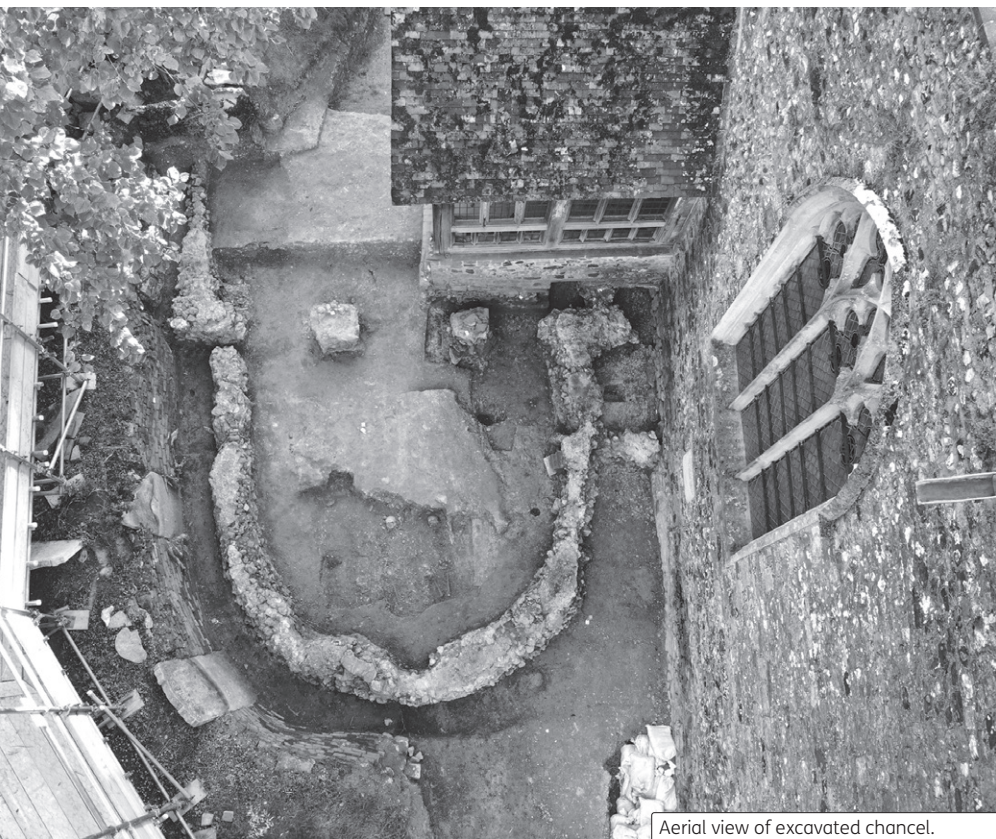
This extravagant conjecture has been questioned ever since. However, it has not been possible to re-examine Jenkins' claims until now. It has taken two years to put together a community-based project, largely funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, with additional significant support from the Sutton Hoo Society and the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust, as well as other smaller grants and public donations. The project, *Pathways to the Past: Exploring the legacy of Ethelburga*, involves renewing and improving the existing churchyard paths and implementing disabled access to the standing Norman church. This creates the opportunity to explore the archaeology found by Canon Jenkins, which lies under the path on the south side of the church.

The archaeological phase of the project commenced in July under the direction of Dr Gabor Thomas of the University of Reading, who has conducted the excavations in the village over the past decade. We engaged CAT's own Keith Parfitt who worked with us for most of the time, and who brought with him members of Dover Archaeology Group. We also had input from CAT's Paul Armour as well as students from Reading and local volunteers.

Over the eight weeks of the dig, we established beyond reasonable doubt that the structure to the south of the standing church is mid-seventh century. It corresponds very closely in style to the church of St Pancras within the precincts of St Augustine's in Canterbury, and also to St Mary's at Reculver. The stepped nave was separated from the apsidal chancel by a characteristic triple arcade. We were fortunate to recover a

fragment of column made from Marquise stone, just like those at Reculver, which are now preserved in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral. We also established that it is small but comparable to the other contemporary churches, being 13.4m long, by 5.3m at its widest. Fragments of white and pink plaster testify to the walls being covered, but we found no surviving remains of either the superstructure or the floor. All we know, therefore, is that the foundations were built using crushed Roman brick that give it a distinctive pink hue. The method of construction suggests that continental masons were imported to supervise the work. It is quite possible that they re-used dressed Roman stone to build the walls, but these have been comprehensively robbed, so we cannot say for certain.

