



## CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

**Newsletter Number 160**

**September 2010**

<http://www.cambridge-archaeology.org.uk/>

President		Vice-President	Dr Paul Spoerry
Chairman	Barrie Fuller		
Secretary	Susan May, 94 High Street, Great Shelford, Cambridge, CB22 5EH, tel 01223 843121; email: cafg.may@ntlworld.com		
Treasurer	Graham Vincent		

**In memory of Dr John Alexander, who died on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2010, President of the Group since 1988, inspirational teacher of archaeology and promoter of adult courses, excavator of sites in and around Cambridge and in Africa, and a true gentleman.**

**We will miss him.**

A fulsome obituary appeared in The Times on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

### **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

Following John's sad death, we need to agree on a new President. A Special General Meeting will, therefore, be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010, immediately before the lecture, at which members are recommended to invite Dr Paul Spoerry, our current Vice-President, to become our President. An agenda is enclosed for members.

Members will also be invited to confirm Dr Susan Oosthuizen as Vice-President.

### **LECTURES**

The lecture programme starts again at 7.30 pm on the first Wednesday in the month, in the seminar room at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Downing Street, Cambridge. Parking is available on site from Tennis Court Road.

6 October	Tom White on <i>The Lower and Upper Palaeolithic record of the East Midlands and fen basin</i>
3 November	Dr Ken McNamarra on <i>The star-crossed stone: the archaeology and mythology of fossil sea urchins</i>
1 December	tbc
5 January	Mike Coles on <i>a review of the Group's work during the year</i>
6 April	AGM

In addition, on

13 October There will be a visit to the store rooms at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology with Anne Taylor, at 7.00 pm. There will be **no** meeting at Bar Hill

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions are due at the rate of:  
£8 for individual membership

£11 family membership

If you have not already paid for this year (from April), please send them to the treasurer, address above.

You should be aware that you are only covered by the Group's insurance if you are a paid-up member.

## **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. We are currently washing finds from the Wimpole excavations.

For those who have not yet found us: approach Bar Hill; at the roundabout where Tesco is on the left, go straight on; take the first right (Trafalgar Way) and Unit 15 is on the corner of the second left turn, with parking in front. Be careful of the large lorries in this area. A plan can be provided.

## **FIELDWORK**

We are beginning fieldwalking on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> September, in Comberton, along the road between Comberton and Toft. The area includes fields where crop marks have been seen on air photos. Meet in the layby on the north side of the B1046, just west of Comberton at 10 am. Wear stout shoes or boots and clothing for all eventualities. We usually continue until around 12.30 p.m.

We had a very satisfactory though taxing and complicated excavation at Wimpole in July and Mike Coles will give a talk in the new year, once there has been time to assess the finds and their contexts. In essence, we found the footings of Mr Ratford's farm house, built in the late 1600s and demolished some time shortly after 1800 when the first Home Farm buildings were erected. Below this was a deposit which contained only medieval pottery, suggesting that an earlier house stood on the site. There are some photographs on the web site and on Facebook.

## **COMMITTEE MEETING**

A committee meeting was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, at which time membership stood at 10 family and 29 individual, plus 10 free/honorary members. Total funds stood at nearly £2,500, including Val's bequest, and we agreed to reimburse Colin Coates to the sum of about £45 for making a planning frame for use on excavations. We reviewed and agreed the final draft of the guidelines and application form for the bursary competition, including a more explicit outline of the criteria to be used in assessment.

We observed a minute's silence in memory of John Alexander and then considered what would be a fitting commemoration. Individuals may wish, as suggested by John's family, to make a donation to Pakistan Flood Relief but, as a Group, we favoured doing something to honour and mark his support. We are therefore looking at the possibility of an annual lecture in his name, perhaps by people who could talk about his work or the areas in which he was interested.

The committee recommended that Dr Paul Spoerry be invited to be the Group's next President, and we considered a number of names suggested for Vice-President, agreeing that Dr Sue Oosthuizen of the University of Cambridge should be approached.

As the domain name for the Group's website is due to expire next year, Peter Cornelissen has kindly offered to set up a new website. He put forward a number of options with their costs, and we agreed on a new name "cafg.net", the two sites to operate with links between them until the existing one runs out. The cost will be £55.19 for the new name and management for 2 years. We also noted the possibilities of publicising events on the Council for British Archaeology's website and agreed to join the CBA's Community Archaeology Forum.

Colin Coates was experimenting with websites where photographs can be published, the best to date being Picasa; and Mike Coles was digitising older photographs for archiving. The Ordnance Survey had indicated that they thought the Group would need a copyright licence from them to use their maps, but we were offered advice which suggested that such use as the Group would make should fall within the free category of academic research, and were also given further advice on the use of maps. A database of fieldwork files and their contents was coming together.

