

Volunteers and students at East Wear Bay recreating a photo of the site taken in the 1920's.

WINTER 2024

**Nº 125**



## Dear Friends

Welcome to your FCAT newsletter, with news of the latest development of the Friends.

The Friends of Canterbury Archaeological Trust (FCAT) was founded in 1984 with the principal aim of supporting the work of the Trust. At the time of its formation, the Trust was in a difficult financial position and the Friends was formed to help ensure we could continue our archaeological work. The

Friends contributed to our survival through a range of initiatives, at one end of the scale comprising the acquisition and running of the Northgate charity shop (spearheaded by the indomitable Marjorie Lyle) and at the other the hosting of events including sherry parties, lunches and even an antiques auction!

As is evident, the Friends has clearly been successful in its original objective! The Trust is a thriving archaeology company with staff numbering over 50 and an excellent reputation for the quality of our work, and we are incredibly thankful for the support we have received from the Friends.

Now we enter a new and exciting chapter, recognising that the archaeological landscape has changed considerably over the past 40 years. The Trust still maintains a strong tradition of outreach and engagement, as we have done since our inception – the East Wear Bay project near Folkestone is an exemplar of this, a wonderful collaboration between the Trust, the Friends and a variety of community and voluntary organisations that has enabled us to build upon our earlier initiatives. But these days, much of our work is undertaken thanks to a range of clients, grant-giving bodies and supporters, including through the planning system. Along with this shift in landscape, the Friends has to change too, because most of the current committee members have stood down after many years of invaluable service and it has not been possible to find others to take their place from amongst the membership. It has therefore been decided to take the running of the Friends into Trust mainstream operations, with a focus on promoting, supporting and encouraging our engagement projects.

What will this mean for members? Well, we certainly hope that you will continue with your membership, and so continue to support our work. This newsletter provides details of some of the brilliant things that we have been doing this year, and how we can use our heritage and archaeology to enthuse both existing supporters and new audiences. The funds raised by the Friends through subscriptions and other fundraising events will continue to contribute to these charitable works.

In practical terms, we will continue with the FCAT newsletter, though its new format has yet to be decided, and with periodic lectures (see later in this newsletter for the spring

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**Membership: Have you moved house or changed your bank? Don't forget to let us know, via Friends@canterburytrust.co.uk or by contacting our Head Office, so that our records are up to date.**



schedule). We are also hoping to run different events – evening presentations, finds handling sessions, quiz nights and exclusive Friends open days at community excavations have all been suggested, and could continue to be possibilities. You may also have your own suggestions for what you would like to see – if so, let us know! Lindsay Banfield, our Engagement Manager, will be coordinating the Friends, so let her know your thoughts at [Lindsay.banfield@canterburytrust.co.uk](mailto:Lindsay.banfield@canterburytrust.co.uk) or by writing to the CAT Head Office at Broad Street.

We hope you will stay with us for the next exciting phase of the Friends of Canterbury Archaeological Trust and continue with your support. Whatever you do, though, we thank you for all the support you have provided in the past without which we would, quite literally, not be here.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank previous FCAT committee members, all of whom gave their time voluntarily to ensure the successful running of the Friends, and arranged many successful events over the years. Your work has been greatly appreciated by the Trust.

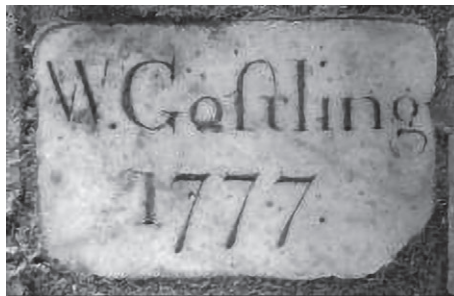
*Alison Hicks  
Director, CAT*



# Festival Walks 2024

**By Doreen Rosman**

In 2024 sixteen walk leaders offered twenty different walks, eleven of them repeated, giving a grand total of 31 walks. As in previous years, FCAT provided more walks to the Festival programme than any other organisation. Some walks which we have offered many times before, such as Kerstin Müller's ever-popular tours of Jewish Canterbury, continue to sell-out year after year, enabling people who have previously been unable to get tickets to attend. Each year, in addition to old favourites, we also provide some new walks. It was good to welcome a new walk leader, Alan Thistleton, who took two groups round the city walls. Two of our new walks celebrated



Cressida Williams pointed out William Gostling's tombstone in the cathedral cloisters.