In true Victorian fashion, Canon Jenkins chased the walls of the church when he dug them, leaving the interior of the church largely undisturbed. However, it soon became apparent that although this area may not have been disturbed in Victorian times, it had been heavily disturbed by burials. We excavated eight burials in the end of the chancel, the deepest containing a sherd of the thirteenth century. It is likely, therefore, that the



Aerial view of excavated chancel.

seventh-century church had been demolished and had passed out of memory by the thirteenth century when burial began in this area.

The excavation this summer confirmed that Canon Jenkins discovered a church that could plausibly have been built by Queen Æthelburh. There is less evidence that Æthelburh founded a monastic community around her church. We found seventh-century pottery in a sealed context to the west of the church, demonstrating monastic activity perhaps as early as the second half of the seventh century. There was also unstratified earlier pottery, but nothing that clearly pushes monastic activity back to Æthelburh's lifetime. The monastery that is documented and attested archaeologically by the end of the seventh century may have been founded around Æthelburh's mortuary chapel during the explosion of monastic foundations that occurred across England during the second half of the seventh century.

The *Pathways to the Past* project is continuing into 2020 with a programme of community-based activities designed to raise awareness and understanding of the rich historical local environment. We have launched a modern pilgrimage route, the *Royal Saxon Way*, linking Folkestone to Minster-in-Thanelt via Lyminge, celebrating the role of the queens and princesses of the seventh and eighth centuries who founded abbeys and churches on the route. We have released our first project publication, *Diary of a Dig*, which is available through our website. We will be seeking to publish more on this summer's dig and look at the broader history of early medieval Lyminge, as well as install information panels within the village. We are also working with the Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture at the University of York to create 3D reconstructions of the church site through its 1,400-year history, using the laser scans that were made during the summer. The project is thus continuing, and we still have a need for funding if we are to achieve all our objectives. Friends who are interested to learn more, or who wish to donate, can visit our project website at <https://geopaethas.com>.

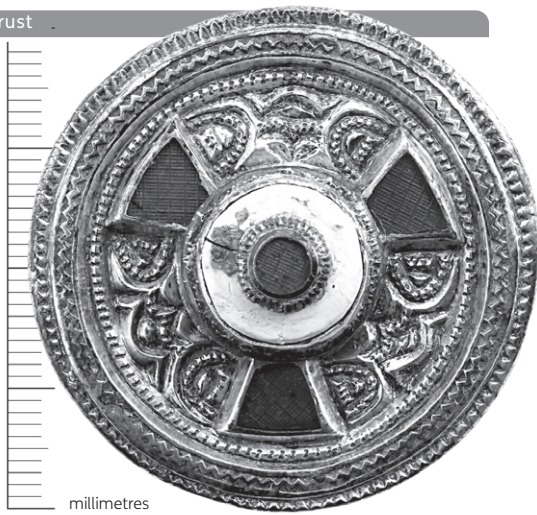
Rob Baldwin, Project Manager  
*Pathways to the Past: Exploring the legacy of Ethelburga*



Our Friends' photo archive needs refreshing. If you have any photographs taken at Friends events or Festival Walks that you are happy to share and which could be used to promote future events, do send them in.

Send your snaps, with details of when and where taken, to [jane.elder@canterburytrust.co.uk](mailto:jane.elder@canterburytrust.co.uk).

## A remarkable Anglo-Saxon burial discovered at Canterbury Christ Church University



In May excavations by CAT on CCCU's Canterbury campus revealed a remarkable find – the remains of an Anglo-Saxon burial dated to around AD 580–600. Although biological sex could not be confidently determined due to the incomplete and poorly preserved skeletal remains, dental wear analysis indicated that the individual was probably a young adult, probably aged between 20 and 30.

