



CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

Newsletter Number 171

June 2013

www.cafg.net

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on Wednesday, 10th April 2013. The draft minutes are attached for members and are also available in the members' section of the website.

Subscriptions were increased (from 1st April) to £10 for individual members and £15 for families. If you have not yet paid, your **subscriptions are due**. If you wish to pay by bank transfer, please contact the treasurer or secretary for account details.

The officers and committee of the Group remain unchanged.

CONSTITUTION

The AGM agreed changes to the Constitution and a copy as now adopted is attached for members.

VAL WHITTAKER MEMORIAL PRIZE

At our lecture meeting on the 5th June, we presented awards of £150 each from Val's bequest to the Group, to Matthew Finch, a student at Hills Road Sixth Form College, and Bess Sayers, an existing member of the Group and an adult student with the Cambridge University Institute of Continuing Education.

Matthew's entry was "what can field surveys discover about World War II airfields and associated sites in Cambridgeshire", focusing on his home village of Witchford, which he has put on the archaeological map. Bess presented "a review of the pre-1990 excavation evidence from the Stafford House Romano-British Settlement in Harlow Essex", in which she looked at whether a better understanding of the site might have been gained under current planning regulations and has produced a remarkable outline of previous research, much of it never published and difficult to find.

Last year's winner, Jez Davies, has written to say that he used the award "towards a trip to Roskilde in Denmark where I attended a 5 day course about the Vikings and their Longboats. It was part theory but the most exciting part was sailing reconstructed Viking vessels. Absolutely fascinating." He would be happy to feed back in more detail at a later date.

Jez also says "I am hoping to go to the Scillies again this year to help with excavations on what is thought to be a medieval shipwreck – there has been a great deal of pottery brought to the surface recently – we want to find the ship if we can."

LECTURES

Lectures will begin again in October, as will workshops.

BAR HILL PROCESSING EVENINGS

Processing continues at the Oxford Archaeology East HQ at 15 Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill on Wednesdays when there is no lecture. We meet from about 7.15 pm. A plan can be provided.

When we have no processing of finds from immediate fieldwork, we will be checking through boxes from earlier fieldwork to decide what should be sent for long-term storage and what is needed for current research.

In the next month processing will continue as normal but, in addition there will be, on

26 June	Committee meeting
3 July	Introduction to test pit recording
10 July	Introduction to test pit recording
17 July	Introduction to test pit recording

WIMPOLE: SILENT VOICES AND DESERTED HOMES HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND “ALL OUR STORIES” PROJECT

During the Spring we fieldwalked at Cambridge Road and Eight Elms Farms, Wimpole. There were some Roman finds near to the Old North Road but no concentrations further away apart from one heavy concentration of brick, tile and pottery of 18th and 19th century date, which we seem to have pinned down to a small building complex and ponds shown on a map of 1828 (Withers) but gone by the time of the Ordnance Survey maps. A possibly Mesolithic pebble hammer was found near Cambridge Road and a short article appears on our website.

Various members have also been searching the Historic Environment Record, local museums, aerial photographs, maps and documentary archives for background information and to try to put names to identifiable places. This has been possible in some cases on the map of the estate drawn up in 1638 by Benjamin Hare, and we now have a spreadsheet of all the names on that map and a list of their holdings. We are following family names backwards and forwards in time where possible.

Paul Blinkhorn has identified and dated pottery from earlier fieldwalking and work is now proceeding on converting his lists to distribution maps.

The next major activity in this project will be test pitting from the 20th to the 28th July. This preparatory work is helping to identify potential sites for test pits: the aim is to select 10 sites, mostly where house sites are known and to site one pit immediately adjacent to the house (the National Trust archaeologist would rather we did not dig the house itself) and one further away but still within the plot. We are looking for dating evidence rather than structures. We also intend to test pit in the Folly Field, where Paul has identified Anglo-Saxon pottery from fieldwalking.

All members are invited to take part in the test pitting. Each pit will need a team of at least 3 and will be completed in 2 days. The Access Cambridge Archaeology recording system will be used and someone at each pit will take responsibility for the recording – this responsibility can be shared, but anyone taking it needs to have attended an introduction session (see dates above). Even if you are not a digger, there are other opportunities to help: washing finds; recording finds onto a spreadsheet; resistivity survey; talking to members of the public. Information about the test pitting has been emailed to members, but if you have not received the notes, contact the secretary.

Before the test pitting, however, as many of you will know, we will be carrying out resistivity survey over proposed test pit sites on Thursday and Friday, 20 and 21 June and members are invited to

come along to help out and learn about the technique. We will be carrying out further geophysical survey during the test pit week.

We are offering a finds identification morning for local people on Saturday, 22 June from 10am – 12 noon in the Lordship Community Room, Town Green Road, Orwell. Again, help from members would be welcome. If you can help with either of these, contact the secretary or Terry Dymott (terry.dymott@btinternet.com), tel: 01223 263292.