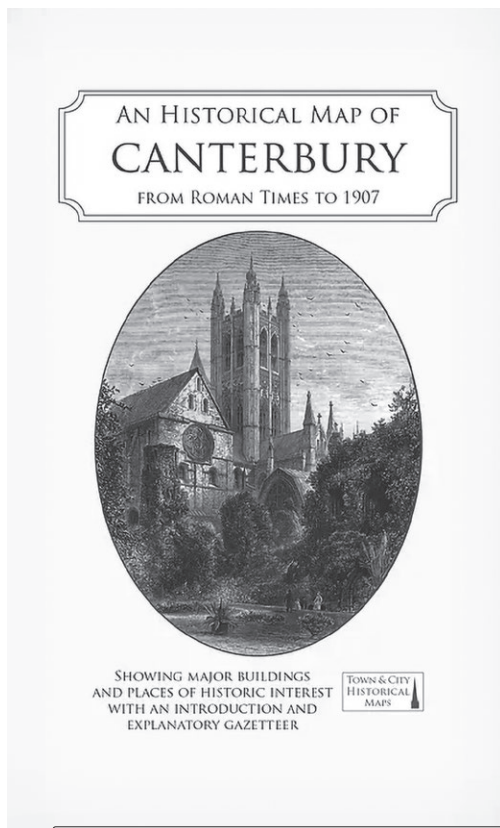
anniversaries. William Gostling's 'A Walk in and About the City of Canterbury' was first published in 1774, but its 250th anniversary would have passed without being commemorated if Cressida Williams had not offered a walk illustrating what Canterbury was like in that year.

The fact that Mary Tourtel, one of Canterbury's two great artists, was born in 1874 prompted Ian Osterloh to devise a walk featuring both her and Sidney Cooper, whose Canterbury College of Art she attended. Geoff Downer, who last year explored lost churches and chapels to the south of the city, this time visited the sites – and occasionally surviving buildings – of more on the north side. Geoff also revived a walk on Canterbury's geology. Liz Minter, who has previously led walks on Folkestone, this year turned her attention to the city's pilgrims. Her group followed in their footsteps from Harbledown to the Cathedral. Liz's backstop commented: 'I think they all enjoyed the journey with excellent discourse from Liz and much good conversation between them on the way!' The following day people who may not have wanted such a long walk had the opportunity to learn all about the Buttermarket from the Trust's former Director, Paul Bennett.

Paul was one of a number of archaeologists who contributed to our programme. Jake Weekes led a new walk relating to his work on a Historic Atlas of Canterbury – and aroused sufficient interest to sell several copies of the Historical Map, which was published in 2021. Jake also repeated his tour round the Romano-British city. Two groups learnt about Canterbury's religious houses in walks led by the Trust's current Director Alison Hicks, while people who were prepared to venture further afield had the opportunity to find out about historic Dover from Keith Partfitt who, before retiring, was responsible for many excavations in the town. Another archaeologist, Nathalie Cohen,



Geoff Downer fortunately found a gap in the row of gleaming Harley Davidson motorcycles parked outside St Augustine's Abbey to draw attention to the wide range of stones in the abbey wall. The bikers returned and started rewing up their engines just after the walk ended!



The cover for the Historical Map of Canterbury.

who used to work at the cathedral, returned to repeat her well-received walks round the precincts.

Other groups benefited from other forms of expertise. As in previous years, King's School Archivist Peter Henderson generously led a total of four walks, sharing his knowledge of the old St Augustine's College, the main school site, and a fascinating collection of books and manuscripts. Artist and art historian, Hubert Pragnell, once again encouraged people to look up at often-ignored facades and chimney pots, while Bridge resident and guide, Pauline Pritchard, introduced her groups to the wide-ranging history of the village. As historians, Sheila Sweetinburgh and I focused on particular periods in the city's history with walks on everyday life in late medieval Canterbury and on the reign of the first King Charles. Finally, as the last walk in this year's festival, I encouraged people to think about famous, infamous, and neglected women, ranging from

Queen Bertha, teachers, shop girls, and prostitutes to Canterbury's first female mayor, Catherine Williamson.

In total we sold some 550 tickets, more than ever before, and two-thirds of our walks were sell-outs. The Trust receives 60% of the cost of each ticket. Since the Festival increased the price of walks by 50 pence this year to £12.50 (plus a £1.50 booking fee), it looks as though the 2024 festival walks will for the first time have raised in excess of £4,000. I am particularly pleased about this as this is my last year organising the FCAT programme of walks. (I took the job on in 2014 when we raised just under £1,900). I hope very much that someone will volunteer to take over from me. If you are interested in knowing what this might involve (without any obligation!), please contact the CAT office and they will tell you how to get in touch with me. Meanwhile I am very grateful to the team of walk leaders and backstops whose hard work and enthusiasm help raise so much money, as well as giving pleasure to people who come on our walks and expanding their awareness of the fascinating history of our city.



