



CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

Newsletter Number 170

March 2013

www.cafg.net

President	Dr Paul Spoerry	Vice-President	Dr Susan Oosthuizen
Chairman	Barrie Fuller, 47 Queen Edith's Way, Cambridge, CB1 4PJ		
Secretary	Susan May, 94 High Street, Great Shelford, Cambridge, CB22 5EH, tel 01223 843121; email: cafg.may@ntlworld.com		
Treasurer	Dudley Pusey, 45 St Laurence Road, Foxton, Cambridge, CB22 6SF, tel 01223 503600		

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on **Wednesday, 10th April 2013 at 7.30 p.m.** in the seminar room at the McDonald Institute, Downing Street, Cambridge.

An agenda, a nomination form for officers and committee of the Group, the minutes of the last AGM, a statement of the accounts, and the secretary's and field officer's reports and the Constitution with proposed amendments are enclosed for members. The committee comprises the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Field Officer and five ordinary members and all posts are subject to election each year. All current officers and committee are prepared to stand again if no other nominations are made; any further nominations are requested by 8th April but, at the discretion of the meeting, may be accepted at the AGM.

LECTURES

Lectures are held at **7.30pm** in the seminar room at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Downing Street, Cambridge on the dates below. Parking is available on site from Tennis Court Road: press the button by the visitor barrier. The season continues with:

10 April AGM, followed by Paul Spoerry on *Halls orhovels? Some Saxon and Medieval timber building plans from the East of England*

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.

FINDS WORKSHOPS FOR FIELDWALKERS

Peter Cornelissen will offer Part 2 of his workshop on QGIS [digital mapping system] in May/June.

The workshop on bricks has had to be postponed until the autumn, when other workshops will also be offered.

FIELDWORK

We are currently fieldwalking at Cambridge Road Farm, Wimpole, and hope to move on to Eight Elms Farm, also in Wimpole, while conditions permit. Confirmation emails will be sent out.

TEST PITTING AT MELDRETH

Meldreth Local History Group has received Lottery funding to carry out a series of test pit excavations to explore the history of the village. The aim is to carry out around 30 digs over three weekends in June, July and August. Most will be in the gardens of village volunteers (very much along the lines of last year's Haslingfield project) but there will also be at least one test pit open to the public on each of the weekends.

The project will need experienced volunteers to help with excavations and the Local History Group would very much welcome any CAFG members who are interested in lending a hand. The dates are:

- 8th and 9th June
- 6th and 7th July
- 17th and 18th August

Please contact Robert Skeen (robertskeen@email.com) if you would like to help or would like more information.

AUTUMN FIELDWORK

In the autumn, besides the work in Wimpole outlined in the previous newsletter, we fieldwalked on the east side of the Childerley estate. On most of the area there was little in the way of pottery, but there was one significant scatter of Roman pottery in an area of about 50 metres by 50 metres, which we later sampled in 10m squares. The pottery is presently being processed.

One Sunday morning we went to Lower Valley Farm, Fulbourn, on the chalk uplands, to establish a presence. Some worked flints were found, but little else except where a cottage had stood at one time. The finds are still to be processed, and there is plenty of scope for further work.

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

Our HLF funded project is well underway.

Metal detecting on one field has been completed and the finds catalogued and researched, thanks to Peter Dight and his team. The finds have now been taken to the National Trust conservator for assessment. Besides the items described in the last newsletter, a number of coins were found and a report is attached to this newsletter.

Fieldwalking continues. An area of Roman pottery was found on a field near the boundary with Great Eversden, on a field with otherwise little of note. We are currently walking at Cambridge Road Farm, where we have found a dense accumulation of brick and C17/C18 century pottery, which we have been able to trace to a building and pond showing on earlier maps. However, we have also found what appears to be half a pebble-hammer. Details of this will be on the website soon. When we have finished at Cambridge Road Farm, we hope to move on to Eight Elms Farm. The weather has, unfortunately, been particularly difficult for fieldwalking.

Pottery from previous fieldwalking is being examined by Paul Blinkhorn, so we should have accurate dating shortly. He will also identify pottery from this year's work.

Various members of the Group are looking at aerial photographs, maps, documentary archives and museum collections and a major achievement is the capturing of the land and name information on the Hare Map of 1638, thanks to John Waterhouse.

A meeting has been held with Wimpole Parish Council, which was enthusiastic; and with members of *Orwell Past and Present*, the Orwell local history group; and an item about the project has been published in the Orwell and Wimpole parish magazine.

We will be test pitting with possibly some slightly larger scale excavation from 20th to 28th July, tying in with the Festival of British Archaeology. Discussion with Carena Lewis and Susan Oosthuizen from the University of Cambridge's *Cambridge Community Heritage*, which is supporting us, is underway on the potentially most useful sites.

Five open project team meetings have been held.