At the end of the year we will be presenting to local people, National Trust staff and volunteers a summary of our findings as an exhibition and leaflet. This is part of the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. After that we will look to publishing a formal report.

HASLINGFIELD ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

A number of members helped with the feed-back on this project to local people on 25th May in the Haslingfield Village Centre. Particular thanks go to Jayne Nelson for devising and making the frameworks which contained the finds from each context of each test pit. Besides displays of all the test pitting finds and maps showing distributions, Rob Atkins gave a talk on the significance of the finds already recorded in the Historic Environment Record, from fieldwalking and from the test pits, by which time there was an audience of nearly 50.

There have been no Palaeolithic finds in the parish, but there are 4 Mesolithic finds spots and 5 from the Neolithic period, including one piece of pot. A number of Bronze Age artefacts have been found and the most prominent monuments of this period are the burial mounds on Money Hill. Iron Age settlements scattered about the parish seem to have continued into the Roman period, at which point there was a substantial high-status villa in the north-east of the parish, near the River Cam. There seems to have been some continuity of control as Haslingfield was one of seven manors in Cambridgeshire in 1086 counted as “part of the king’s ancient demesne”. Early and Middle Saxon settlements were still scattered, and what is now the centre of the village was probably the village green, being infilled only from the 10th and 11th centuries, with intensive occupation from the 11th century around the new manor. Fieldwalking on Brook Farm, Barton Road found what is now recognised as a late Medieval pottery kiln.

The aim is to complete the full “grey” report containing notes on all the finds by July/August, with, hopefully, a report in PCAS next year.

OILY HALL FLINT

We have received Laurence Billington’s detailed report on this flint and will be discussing with him the best means of publication.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The next ordinary committee meeting is due to be held on 26th June at 7.30pm at Bar Hill, and any member is welcome to attend. Items to be discussed include a review of the Val Whittaker Prize application requirements; the possible need for a child protection policy; plans for completing previous Wimpole excavation reports; and where next with Haslingfield and Oily Hall flint projects/reports.

WEBSITE

Two recent articles on our website are: Recognising man-made flints and the Evolution of clay tobacco pipes in England. We also have a request out for parallels to a gold bottle top from an 18th century bottle, possibly for scent.

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

The CAS excursion programme continues with:

Sat 29 June Oakington excavations 11.00am on site. £3

- Tues 10 September Peterborough; the "Golden Borough". 10.30am at the Becket Chapel in the Cathedral Precincts. £15
- Wed 2 October Thriplow: agriculture, society and religion. 2.00pm at the Smithy on the village green. £5 (+ donation to the Village Society for tea)

All must be pre-booked with Mr A Kirby, 3 Hills View, Great Shelford, Cambridge, CB22 5AY, but I have some further information on each.

JIGSAW TRAINING COURSES

- Sat 20 July Conducting geophysical magnetometry survey (level 2), 2-5pm
- Sat 31 August Metal detecting policy and practical (level 1). St Ives, 10am – 3pm
- Sat 14 September Fieldwalking (level 1), Sawtry, 10am – 1pm and 2-5pm
- Sat 12 October Plane-table and off-set landscape survey, Swavesey Priory, 10am – 1pm

All courses are free but places must be booked in advance through the website, www.jigsawcams.org

CBA EAST

- 14 September Conference: *Recent Anglo-Saxon research in the East of England* at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral

LOCAL EVENTS

- Wed 3 July Guided walk around Bartlow Hills. Meet 7.00pm at the entrance to St Mary's Church, Bartlow. Followed by storytelling. Free.
- 6 & 7 July *Return of the Vikings*. Flag Fen, Peterborough. 10am – 5pm. For details see: www.vivacity-peterborough.com
- *Sat 13 July Human bone workshop with David Klinge. Dunstable. £20.
- *13-17 July The Fenland in Roman Times: display of finds by FenArch from their recent HLF funded project. March Library. 9am – 5pm each day. Free
- Wed 17 July Guided walk round Burwell village and castle, led by our chairman, Barrie Fuller. Meet 7.00pm at St Mary's Church, High Street, Burwell. Free.
- *19-23 July The Fenland in Roman Times: display of finds by FenArch from their recent HLF funded project. Wisbech Library. 9am – 5pm each day. Free.
- Fri 19 July Finds identification day at Peterborough Museum, 10.30am – 3.00pm
- Sat 27 July Finds identification day at Wisbech and Fenland Museum, 10.00am – 12 noon
- 27 & 28 July St Neots Medieval Festival, 10am – 4pm. www.stneotsmuseum.org.uk
- Wed 31 July Guided walk of Earith Bulwark. Meet at Earith sluice 7.00pm. Free. N.B. uneven ground.
- Sat 3 August Finds identification day at St Ives Museum, 10.00am – 1.00pm
- Wed 7 August Guided walk of Giants Hills Anarchy castle and shrunken Medieval village, Rampton. Meet 7.00pm at the monument entrance. Free.
- Wed 14 August Guided walk around Leverington village and Saxon sea defences. Meet 7.00pm outside Leverington Church. Free