Most remarkable of all were the items buried with the deceased: a silver, garnet-inlaid Kentish disc brooch, a necklace of amber and glass beads, a copper alloy buckle and bracelet, and an iron knife; objects that possibly suggest a female burial. There is no doubt that this was a high-status individual. Based on scientific testing of similar finds, it is likely that the garnets came from Sri Lanka, with such brooches – crafted in east Kent – distributed by the Kentish royal dynasty as gifts to those in their favour.

The probable date of this woman's burial makes her a likely contemporary – even acquaintance – of King Ethelbert and Queen Bertha. She could even have been an eyewitness to the arrival of St Augustine and his monks, who came to Canterbury in AD 597 on their mission to convert the English to Christianity. However, her burial, located close to the present boundary with St Augustine's Abbey, almost certainly took place before the construction of the first church at St Augustine's in the early seventh century. This suggests that high-status burial was taking place on the site in the years shortly before the establishment of the abbey. The subsequent burial of Augustine and his companions, archbishops, and members of the Kentish royal dynasty therefore represents a continuance of existing practice at the site, rather than a completely new development.

We hope to reveal much more about the life, death, and burial of this young woman over the coming months as we conduct further scientific analysis and testing.

*Andrew Richardson, James Holman, and Ellie Williams*

## New narratives for the first millennium?

### The 70th Sachsensymposion

In September I attended the 70th Internationales Sachsensymposion, with the aid of a bursary from the Friends. This year it was held in the German city of Braunschweig (aka Brunswick), in Lower Saxony. Given that the Sachsensymposion (sometimes abbreviated to 'SaSy') was founded, in 1949, with the primary aim of facilitating the international study of the continental Saxons and their neighbours (including the Anglo-Saxons), then to some extent this represented a homecoming for this international scholarly network.

The opening ceremony, on the Saturday afternoon, took place in the Braunschweiger Dom (cathedral), which houses the tomb of Henry the Lion (1129/30–1195) and his wife Matilda of England (1156–1189), eldest daughter of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. Their son Otto IV, Holy Roman Emperor from 1209–1215, is also entombed in the cathedral. Those giving speeches at the opening included the President of Lower Saxony, complete with very serious looking bodyguards who kept a wary eye on us throughout the proceedings. The speeches were interspersed with several pieces of classical music, the latter making much better use of the acoustics than the speakers were able to. This was followed by a reception in the neighbouring Braunschweigisches Landesmuseum, in which a new exhibition, 'SAXONES', was about to open (more of which later).

The regular SaSy excursion took place as usual on the Monday. Travelling by coach to the south-east of the city, and north of the Harz mountains (only dimly visible in the overcast weather so typical of SaSy excursions), we first visited two prominent early Bronze Age burial mounds at Klein-Vahlberg, known respectively as 'Meescheberg' and 'Galenberg'. The latter included a secondary interment of a high-status female around AD 600. Her costume appeared to indicate that she had Frankish connections and it has been suggested that she may have been a member of a high-ranking family from the Frankish Empire.

Following that, as the weather turned somewhat wetter, we visited the Hünenburg. This is a late Bronze Age to early Iron Age fortification on the western plateau of the Heeseberg, a prominent area of high ground that dominates the surrounding landscape of low rolling hills. This fortification has been dubbed 'the Troy of the north' and excavations have revealed what is regarded as one of the most important centres of power in northern Europe between 1200 and 650 BC. After viewing some extremely deep excavations which revealed sections across major ditches, we next proceeded to an unusual museum, the 'Paläon', or Schöningen Research Museum. This remarkable

building is clad entirely in mirrors which make it almost disappear in the landscape. It has been constructed next to a huge opencast (and still active) coal mine. This was the site of the discovery in the mid-1990s of the Schöningen spears, which form the centre piece of the display in the Paläon. These simple wooden, fire-hardened, spears are remarkably well preserved. Incredibly, they date back to before 300,000 BP and thus are easily the oldest such finds on the planet. They would have been made and used by Homo Heidelbergensis, who predate even the Neanderthals. By any standards these spears represent an astonishing survival. They were accompanied by many finds of flint work and a vast array of animal bones, including those of thousands of horses. The museum in which this is all housed and very well presented is remarkable in itself, especially given its remote rural location. It is well worth a visit, but check the opening times before making the journey. The excursion concluded with a visit to the Kaiserdom Königslutter, the great church of the Emperor Lothar III (r. 1133-37), grandfather of Henry the Lion. It is an imposing structure with very impressive stonework and (mostly heavily restored) wall paintings. Also a must if you are visiting the region.