CONSTITUTION

Following a suggestion on the proposed amendments to the Constitution, the committee is now proposing further revisions to the proposals enclosed with the last newsletter:

Clause 2 The **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES** ~~purposes~~ of the Group ~~is~~ are:

(d) **TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS TO DEVELOP THEIR** ~~further~~ interest in archaeology by holding lectures, outings, members' meetings, discussions and issuing publications.

Clause 9 The roles of the committee are to help the Group achieve its aims and objectives; **TO HELP PROMOTE AWARENESS OF THE GROUP WITHIN THE CAMBRIDGE REGION AND BEYOND**; ~~to raise awareness of archaeology in general and the group in particular~~; and to set the standards for the way the Group works. To this end, the committee shall be responsible for managing the activities and resources of the Group, and for seeking additional resources in furtherance of its purposes.

New proposed amendments are highlighted in UPPER CASE and **bold**. The amended constitution will be in front of the AGM in April, and the document in full with proposed amendments is enclosed with the AGM agenda.

HASLINGFIELD ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

The results of our test pitting excavations of last year will be displayed to the village on Saturday 25th May in the Village Centre at Haslingfield. This will be an exhibition of the finds and a talk by Rob Atkins. It would help if as many members as possible could turn up to talk to the local people about the results.

If you still have photographs of your pit that you have not sent in, could you please send them to: michael@coles741.freeserve.co.uk

DRAWING COURSE

Your attention is drawn to the availability of a course on drawing finds provided by Jigsaw for this Group. If you are seriously interested and would be prepared to help with finds drawing, please give your name to Mike Coles.

COMMITTEE MEETING

A committee meeting was held on the 20th February, when funds stood at: bank £10,599.50 (following receipt of the HLF grant and grants towards the Haslingfield test pits and analysis of the Oily Hall flint); building society £1,900; cash £47.81 A CBA Challenge funding grant of £230 had also been awarded towards the analysis of the Oily Hall flint. Income and expenditure largely balance.

We will be recommending to the AGM that subscription levels for 2103/14 should be increased to £10 for individual and £15 for families, in part to be able to continue to foster an interest in archaeology in young people through the Val Whittaker Memorial Prize.

All officers and committee members were happy to stand down at the AGM for other nominated members, but were also content to continue in the absence of other nominations. Also for the AGM, further proposed revisions to the Constitution were agreed – details appear above.

Consideration was given to widening the category of eligible applicants for the Val Whittaker Memorial Prize to full time university students, but we agreed first to give further thought to widening the advertising of the competition for the future.

The Group has been asked to go through the boxes of Group finds at Landbeach to check that all needs retention; but agreement has been reached that none of the Wimpole material will go to Cheshire: the National Trust will retain it. Also on finds, consideration was given to retaining more post-Medieval pottery. Most respondents to the suggestion had favoured more detailed recording, but not full retention. Given that fieldwalking for the current year would be at Wimpole, where all previously found post-Medieval pottery had been classed together, we decided to keep all newly-found pottery from Wimpole for the life of the project, but not to change the recording forms for this project. A recording system for post-Medieval pot will be developed over the current year and applied to new sites.

The possible need for additional insurance to indemnify Group members against legal action for damage by non-member volunteers was considered. It was agreed that such insurance should be taken out if necessary, but the treasurer was asked to check the terms of the existing insurance policy. It was further agreed that the Group should bear the cost of any loss or damage to equipment since none of it is thought costly enough to warrant insurance. However, a schedule of assets will be maintained and published each year with the accounts.

A review was conducted of outstanding work, the most important being:

- Sorting material to be sent to Cheshire for storage – waiting on Quinton carroll
- Haslingfield archaeology project – Rob Atkins progressing grey report; village presentation 25 May
- Oily Hall flint – draft report produced by Lawrence Billington; next stages under discussion
- Wimpole finds to Paul Blinkhorn – planned
- Future of Wimpole finds – storage to be organised at Wimpole Hall
- Mr Ratford's house excavation report – being drawn up with high priority
- Finalising previous Wimpole excavation reports - less urgent
- Wimpole project practical work – meeting with Carenza Lewis to be organised
- Sorting of unclassified pottery from earlier fieldwalking. 4 sites only with unacceptable levels, but currently lower priority than Wimpole pottery

The next ordinary committee meeting is due to be held in June, and any member is welcome to attend.

WEBSITE

Don't forget that you can register to view areas restricted to CAFG members and others specifically authorised. You can do via the website. We now have a new, open, area for *the Wimpole: silent voices and deserted homes* project. Please give us your feedback on the website.

JIGSAW CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Training workshops for 2103 have now started. For the list and to apply, see <http://www.jigsawcambs.org/training/2013>. Some courses are already fully booked, but even if this is the case, register your interest because waiting lists are being held.

