



CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

Newsletter Number 172

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www.cafg.net

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LECTURES

Lectures are normally held on the first Wednesday in the month in the seminar room of the McDonald Institute, Division of Archaeology, Downing Street, Cambridge, at 7.30pm. October's lecture is an exception. Parking is available on site from Tennis Court Road. The season begins with:

- 23 October Rob Atkins, Oxford Archaeology East, on *The "Avenell Way": an ancient trackway across south Cambridgeshire*
- 6 November Robyn Veal, anniversary fellow at the McDonald Institute, on *Fuel and the forest economy of Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester)* [Excavations by the University of Reading have provided charcoal remains which are allowing evaluation of forest exploitation]
- 4 December tbc
- 8 January Mike Coles and Terry Dymott on the results of our Wimpole project

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.

FIELDWORK

The recent dry weather will make seeing artefacts difficult, so the start of the main fieldwalking season will have to be deferred until conditions are suitable.

However, we have been asked to help at Wimpole on the 5th/6th October during their activity weekend on farming and food production in an historical context. We will, consequently, be fieldwalking in 10 metre squares on the field near Cobbs Wood Farm on Saturday the 5th.

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

We managed to dig 15 test pits from 20th to 28th July, during one of the hottest weeks of the summer, involving members of the Group and new volunteers, many of them from the local area.

All the pits were sited on what maps and measurements indicated should be plots occupied in 1638. Some were more productive than others: those on the north side of the lake turned out to be on land covered with soil from the lake when it was last cleared. Others, however, produced material from the Roman period to the 15th century. Just one was dug to over a metre deep. You can follow progress over the week on our website and on our Facebook page.

Paul Blinkhorn has assessed the pottery from the test pits and from earlier excavations in Wimpole and we are now converting the information into tables that can be used for our purposes.

This information, together with the research, fieldwalking and metal detecting that has been carried out is being collated and Peter Cornelissen is creating a searchable database. The priority at the moment is putting the information into a form for public display.

Over the weekend of the 25th/26th January 2014 we will be presenting to local people, National Trust staff and volunteers a summary of our findings as an exhibition and leaflet. This will take place in the Marshall Room of the Old Rectory Restaurant at Wimpole Hall. After that we will look to publishing a formal report.

HASLINGFIELD ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

The full "grey" report containing notes on all the finds has been drafted and is currently being edited. We hope to have it available for members shortly and, hopefully, a report will be published in PCAS next year.

COMMITTEE MEETING

A committee meeting was held on 26th June, at which point balances totalled £11,440.38 including as yet unspent grants. There was concern about insurance cover for non-member volunteers at Wimpole test pitting, but the full policy specified public and employers' liability cover for up to 18 volunteers. However, member to member liability cover was only for full members of the Group.

The possible need for a child protection policy had been raised and it was agreed that we should have one, based on that devised by Jigsaw but adapted to the Group's circumstances; the secretary to circulate a draft for discussion. *[This is enclosed and will appear on the website shortly]*

Plans were put in place to progress the previous Wimpole excavation reports, in that John Street, John Waterhouse and Susan May are to look at all the existing documentation with Mike Coles in the autumn and break the remaining work into manageable units, in which a number of members could be involved. Realistically, major work cannot be expected this calendar year, but it was hoped at the time of the meeting that funds could be raised for Paul Blinkhorn to identify any pottery. *[Paul has analysed the pottery]*. Brief summaries on all the excavations had been given to the Heritage Environment Record (HER) but appeared under one event code; fieldwalking data had also been given to the HER.

It was agreed that, in general, fieldwork reports should be available on the Group's website at least for registered viewers, with a summary in the open area, but that permission must be sought from the farmer/landowner.

To keep members informed, the aim will be to provide weekly fieldwork updates on the website. Finds lists from fieldwalking will be collated for plotting on a regular basis, and any member with an interest in particular items might write a short article for the website. Fieldwalkers will also be invited to contribute a few words on the week's work

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS WORK IF THE WEBSITE IS TO BE KEPT ACTIVE !

If you think you could plot finds on maps, or learn how to do it, Peter Cornelissen will be happy to help.

If you would be prepared to write a short paragraph on particular finds or a particular activity for the website, please let any of the committee know.

We reviewed the conditions for the Val Whittaker Memorial Prize and agreed to maintain the current entry qualifications for this year but to try to widen publicity. The maximum award of £150 was felt still appropriate. However, we agreed to move the deadline for applications to the first week in May, still for presentation in June.

We agreed to keep 2 sets of measuring tapes, to be kept in different locations, but not otherwise to greatly increase the amount of equipment owned by the Group since most can be loaned.