*Festival of Archaeology events. For details and other events in the region, go to: <http://www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk/whatson/results>

CONFERENCES/COURSES

Weekend courses at Madingley Hall :

- 28 June The Landscapes of Anglo-Saxon England
- 12 July The Mycenaean: the roots of Greek History
- 16 August Tracing prehistoric ancestry using DNA

Madingley Hall online courses of an introductory week and 5 weeks learning, starting:
16 September The Fall of the Roman Empire
28 October The Medieval Village Landscape, 1000 – 1500AD

Madingley Hall is also offering Certificate and Diploma course in Archaeology and in Historic Environment from the autumn. Deadline for applications: 9 September. See www.ice.cam.ac.uk/britarch for details of all the above

Oxford University Department of Continuing Education offers:

- Postgraduate Certificate in Archaeology. One year course taught on Saturdays, starting on 12 October
- MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology. Two-year degree course taught on Saturdays, starting on 5 October.

For details go to: www.conted.ox.ac.uk

The Kent Archaeological Field School offers course, trips and excavation opportunities. See: www.kafs.co.uk

28-30 June Archaeological geophysics technology and techniques, Leiston Abbey, Suffolk. £245. See: Digventures.com/geofizz-at-leiston-abbey/
29 June Richard III family open day, University of Leicester.
See: www.le.ac.uk/richardiii-openday
30 June Visit excavations at Burrough Hill Iron Age hillfort, Melton Mowbray. See: www2.le.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/research/projects/burrough-hill-iron-age-hillfort.
Mon 21 October *The Forgotten Past: post-medieval small finds and their contribution to our understanding of the past*. A PAS and Finds Research Group Conference, British Museum, 10am – 5pm. £15 or £10 for members of FRG. Book with Janina Parol, Dept of Portable Antiquities & Treasure, British Museum, London, WC1B 3DG by cheque payable to The British Museum
Wed 30 October Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) archive group workshop on *Good practice in archiving archaeological projects*. Bury St Edmunds. £16.

EXHIBITIONS

The Potteries Museum & art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent. *Dark Age Discovery*; over 100 artefacts from the Staffordshire hoard. Until 1 September.

Durham University's Palace Green Library. *Lindisfarne Gospels Durham* : the Gospels, some of St Cuthbert's treasures and pieces from the Staffordshire hoard. 1 July - 30 September.

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Lichfield Cathedral and Tamworth Castle also each have displays of items from the hoard

Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology, Cambridge. *Creativity in the Bronze Age – a response*. Until 30 June.

NEWS

A flint tool found in 1988 during fishing in the North Sea has now been identified as a Mesolithic tranchet axe, the first such axe recorded from the North Sea. (*British Archaeology*)

Evidence has been found showing that Christianity reached Jersey by at least AD750, up to 500 years earlier than previously demonstrated. (*British Archaeology/Current Archaeology*)

Stone walls and graves associated with a previously unknown Anglo-Saxon church have been found at Lincoln Castle. (*British Archaeology/Current Archaeology*)

A Roman cemetery containing a mixture of Christian and pagan burials has been discovered in Leicester city centre. (*Current Archaeology*)

EXCAVATIONS

5-9 and 12-16 August Copped Hall Trust Field Schools for those already familiar with basic techniques of excavation and recording, investigating the development of a Tudor grand house. £90 for the week. (Application forms available)

For details of other excavations, go to: www.britarch.ac.uk/briefing (Council for British Archaeology) and www.archaeology.co.uk/digs (Current Archaeology).

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

British Archaeology May/June and July/August 2013 (including an article on the Bran, Brent, Fleam and Devil's Dykes from a military perspective)
CBA Newsletter, issue 22, Spring 2013, issue 23 Summer 2013

Susan May, Secretary

STOP PRESS

Test Pitting Schedule for Wimpole

A form is enclosed for you to indicate when you might be available for the test pitting exercise at Wimpole in July, for planning purposes. All help will be welcome. If you do not have email, Terry's telephone is: 01223 263292.

Fund Raisers for Children in Kenya

Our last speaker, Dr Meike Weber, is, with others, preparing a field season in Kenya involving some charitable work by building a classroom for the local Turkana children to give them the opportunity to learn and play in a safe environment. They are looking to organise some fundraisers in June/July where they would give information on the project and offer talks or a workshop on human evolution including introduction to human remains and development. Would members be interested in such an event or in contributing individually? Contact the secretary for details.

Farmland Museum – volunteer archaeologist wanted for Family Archaeology Day

The Farmland Museum at Denny Abbey is holding a Family Archaeology Day on Thursday, 25th July from 12 till 4pm and is looking for a volunteer to enthuse children by showing some techniques and finds. Last year finds washing apparently went down well. Travel expenses can be offered. This is during our test pitting week, but if anyone feels their talents could be well used with the children this would be much appreciated. Again, details are with the secretary.

Course on Remote Sensing and Geophysics

A week-long free course will be held at Verulamium, St Albans, Herts from 8th to 12th July for community based groups. Details available.