As for the papers which form the core of any Sachsensymposium, there were many interesting ones, all more or less connected to the theme 'New Narratives for the First Millenium?' Quite a few were in German, as would be expected with a SaSy held in Germany, although I managed to get the gist of most. Of the papers in English, I found artist Kelvin Wilson's, entitled 'Behind the Past is the Present', very interesting, as he explored his career in archaeological reconstruction art, including how he arrived at his latest pieces for the Saxones exhibition. Chris Scull gave an interesting paper, 'Lordship and Landscape in East Anglia', bringing us up-to-date with his work around Rendlesham; this provided a new perspective on the emergence of the East Anglian kingdom in the late sixth century and I found interesting parallels with the slightly earlier emergence of royal power in Kent.

I also very much enjoyed Stuart Brookes' paper 'Revisualising Death and Data', which showcased some of the ways in which digital databases of Anglo-Saxon graves across England can now be interrogated and some of the interesting patterns that he and his colleagues Sue Harrington and Sarah Semple have been finding. Some of the contrasts between early Anglo-Saxon funerary practices in Northumbria and southern England were noteworthy, for instance concerning burial position; as so often in this period, Kentish sites displayed a degree of difference to those elsewhere, further underlining a sense of Kentish exclusivity during the fifth to seventh century.

The most controversial paper was delivered by Luka Papac of the Max Planck Institute on behalf of a team of colleagues. His title was 'The Anglo-Saxon migration and the formation of the early English gene pool'. He reported on an ongoing programme analysing ancient DNA extracted from fifty-one individuals from eight early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries across England, including Polhill and Eastry I in Kent. These DNA samples

have been compared with a large dataset of modern samples from north-western Europe, as well as with ancient samples from the prehistoric and Roman periods. In a nutshell, the results suggest a large-scale genetic influx from an area encompassing the Netherlands, northern Germany and Denmark in the immediate post-Roman period, with the majority of people buried in Anglo-Saxon cemeteries demonstrating this genetic inheritance. The incoming population mixed with the existing British population, and overall has probably contributed between 10 and 20% of the modern English gene pool, but next to nothing of the modern Scots, Irish or Welsh gene pools.

These findings produced a mixed reaction in the audience. Some of us felt that this chimed with our own thoughts on the role of migration as an agent of cultural change in post-Roman Britain. Others, however, felt that the language used in the presentation (by, to be fair, a geneticist rather than an archaeologist) was too casual in directly linking this genetic evidence to historically recorded but still controversial ethnic identities such as 'Angles', 'Saxons' and 'Jutes'. The problem wasn't really with the findings,



A thoughtful hunter in the Schöningen Research Museum.

but with the terminology. This leads me on to my final thoughts on a conference in which discussion about the use of such labels loomed large. It was also a feature of the excellent 'Saxones' exhibition, which charted the changing use of the term 'Saxon' from the Roman name for fourth-century North Sea raiders and pirates, to the putative settlers of fifth-century southern England, through the pagan enemies of Charlemagne, to the modern inhabitants of Lower Saxony and the Free State of Saxony. Clearly the term has meant different things at different times, and it cannot be said to have applied to one discreet ethnic or tribal group and their direct genetic descendants.