Photographic slides of excavations needed digitizing. *[Stephen Reed has offered to do this].*

The CAS conference organiser had invited the Group to make a presentation at the autumn conference. The invitation was accepted and we discussed an appropriate format.

We agreed that Barrie Fuller should be the Group's representative to the first Jigsaw Advisory Group meeting.

The CBA had held a *Future of Societies Forum* earlier in the year and had invited groups to respond on the issues raised. It was felt that responding could be valuable and agreed to share this electronically.

The intention was to hold the next meeting on the 28th August but in the event it was felt that a Wimpole project meeting was the more urgent and a committee meeting could be postponed. Members will be advised when a date has been arranged.

VAL WHITTAKER MEMORIAL PRIZE

One of this year's winners, Matthew Finch, is now at university, but not to read archaeology, so he has very considerably donated his award to the Hills Road Sixth Form College archaeology department where it will assist other young people in their studies.

We are now publicising the 2014 competition, with a later deadline for entries of 2nd May 2014. If you or anyone you know is interested in entering, the forms and requirement details are going on the website. If you have any outlets to inform other people, I would be very glad to know.

RIDLEY HALL EXCAVATIONS

Some members of the Group took part in excavations at Ridley Hall, Cambridge in 2012. The report has now been published by Access Cambridge Archaeology and can be downloaded from:

<http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/aca/docs/Ridley%20Hall%20Report.pdf>

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

CAS lectures are held in the Law Faculty, West Road, Cambridge, on Mondays at 6.00pm. The season starts with:

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| 7 October | Christopher Evans & Craig Cessford on <i>The archaeology of West and Northwest Cambridge</i> |
| 4 November | Dr Paul Spoerry on <i>The production and distribution of Medieval pottery in Cambridgeshire</i> |
| 2 December | Prof Graeme Barker on <i>The origins of agriculture – a global perspective</i> |
| 6 January | Jon Burgess on <i>Defining and protecting and heritage significance of 20th century buildings in Cambridge</i> |

The CAS autumn conference on recent archaeological work in Cambridgeshire will take place on Saturday, 23rd November.

The CAS is also running a seminar on *Writing for publication: archaeology and local history*. This will be held on Saturday, 11th January in the afternoon. Further details are to be sent by the CAS.

JIGSAW CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Jigsaw now has 15 affiliated groups. A representative from each Group is invited to a biannual meeting of the newly formed Jigsaw Advisory Group so that the vision of the project can be discussed and Groups have the opportunity to talk about what they would like from the project.

The first meeting was held on 16th July and some items which may be of interest are:

- Jigsaw will be creating some YouTube videos of training sessions
- Jigsaw will be running a number of repeat courses in 2014 and will look at running follow-on courses shortly after the introductory ones in order to reinforce skills
- Land is needed for practical training courses and Groups have been asked for suggestions
- Jigsaw is trying to create best practice guides from their training courses and from guides already in use by Groups
- We are asked to "like" the Jigsaw Facebook page to increase its profile
- A new forum is being set up for groups to request (or offer) help from other members of the Jigsaw community
- Groups are asked to donate any examples of Prehistoric, Saxon and Medieval pottery found out of context to the Jigsaw handling collection.

Courses

Sat 12 October	Plane-table and off-set landscape survey, Swavesey Priory, 10am – 1pm (3 places available at the last count)
Mon 4 November	Theory and methods of landscape survey, University Centre, Cambridge, 7-9pm

All courses are free but places must be booked in advance at www.jigsawcambs.org

THE COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

The AGM of the CBA nationally will be held on Monday, 28th October at the British Academy, London starting at 4.00pm. Following the AGM, Michael Wood will present the annual Marsh Award for Community archaeology and then the 2013 Beatrice de Cardi lecture. Places must be reserved in advance, through www.archaeologyUK.org/events/ or by phone on 01904 671 417.

Next year's Festival of Archaeology, celebrating the CBA's 70th anniversary, will be held between 12th and 27th July 2014.