It was hoped to start fieldwalking at the end of September, in Comberton; and two areas where single full-day fieldwalking would be appropriate when conditions were suitable were Alconbury and Eaton Socon. There was also more work to do at Childerley.

From the previous meeting, Emma Smith is learning how to translate hand drawings into digital images, and has given the Group a Facebook page, accessible from our website.

## CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

The CAS has an excursion programme this summer. Bookings (with cheques) should be sent to: Mr A Kirby, 3 Hills View, Great Shelford, CB22 5AY, not later than one week before the excursion. The programme continues with:

6 October Moggerhanger Park, Bedfordshire, building designed by Sir John Soane, grounds laid out by Humphrey Repton. 13.00 Trumpington P&R, return by 18.00. £19.00

CAS lecture meetings start again in October, on Mondays at 6.00 pm at the Law Faculty, West Road, Cambridge (Sidgwick site), which members of the Group are welcome to attend. The programme begins with:

4 October Dr Carenza Lewis on *Discovering lost village histories – the results of recent excavations in Cottenham and Willingham*

1 November Dr Carl Watkins on *Ghost beliefs and the English landscape from the Middle Ages to the Modern Age*

6 December Dr John Baker on *Place-names and the Anglo-Saxon landscape of the Cambridge region*

The annual conference on recent archaeological work in Cambridgeshire will take place on Saturday, 20 November at the Law Faculty.

## LOCAL EVENTS

25 September Meet Cambridgeshire Archaeology Historic Environment Team at the Great Gransden Show. 9.30am – 5pm

2 October Guided tour of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology finds store at Landbeach (CB25 9FT). 10am – 1 pm. Phone 01223-728564 to confirm attendance.

## CONFERENCES/COURSES

9 October *The Vanishing Industrial Past*, lecture for CBA East Anglia at 2.15pm at The Forum, Norwich City Centre

16 October *Roman and post Roman Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire* – review of archaeology for 2010, including Verulamium, Baldock and Sandy. Spirella Building, Letchworth. Deadline for booking is 24th September – contact Tim Vickers on 01582 547969.

31 October *Great Excavations*. Creswell Crags' Museum and Visitor Centre, Worksop, Notts. Contact 01909 720378, [www.creswell-crags.org.uk](http://www.creswell-crags.org.uk)

The following three day conferences are organised by the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research and will be held in the Law Faculty. The cost for each is £39 (lunch is not included)

27 November *Managing water in pre-drainage fen and marsh.* Closing date 17 November  
26 February *Place-names and landscape: recent research.* Closing date 16 February  
21 May *Designing with water: new work in garden history.* Closing date 11 May

## FIELDWORK OPPORTUNITIES

Some digs continue and details can be found at: [www.ilovethepast.com](http://www.ilovethepast.com) or [www.archaeology.co.uk/digs](http://www.archaeology.co.uk/digs) (through *Current Archaeology*) and [www.britarch.ac.uk/briefing](http://www.britarch.ac.uk/briefing) (CBA), also: [archaeology.about.com](http://archaeology.about.com)

## FESTIVAL OF BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

The Festival of British Archaeology in 2011 will take place from 16 to 31 July.

## COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

The CBA has been awarded over £604,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund for its Community Archaeology Bursaries Project, to provide 27 year-long on the job training bursary placements between 2011 and 2014 for qualified archaeologists and skilled volunteers to develop and learn skills connected to working with different community groups, volunteers and organizations.

Two further year's financial support for the CBA's Community Support Officer has also been confirmed from The Headley Trust. This will permit various projects including the enhancement of the Community Archaeology Forum and the planning of training events.

English Heritage has agreed to fund an accessible introduction to guidance for professional and voluntary archaeologists, including the IfA's standards and guidance for archaeological practice and the English Heritage guidance on archaeological science. The aim is to release the first edition in early 2011.

## WEB SITES

[www.archatlas.org](http://www.archatlas.org) contains "visual essays" on a series of archaeological themes  
<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/map.aspx> has digitised versions of all 1:10650 1st edition OS maps  
<http://viewfinder.english-heritage.org.uk/> contains English Heritage's photographic archive

## EXHIBITIONS

Meet Hermione, the Girton College mummy on Thursdays, 2-4 pm, in the Lawrence Room, together with Anglo-Saxon finds made during the construction of the College.

4 November – 6 March *Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead* British Museum

## LIBRARY ADDITIONS

British Archaeology September/October 2010

CBA Newsletter, August 2010

English Heritage Research News Spring 2010

The Handbook of British Archaeology by Lesley and Roy A Adkins. 1983. Papermac

Susan May, Secretary