In a similar vein, there was much discussion at the conference of a recent decision by the International Society of Anglo-Saxons (a largely US-based organisation) to drop the use of the term 'Anglo-Saxon'. This was in response to claims in some quarters that it is a racist term. Certainly, it has different connotations in modern America, as exemplified by the acronym WASP (for 'white Anglo-Saxon protestant') to signify what is seen as a uniquely privileged group, compared to its normal usage here to describe a particular historical period and group identity. The view of most, if not all, at the Sachsensymposium was that continued appropriate use of terms like 'Anglo-Saxon', 'Saxon' or 'Viking' should be robustly defended. I would strongly concur with that. However, the controversy does underline that these are somewhat loaded terms that carry different meanings in different social and political contexts. I often find myself railing against the lazy use of the term 'Saxon' to describe the early medieval period in Kent, as opposed to the more generic 'Anglo-Saxon', although in many cases 'Kentish' is a more appropriate term than either. The identities of the people of the first millennium were as complex and multi-layered as our own, as is their relationship to their descendant populations. Simple terms like 'Saxon' tend to mask this complexity, and we should take care to be precise with their use. This was perhaps the central lesson of this year's Sachsensymposium.

*Andrew Richardson*



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## **Spread the word!**

## **The Trust and constitutional change**

Last year, at the request of the Trustees, I carried out a strategic review of the Trust, to see how we should position ourselves for the next 5 years. One of my recommendations was the need to revise the Trust's management and governance structures in order to bring them in line with best charity practice. This has now been carried out and has led to the adoption of a new constitution which was approved by the Trust Council on 24 September 2019.

First, a little background. Canterbury Archaeological Trust was established in 1979 as a company limited by guarantee and also as a charity registered with the Charity Commission. The governing body was the Trust Council whose members appointed a number of trustees to act as the legal body for commercial and charitable purposes.

Since the 1980s there have been significant changes to company and charity law and, although a new governing document was approved in 2004, even that has been deemed no longer fit for purpose. A major deficiency, in the opinion of the legal advice we received, was the split governance structure of the Trust Council and the Board of Trustees (also known as Directors), where there was little clarity regarding terms of membership and provisions to admit and remove members. To rectify these shortcomings and to bring the governance of the company fully into line with best practice, the Trustees proposed a new constitution that would rationalize the structure and remove any ambiguity.

On 24 September the Trust Council agreed the new constitution which means that henceforth there will be a single Board of Trustees who are the formal Company Members; the existing Trust Council will become a non-executive advisory body. The new Constitution (the Memorandum and Articles of Association) are based on the Foundation Model recommended by the Charity Commission and, being a public document, are available for anyone to see. This model suits the Trust's profile as an organisation where the main activities and income arise from the provision of expertise and services.

The governance structure is now the Board of Trustees, currently 11 in number, who have full responsibility for the oversight of all the Trust's activities and compliance with legal requirements. The Board appoints the professional Director of the Trust, Professor Paul Bennett, to manage the business and the staff and to be the personification of the Trust – a role he has so admirably performed for the last 34 years! The defunct Trust Council is being re-formed as an Advisory Council, whose members will, we hope, continue to use their experience, knowledge and goodwill to support the work of the Trust in any way they can. We have benefitted enormously from the interest and involvement of local and national figures who have served on the Council over the last 40 years and are very grateful for their support.

Like all change, this will require a little time to bed down but the Trustees believe that the impact of the changes will be minimal in practice and enable the Trust to move forward with confidence and continue doing what it does best – the uncovering and interpretation of our history.