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

CAS lecture meetings are on Mondays at 6.00pm at the Law Faculty, West Road, Cambridge, which members of the Group are welcome to attend. The season continues with:

8 April Dr Christopher De Hamel on *Archbishop Matthew Parker and his manuscript library at Corpus Christi College*

- 13 May Jim Leary on *The Giants of Wessex: Silbury Hill, the Marlborough Mound and the Hatfield Barrow*
- 3 June Mark Knight on *The tip of the iceberg? Must Farm's perfectly preserved Fenland prehistory*

The CAS excursion programme starts with:

- Wed 22 May Colchester, coach from Trumpington P&R 9.15am. £17.50
- Wed 12 June The Ascension Burial Ground, Huntingdon Road 2.30pm on site. £2
- Sat 29 June Oakington excavations 11.00am on site. £3

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.

CBA EAST COMMITTEE MEETING

Mike Coles reports on a meeting held on 23rd February 2013 at Bury St Edmunds:

“The meeting was attended by Mike Heyworth and Louise Ennis from CBA HQ York. They explained the current position of funding for the CBA now that they have lost support from government organisations. Staff numbers have been seriously reduced and a great effort has been made to recruit new members; regional groups will in future have to raise their own funds from members. The future for archaeology is as depressed as most other parts of the economy. One startling fact is that last year only 100 students nationwide who had A levels at grades AAB applied for places to read archaeology [universities only get Dept. Education financial support for those with these grades].

“The committee discussed various proposals for increasing the benefit to members of their membership of the regional group. The AGM of CBA East will be held in Cambridge on 11th May. This will be preceded by a guided tour and followed by a visit to the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. In July there will be a visit to Saffron Walden and Audley End and on the 14th September there will be an all-day conference, in Bury St Edmunds, on the theme of recent Anglo-Saxon finds and excavations in East Anglia.”

LOCAL EVENTS

- 31 March Demonstration of simple dowsing techniques by Paul Daw, Wandlebury Country Park, 10.30 – 12.30. £2. See www.cambridgeppf.org/events.shtml or phone Andrew on 07802 769386
- 4 April Finds identification day at Flag Fen, 10.30 – 3.00pm
- 27 April Finds identification day at Ely Museum, 10.30 – 1.00pm
- 1 May Guided walk of Worts Meadow and the village of Landbeach. 7.00 pm at moated site entrance near the recreation ground
- 8 May Guided walk along Devil's Dyke. 7.00pm at the Burwell Road car park
- 12 May Hinxton Mill open day, 2.30 – 5.30pm. £2.50. (Also 2 June, 7 July)
Bourn Post Mill open day, 2.00 – 4.00pm £2.50. (Also 30 June, 28 July)
- 22 May Guided walk at Stonea Camp followed by storytelling. 7.00pm at the entrance past Stitches Farm, Wimblington
- 1 June Finds identification day at the Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon, 10.30 – 2.30pm
- 5 June Guided walk along Car Dyke. 7.00pm at the Waterbeach recreation ground car park
- 26 June Guided walk around Durobrivae Roman town. 7.00pm. Places limited: register interest by the end of May with the Historic Environment Team on 01223 728654, email archaeology@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

CONFERENCES/COURSES

Weekend courses at Madingley Hall (see www.ice.cam.ac.uk for details):

- 12-14 April *Medieval villages, pastures and fields*

28-30 June

The landscapes of Anglo-Saxon England

3 June – 21 July, a Madingley online course: [Googling the earth: online resources for discovering landscape archaeology](#)

Peterborough Museums have a series of lectures and workshops, at Peterborough Museum, Flag Fen Archaeology Park and Longthorpe Tower. For details see: www.vivacity-peterborough.com

9 April *Time and Time Again*, Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum – David Jacques on the new insights into Vespasian's Camp. See www.wiltshireheritage.org.uk/events

27 April *Roman Wiltshire Day School*, St Lawrence School, Bradford-on-Avon. Contact stoneml85@gmail.com

25-27 June *Greater Manchester Industrial Archaeology Tour*. See www.matrust.org.uk

WEBSITES

www.isgap.org.uk Introduction to Standards and Guidance in Archaeological Practice. Developed by the CBA and the Institute for Archaeologists

EXHIBITIONS

British Museum until 26 May: *Ice Age Art: arrival of the modern mind*

British Museum 28 March until 29 September: *Life and death in Pompeii and Herculaneum*

The Quadriga Gallery, Wellington Arch, London until 21 April: *The Birth of Archaeology and the battle for the past* [The first of five exhibitions telling the story of 100 years of protecting England's past]

New exhibition "Looking back at Hungate" now at DIG, York. There were other people at York besides the Vikings.

EXCAVATIONS

6/7 – 9/8 multi period research project at Sedgeford, Norfolk. www.sharp.org.uk

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

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

British Archaeology January/February and March/April 2013
CBA Newsletter, issue 19, Autumn 2012, issue 20 Winter 2012

Susan May, Secretary