The group is a corporate member of **CBA East**, the regional group for Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Hertfordshire, This means we get information about events, can have a say on policy and can benefit from grant aid. However, this does not give members of the Group reduced rates at events. **You can become a member in your own right for the princely sum of £5 a year** and receive the annual newsletter and get reduced rates at conferences besides getting early notice of any events. For more information see: <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/cbae/>; to join email the secretary, Alison Tinniswood at: Alison.tinniswood@hertscc.gov.uk

YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS CLUB VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The volunteers running the Cambridge Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) branch are going to be

moving on at the end of the year and new volunteers are needed to keep it going. The Cambridge branch is the founding branch of the Club and has been going for 40 years. If you can help, contact Elvie Thompson, Head of Engagement, Council for British Archaeology; Direct line: 01904 521 235 / Office: 01904 671 417; www.archaeologyuk.org / www.yac-uk.org

You may know that the CBA is running a fund-raising campaign to keep YAC going. On October 20th 2013 a team of six staff from the CBA, calling themselves *The New YAC Dolls*, are running the Yorkshire Marathon corporate relay to raise money for this cause! Any sponsorship will help secure the future of the Young Archaeologists' Club. <http://www.justgiving.com/newYACdolls>

LOCAL EVENTS

The University of Cambridge Festival of Ideas runs from 23rd October to 3rd November. There are a number of events at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research and the Museum of Classical Archaeology; together with a Prehistory Day at the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Storey's Way and an exhibition of discoveries on the Girton College site, both on Saturday, 26th October. The programme is available around Cambridge (and at park and ride sites), or at: www.cam.ac.uk/festival-of-ideas

ATLAS OF HILLFORTS OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND

A new project has been started by Oxford and Edinburgh Universities and University College, Cork to produce, in four years, a comprehensive atlas and database of all hillforts. Members of the public are invited to complete online descriptive forms in the hope that all entries will be based on new site visits. The project website is: www.arch.ox.ac.uk/hillforts-atlas.html

RURAL SETTLEMENT IN ROMAN BRITAIN PROJECT

A year into the 3 year project at the University of Reading with Cotswold Archaeology, and the first region, the east of England (including Cambridgeshire), has been completed. All available information has been trawled, including grey literature, with the following main results about Roman life in the countryside in eastern England:

- Half Roman settlements began in the Iron Age
- Major disruption occurred in Essex/Suffolk around AD43 and around AD60/61 (Boudican revolt) in Norfolk
- Simple "enclosed" farmsteads dominated the Iron Age, but were overtaken by more complex "developed" farms (incorporating domestic, agricultural and industrial zones into systems of enclosures and trackways) by early Roman times
- Enclosed farms were commoner on higher ground, developed farms in valleys
- Numbers of farms, villages and small towns increased up to about AD200
- Most villas were founded in the decades around AD100, peaking up to AD300
- In later Roman times, cattle were commoner, lived longer, and were used for traction; sheep/goats lived longer and were used for meat and wool rather than dairy
- In the 3rd & 4th centuries, villages and small towns became "ruralised"; stockbreeding increased, with more livestock enclosures, and horses became more important

This represents just a fraction of the work completed to date and analysis will be undertaken of other aspects of life. At the end of the project the overall results will be presented as a major monograph and a fully interactive database and GIS with the Archaeology Data Service that anyone will be able to access. [Taken from *British Archaeology*, September/October 2013]

CONFERENCES/COURSES

Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education runs short courses on a variety of topics on archaeology, the historic environment and local history. See www.ice.cam.ac.uk/short-courses for details.

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

- 11-12 October *Richard III Foundation conference: White Rose, Scottish Thistle.* At Dixie Grammar School, Market Bosworth, including tour of Bosworth Heritage Centre. See: www.richardIII.com
- 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
- 26 October Hallaton Treasure Conference at Snibston Discovery Museum, Leicestershire. www.snibston.com
- 30 October Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) archive group workshop on *Good practice in archiving archaeological projects.* Bury St Edmunds. £16.
- 15 November *A Miscellany of Glass.* Day conference at the Science Museum's Dana Centre on identifying and assessing glass assemblages. £30 See www.historyofglass.org.uk

EXHIBITIONS

Oundle Museum, The Courthouse, Mill Road, Oundle. "Digs and Discoveries" from local sites until 24th November. Open Saturdays 11am – 5pm and Sundays 2 - 5pm. www.oundlemuseum.org.uk

Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon. "Speed's Huntingdon" – a virtual Huntingdon created from Speed's map. 15 October – 30 March. www.olivercromwell.org

EXCAVATIONS

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

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

- British Archaeology September/October 2013 (including an article on death and the Anglo-Saxon mother from the excavations of a cemetery in Oakington; and also one on data on rural Roman Britain collected from the East of England, see above)
- CBA Newsletter, issue 24 late Summer 2013
- The Conduit Sept 2103-Aug 2014, the CAS's annual publication of information about local societies, museums etc. It is available on-line at www.camantsoc.org when that website has been repaired
- Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society (PCAS) Vol CII for 2013
- Jigsaw Cambridgeshire newsletter No.3, July 2013

Susan May, Secretary