*Brigadier John Meardon, Chairman of Trustees*

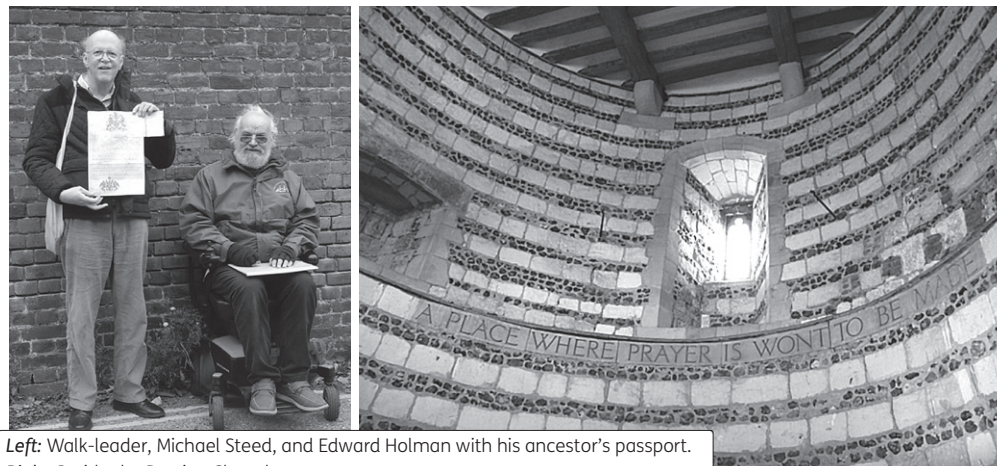
CANTERBURY FESTIVAL  
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 CANTERBURY FESTIVAL

# Canterbury Festival walks 2019

Among the joys of festival walks are the nuggets of information added by walk participants. Edward Holman, who came on Michael Steed's Old

Dover Road walk, is a descendant of the nineteenth-century millwrights, after whom Holman's Meadow Car Park is named. The firm built mills not only in East Kent but even one in Jerusalem. Edward brought with him the passport which his ancestor used when crossing Europe to supervise its construction. Michael's walk broke new ground as it was the first to be led by a wheelchair-user. It ended at the cricket ground where we were given a warm welcome by Jo Rice who told us about the history of the club.

Michael was one of two new walk leaders who joined our team this year. The other, Cressida Williams, gave a fascinating account of the different ways in which people who die in war are commemorated. As part of her 'War Memorials' walk she took us into the rarely-opened memorial chapel in a city wall bastion. Along with Michael and Cressida, some of our existing leaders offered new walks this year. David Birmingham followed up his 2018 'Armchair Tour of Hidden Canterbury' with an 'Armchair Tour of Historic Tankerton and Whitstable', catering for people who, like David himself, cannot manage a two-hour walk. We were delighted that the audience included two people in wheelchairs. A more mobile group enjoyed Kerstin Müller's 'Walk around Jewish



Left: Walk-leader, Michael Steed, and Edward Holman with his ancestor's passport.  
 Right: Inside the Bastion Chapel.



Left: Tombstone of Rosa Hart, daughter of Canterbury's Victorian Jewish Mayor, Henry Hart.  
 Right: Plaque celebrating astronaut Michael Foale at the King's School.

Canterbury' which started at the castle, where medieval Jews were incarcerated, took in the Victorian synagogue in King Street, and ended at the Jewish graveyard off the Whitstable Road, which some long-term residents had never seen. Another new walk was 'A Day in the Life of a Monk', during which Geoff Downer invited us to imagine that we were novice monks and he our novice master. This was one of the walks which took place on a very wet day and we were grateful to Geoff who devised a last-minute Plan B to ensure that we stayed dry. Three days later, he repeated a walk from a previous year round Reculver: thankfully the rain, which had fallen heavily only minutes before, ceased for the duration of the walk. As luck would have it, the walk leaders who suffered most from the weather were the two who had also fared worst last year, Peter Berg and myself. Twenty ticket-holders braved heavy, incessant rain to explore St Dunstons but, as one participant said, 'Peter did an excellent job keeping everyone informed and entertained'. For the second year running, people who went on my 'Strangers of Canterbury' walk got exceedingly wet, but the rain held off for most of my new walk on 'Women of Canterbury' and I showed a group round the 'Victorian City' on a perfect autumn day. This varied weather was characteristic of this year's festival.