Sheila Sweetinburgh, who led two walks on the first weekend of the festival, suffered from exceedingly wet weather!

# East Wear Bay 2024

By Lindsay Banfield, Engagement Manager



Volunteers carrying out excavation and recording on site at East Wear Bay this year.

The East Wear Bay community excavation has finished for another year and the Engagement Team are taking time to reflect on CAT's achievements, while also looking ahead at our future plans. East Wear Bay is a project with many different parts to it and although a lot of these parts took place at the excavation itself, others were in less obvious locations: classrooms, community centres, exhibition spaces and even at the CAT archive here in Canterbury. We thought that it would be fantastic to outline some of the outreach work that we have successfully completed this year, the impact it has had, and our plans to continue with elements of the project over the winter. In doing this, we thank all FCAT members for their generous contribution. The money raised by FCAT enables us to deliver this amazing project and your help allows us to reach a diverse and wide-ranging audience. We couldn't do it without you!

## Excavation and Recording

This year saw over 90 new volunteers at East Wear Bay who undertook excavation and recording activities. Further to this, both Folkestone Research and Archaeology Group (FRAG) and Dover Archaeology Group (DAG) returned to support the project with their

skills, knowledge and dedicated group of volunteers. We are especially grateful to Keith Parfitt of DAG, who brings with him a wealth of experience that he continues to share with us.

Excavations this year included the north-east corner of the main villa building with a separate trench as an extension of the 2023 trench area. DAG led the way in the villa trench, removing a significant amount of the fly ash that was dumped over the site when it was backfilled in the 1950's. Once the villa structure was fully uncovered, further work revealed a stone lined drain that had been found in previous excavations and was anticipated. An infant burial and probable late Roman era postholes were also discovered. In the second trench, there were plenty of ditches, pits and postholes to investigate alongside a second and previously unknown stone lined drain. Andrew Macintosh, the Project Officer for the excavation, will be writing up this season's report and we will be happy to share more detailed results in due course.

## Field School

The East Wear Bay field school continued to operate this year with nineteen students from the University of Kent and four international students. Students received training from external tutors alongside University of Kent and CAT specialists. We covered a

Students excavating postholes in the Roman villa at East Wear Bay.



range of different topics and archaeological skills including surveying, historic building recording, geophysics, excavation, the written record, finds processing, environmental processing, drawing and photography. Overall, feedback from the students has been very positive. We have since recruited several of the field school participants as volunteers and they continue to contribute to the work of the Trust. Next year we plan to extend our reach with our international student cohort and, hopefully, recruit from more different universities. The funds raised from the field school fees are put straight back into the project and this enables us to widen our outreach activities.

## Site Visits

CAT hosted organised site visits to East Wear Bay for school groups, walking groups, local history and heritage groups, two Cub Scout groups, and FCAT. We also welcomed some of our other funders, who were keen to see the impact of the project and how it benefits the wellbeing of the local community. The older groups enjoyed a site tour from Andy or Keith, who both have an amazing knowledge of the site, followed by finds handling or a question-and-answer session. For the younger groups, we offered an opportunity to experience excavation work and finds processing, which were incredibly popular. The children were so excited to have the chance to be an archaeologist for a few hours and we had a lot of fantastic questions. Sessions such as this are so important to help develop an early interest in archaeology and to promote the importance of our shared cultural heritage. This knowledge follows people into adulthood and fosters a sense of responsibility to protect and promote our archaeology.

Hythe Walking Group on a site tour led by Andy Macintosh and volunteer David Patton.



## Filmmaking Project

The East Wear Bay filmmaking project was a relatively new outreach activity, and we worked with a Film and Media student from Canterbury Christ Church University to help

deliver it. The project assignment was to create a film about East Wear Bay to talk about the site's history and current work. We ran filmmaking workshops for students at the Beacon School in Folkestone and the Amber Foundation in Ashford to target young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and for those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). The workshops included film design and script writing, filming on site, followed by film editing. The films were brilliant and highlighted the skill and knowledge development that took place within the workshops. However, the best outcome for the participants was their increased confidence and how proud they were of their final work. Due to the enormous success of the filmmaking project, we hope to run these workshops again next summer.