The popularity of our walks is reflected in the fact that nearly all are fully booked, some well in advance. You have to book really early to get a place on the ever-popular 'Director's Walk', the opportunity to be guided round Canterbury by Paul Bennett. Other walks, which have been offered several times before, continue to sell out each year, giving people the opportunity to go inside buildings they've only seen from without – or

simply to look at familiar streets with new eyes. Hubert Pragnell encouraged his group to think about what was above the shops by looking up at the 'Rooflines of Canterbury'. Sheila Sweetinburgh took people into two 'Medieval Hospitals' and told them about the city's three 'Medieval Friaries'. Peter Henderson offered three walks round different parts of the King's School, and talked about its history and buildings – as well as some of its eminent alumni, such as the astronaut Michael Foale. As in the past, those who went on his 'Literary Tour' were amazed at the outstanding collection of books and manuscripts donated by Somerset Maugham and Hugh Walpole. Further afield, Pauline Pritchard introduced her group to the multi-faceted history of the village of Bridge and some of its lively personalities. Liz Minter charted developments over the centuries in a walk round 'Frontline Folkestone', a port through which as many as 10 million people passed during World War I. A few miles away, Keith Parfitt explored the Napoleonic fortifications on the Dover Western Heights with a group who proved to be enthusiastic and appreciative notwithstanding low cloud, mud, and general dampness.



Exploring the Western Heights with Keith Parfitt.

Despite the varied weather, our 2019 walks have been very successful. Nearly 500 tickets were sold for our 20 walks. While some of the proceeds go to the festival, I anticipate that CAT should receive something in excess of £2,300. The walks also provide a good opportunity to publicise the work of the Trust. Our thanks to the leaders and their 'tail-end-Charlies', who have helped raise such a pleasing sum and in the process given so much pleasure to the people who regularly buy tickets for our walks.

*Doreen Rosman*

## FCAT lectures with the Centre for Kent History and Heritage

**Thursday 12 December, 7pm, Newton NG07, CCCU**

The Lower Lines, Brompton – Defence and Experimentation >> James Holman

The threat of French invasion in the early nineteenth century led to the expansion of the Great Lines to improve the defence of Chatham Dockyard. Never used militarily, these Lower Lines became a focus for training and experimentation for the Royal Engineers at Brompton. Later the site would form the headquarters for the Nore Command during the Second World War. This talk will explore the history and archaeology of the site as uncovered during work between 2007 and 2009.

**Thursday 16 January, 7pm, Newton NG07, CCCU**

Invention and imagination: re-interpreting the early masonry church uncovered in Lyminge during 2019 >> Rob Baldwin, *Project Manager, Pathways to the Past: Exploring the legacy of Ethelburga* Lyminge, some 12 miles south of Canterbury, has long been known from historical records as the site where Queen Ethelburga is supposed to have founded a church in the 630s in the first phase of the Christian conversion, following the arrival of St Augustine in Kent in 597. Excavations by the Rector of Lyminge, Canon Jenkins, in the 1850s and 1860s revealed a masonry structure that he interpreted as a substantial basilican church, which he attributed to Ethelburga and where he believed he found her tomb. For a century and a half, this interpretation has raised questions, but the archaeology remained inaccessible beneath the paths of the churchyard. Then in the summer of 2019, a National Lottery funded project to renew the paths and implement disabled access to the standing Norman church created the opportunity for the site to be re-examined and Canon Jenkins' claims to be tested at last. What was revealed was a remarkable combination of Victorian imagination and highly significant archaeology, which fully justified the re-excavation taking place. This talk will explore our current views on the myths and realities of seventh-century Lyminge.

**Saturday 29 February, 6pm, Old Sessions House, CCCU**

The Frank Jenkins Memorial Lecture >> Professor Paul Bennett  
Joint event with Canterbury History and Archaeology Society.

**Thursday 19 March 2020, 7pm, Newton Ng07, CCCU**

Religion and ritual on the River Thames >> Nathalie Cohen

People have been depositing all sorts of items in the waters of the Thames for thousands of years and communities have also buried their dead on the foreshore and performed ceremonies by the river's edge. This talk will discuss aspects of religious and ritual activity along the River Thames from the medieval period through to the present day, drawing on the results of archaeological survey and investigation, and discoveries made by mudlarks searching for artefacts in the inter-tidal zone. [Nathalie Cohen works as a regional archaeologist for the National Trust and as the Cathedral Archaeologist at Canterbury Cathedral. Previously, she led the Thames Discovery Programme (community archaeology on London's foreshore) for ten years].





Detail of cleaned triform column, p 5.

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