Filmmaking project with students from the Beacon School, Folkestone.

## Site Open Days

We ran three open days this year, all with a slightly different focus. The first was held as part of the CBA Festival of Archaeology and involved site tours, finds handling and our pop-up dig pit for children and young families. The day was well-attended, and we were proud to contribute to a national event of this scale. The second open day, titled 'Hidden beneath the Bay,' was held in collaboration with the Kent Downs Landscape and the Association of Geologists. Our own CAT finds specialists were also on hand with their expert knowledge. The open day was designed to allow members of the public to bring finds and fossils with them for identification by our specialist teams. As a location with an archaeological site that is falling off the cliff into the sea, and one that has a fascinating geological profile, searching for things on the beach is a popular activity in Folkestone. Our Artist in Residence, Bryan Hawkins, was also at the open day, and he offered an opportunity to get creative with some East Wear Bay themed sketches. The day was highly enjoyable, and it was great to see so many families arrive to the site with objects that they had found the same day. We hope to run more collaborative events such as this one in the future.



Louella from the Kent Downs Landscape team at the 'Hidden beneath the Bay' geology and archaeology open day.

The final open day was a celebration of the end of the excavation season at East Wear Bay and was the best attended of the three. We offered site tours and finds handling along with craft activities and the chance to enjoy our pop-up dig pit. Everyone seemed to love the chance to make their own ceramic tile, and these were kept by the CAT team to put on display at the East Wear Bay exhibition. The event attracted a lot of people



Families and other visitors at the end of season open day.

who had not previously interacted with the project and there were many families and children present. It was a brilliant opportunity to widen participation and to showcase everything that the project and CAT has to offer.



CAT's exhibition, 'A Reflection of the Self'.

## Art and Archaeology Exhibition

Our exhibition, 'A Reflection of the Self: The Art and Archaeology of East Wear Bay' took place in September and November at Gallery 66 on the Old High Street in Folkestone. It was a collaborative exhibition with contributions from various local artists, volunteers, project participants, CAT staff, and University of Kent students. Finds from the site were put on display alongside their modern day 'equivalent' object. The aim of this was to aid interpretation and to create a truly accessible format for a non-specialist audience. Artwork on display included a series of photos that were taken this year to recreate the photos taken on the excavation site in the 1920's and these were presented as mirror images of the past but with a modern twist. We also had a beautiful crayon drawing of the hare brooch that was uncovered in a previous year's excavation. Ceramic tiles that were made and decorated by site visitors as part of the end of season site open day also went on display, and this drew people back to come and visit their artwork. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who created artwork for us, the CAT staff who advocated for us within the art communities that they are a part of, and all those who contributed

to the exhibition. It was a true representation of CAT's teamwork and the community connections that the Trust has within Folkestone. We are so proud of the outcome and can't wait to work on new exhibitions in the future.

## Primary School Visits

By Heather Hanson, Engagement Assistant

As part of the East Wear Bay Project, we have been going to schools and youth groups to provide fun activities, while also teaching participants about the site. Both the Iron Age and Roman period are included in the National Curriculum, so the themes that we explore tie in nicely with what they're already learning at school. We bring in artefacts and replicas for the pupils and teachers to look at as well.



The Herne Bay Brownies learning about Iron Age pottery.

We have four main activities that we currently run: Iron Age pottery making, food and drink, Roman mosaics, and the digital time capsule. In the Iron Age pottery activity, the children get to look and hold real examples of Iron Age pottery while considering how they were made and decorated. They then make their own pot using air drying clay to recreate the methods used in the past. This is a great chance to get creative as well and each child gets a souvenir to take home with them at the end of the day.

For our food and drink activity, we take our replica rotary quern into the school with some grain so that pupils have a hands-on way to learn how people in the past made their food. Each child in the class gets a turn, with some finding it harder to do than others. The flour produced is kept by the class in a small jar as a memento of their collective achievement.

Another activity is the digital time capsule. This involves taking artefacts and replica finds into the classroom and asking the children to consider their importance in the past. We ask the children to bring in objects that are important to them today so that they can photograph or draw them. The image is then added to a specially designed worksheet where they write a short description of their object and why it is important. These worksheets will all be uploaded into a digital time capsule for the East Wear Bay website. This was a great opportunity to show children why the artefacts that we find are so interesting, as well as giving them a chance to create their own little bit of history.

The final activity is due to begin this autumn and involves looking at the East Wear Bay mosaic, considering its significance and then looking at the techniques used to create it. After a short discussion on Roman mosaics, the children are asked to make their own mosaics using various craft materials. We are looking forward to launching this new workshop and finding out what the children can learn from the activity.

## Dementia Friendly Sessions

By Frances Morgan, Engagement Assistant

For the past six months, I have been out and about, supported by one of our lovely volunteers, visiting local care homes and dementia cafes. This has been an extremely rewarding experience and clearly makes a huge difference to the groups and individuals we spend time with. Many of the people we see are at different stages of dementia. Some are just lonely and want company, other people who attend the cafes are busy carers, needing a break from their day-to-day responsibilities.

Many of us at CAT have become 'Dementia Friends', which involves doing a short online course and getting a forget-me-not badge at the end. I have also completed a more in-depth 'Understanding Dementia' course run by the Alzheimer's Society. These have been fantastic resources for us and allow us to feel much more informed, increasing our confidence when delivering sessions.

We have focussed a lot on triggering memories when designing these sessions. Old local postcards, ration books and commemorative coins are popular and get some good conversations started. Sensory experiences are always a great way to engage people too. For example, we have used a replica Roman mortarium to grind herbs and flowers such as rosemary and lavender.

As well as sensory experiences, arts and crafts are always very popular. So far, we have decorated tiles, made mosaics and clay pots. Sometimes, just meeting an archaeologist and handling real finds is something new for people and there are always lots of interesting questions to answer.





Some of the resources we use for the dementia friendly sessions.

There has been the odd occasion where individuals at care homes haven't been well enough to attend a session. To ensure everyone who wants to take part can, I have put together some small activity boxes that can be looked at in the comfort of people's rooms, in their own time. This has worked well and has been appreciated by the homes.

I am excited to carry on with this work and feel it is a real privilege to do so. I am keen to keep learning about dementia and how our work can help engage and inspire more people.



The Chelsea Pensioners enjoying one of our dementia friendly sessions led by Frances Morgan.

# Planned East Wear Bay Engagement for 2025

By Lindsay Banfield, Engagement Manager

Although we are currently winding down the East Wear Bay engagement until the next funding period, there are a few activities still to come.

## Archaeology and Identity Sessions

Working with our small finds specialist, Rich Best, we plan to deliver sessions to explore small finds and objects that relate to the Roman period and Iron Age in Folkestone and Kent. We will examine how these objects relate to identity and our understanding of people who lived in the past. The sessions will be held in the Canterbury Cathedral Lodge on Saturdays during January and February. All sessions will be free of charge, and we will be offering tickets to FCAT members before they are made available to the public.

One of the objects we will explore as part of the archaeology and identity sessions in 2025.



## Archaeology Taster Workshops

For those who want to know a bit more about the work of finds and research specialists, we will be offering short introductory workshops to explore key archaeological materials and themes. The dates of these sessions and the venue are yet to be announced.



# EVENTS

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

**Thursday 23 January 2025, 7pm**

Lindsay Banfield – Engagement Manager, Canterbury Archaeological Trust

### **East Wear Bay 2024: An Engaging Year for Archaeology.**

This lecture will be via Zoom. A Zoom link will be emailed nearer the date of the event.

**Thursday 27 February 2025, 7pm**

Adelina Teoaca – Finds and Archives Manager, Canterbury Archaeological Trust

### **The Burials Inside the Walls of Canterbury.**

CCCU lecture theatre to be agreed (an email will be sent out nearer the date of the event and details will also be placed on the FCAT website).

**Saturday 29 March 2025, 6pm**

### **The Frank Jenkins Memorial Lecture**

Alison Hicks, Director of Canterbury Archaeological Trust, reviews the work of the Trust over the previous year. Joint event with the Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society.

CCCU lecture theatre to be agreed (an email will be sent out nearer the date of the event and details will also be placed on the FCAT website).



## DONATIONS TO THE FRIENDS

Donations to the Friends of C-A-T are always welcome, whether in appreciation of on-line Zoom talks or more generally through a wish to support CAT. This can be done by bank transfer using the following details:

**Account name:** The Friends of Canterbury Archaeological Trust

**Account number:** 95413383 **Sort code:** 60-04-27

(Please use the reference "FCAT Donation" on the transaction)

**OR**

by sending a cheque made out to The Friends of Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

Please send to:

FCAT Treasurer

c/o Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 92a Broad Street, Canterbury

CT1 2LU

Thank you for any support you can give



The original 1920's image of the East Wear Bay excavations as recreated on the front cover.

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Printed in the UK  
by  
**PARKERS**  
Design and Print



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