



# CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

**Newsletter Number 166**

**March 2012**

[www.cafg.net](http://www.cafg.net)

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on **Wednesday, 4th April 2012 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 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; any further nominations are requested by 2nd 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. Parking is available on site from Tennis Court Road: if the barrier is down press the button for the attendant.

4 April            AGM followed by our president, Dr Paul Spoerry on "Medieval pottery in Cambridgeshire; a new regional review"

## 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.

## FINDS WORKSHOPS FOR FIELDWALKERS

On the third Wednesday in each month, at Bar Hill, there will be an opportunity for the less experienced fieldwalkers in particular to examine pot sherds and flint from our collection to help them identify material that is worth picking up. This is not intended to be an in-depth identification exercise but a guide to the likelihood of a piece of flint having been deliberately struck and to recognising the main identifying features of pottery of different periods, distinguishing them from field drain, brick and tile, and other debris.

The first of these sessions will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> April and anyone feeling in need of some guidance is very welcome to join in. Ordinary Wednesday processing work will continue as normal.

## **FIELDWORK**

We have been walking further fields at Boxworth, with very little to show for it for the first two weeks. We are now, however, finding a thin scatter of Medieval and Roman pottery. The fieldwalking season is nearly finished for this winter.

## **HASLINGFIELD ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT**

We will be test pitting in Haslingfield on the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> June with residents of the village. Details are attached.

## **WEBSITE**

We hope you will use the website as a resource and give your feedback. There are now articles on some of the finds from Wimpole.

Peter Cornelissen has been mapping our more recent fieldwalking finds and you will shortly be able to find these on the website. Since some landowners understandably have concerns about the amount of detail generally available, this part of the website will be restricted to CAFG members and others specifically authorised. You will need to register and obtain a password and a system is currently being tested so that you can do this via the website. You will also shortly be able to access approved committee meeting minutes by the same system.

## **VAL WHITTAKER MEMORIAL PRIZE**

Last call ! The deadline for the 2012 prize is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. Members of the Group are eligible to apply and full details can be found on our website: [www.cafg.net](http://www.cafg.net) .

## **COMMITTEE MEETING**

A committee meeting was held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February. At that time, funds totalled £2,410.79, including the Val Whittaker bequest, with 57 paid up members including 11 family memberships. Committee members had authorised the payment of £43.96 to Mike Coles for the purchase of storage boxes.

### *AGM*

We agreed to recommend to the AGM that subscriptions should be increased by £1 as a matter of sound financial policy. We also considered recommending the adoption of a policy of topping up the bursary fund to maintain the capacity to offer bursaries beyond the exhaustion of the original bequest. The treasurer was asked to look at the feasibility of this.

All current officers and committee were prepared to stand again.

### *CAS Small Grants*

The CAS has approved a grant of £200 towards the full evaluation of the flints from Oily Hall, subject to our raising the rest of the cost. The CAU had promised to carry out an initial assessment free to determine the usefulness of a full evaluation.

### *Website*

The number of visits was going up and we noted that 6 new members during the past year had made first contact through the website. We agreed to devise and use a standard format as a "house" style for reports published on the website and also to set up a registration system to enable Group members to view distribution maps of finds on the website, some landowners being uneasy about open access.

### *Jigsaw Project*

The Group's affiliation application to Jigsaw was being processed and we noted that training sessions were now being advertised.

Arising from this and the suggestion of a newer member, we agreed to arrange our own training sessions for less experienced fieldwalkers to help them recognise what to pick up.

### *Fieldwork*

Current fieldwalking was on the Childerley estate and might last until the end of the fieldwalking season, with a further possibility of fields near Oily Hall.

We agreed to support a community archaeology project in Haslingfield, involving test pits dug in residents' gardens by themselves or CAFG members, over one weekend. This was being promoted by Rob Atkins of Oxford Archaeology East following recent professional excavations, and was supported by the Village Society and Jigsaw. We considered publicity through the BBC history project, but decided that it would not be appropriate.

As it was not yet known whether Angus Wainwright would want further digging at Wimpole this year, the estate managers had been advised not to include any excavation in the National Trust events programme. It would still be possible to dig if this was agreed.

### *Fieldwork results*

The digitised fieldwalking files had been deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) and progress was being made with checking pottery listed as unclassified. John Waterhouse is taking the lead on looking at how the data might be best interpreted and published. He is reviewing as many appropriate reports as he can - *if you know of a report on fieldwalking over a wide area that might be useful, please let any of the committee know.*

Drawings for the Wimpole 2011 excavations were being completed and Peter Cornelissen undertook to investigate visualising the layers.

The next committee meeting will be arranged after the AGM. Any member is welcome to attend committee meetings – if you have any issues you would like discussed, please let me know.

## **JIGSAW CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

We are now affiliated to JIGSAW, the new project supporting and developing community archaeology in Cambridgeshire. Training workshops are now being organised, for which, at the moment, individual application should be made. The website is: [www.jigsawcambs.org](http://www.jigsawcambs.org) and you are urged to keep checking it for new events.

## **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:

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|---------|---|
| 2 April | Members of the Twenty Pence Project Team on <i>a Roman settlement on the Cottenham fen edge: the story so far of an exploration by FEAGroup and CAS</i> |
| 14 May  | Tom Doig on <i>Death and traditional burial in Victorian times – the surviving evidence?</i>  |

The CAS spring conference, *From the Ground Up – Contemporary Building Recording Methods and Practice*, is on **Saturday 31 March** at the Law Faculty. Cost £10 for affiliates and £6.50 for a sandwich lunch if required. Bookings to John Stanford, CAS Conference Registrar, 11 Histon Road, Cottenham, Cambridge, CB24 8UF or by email to [conferences@camantsoc.org](mailto:conferences@camantsoc.org)

Bookings for CAS excursions should be made to Mr A Kirby, 3 Hills View, Great Shelford, Cambridge, CB22 5AY. Further details can be given, but the programme begins with:

- 18 April St Neots and Kimbolton Castle. Leave Trumpington P&R 09.45, return by 18.00. Cost £25  
18 May A walk round Reed, Hertfordshire. Meet Reed church 10.00. Cost £5.00  
13 June Castle Acre. Leave Trumpington P&R 10.00, return by 19.00. Cost £25

## CBA EAST

On **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May** CBA East will hold its AGM at the Verulamium Museum with talks on the transition from Iron Age to Roman in Hertfordshire in the morning; an opportunity to visit the Museum; and to join a guided walk around St Albans in the afternoon.

## CONFERENCES/COURSES

- 28 April Cambridgeshire Association for Local History spring conference "Sport and Leisure". Comberton Village Hall. £12.50. See: [www.calh.org.uk](http://www.calh.org.uk)  
12 April WWII heritage in the East of England (project launch). Waterfront Building, Ipswich. Enquiries to [sarah.poppy@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.poppy@suffolk.gov.uk)  
21 April Identifying and recording clay tobacco pipes, introducing the new reference collection at LAARC. £60. Enquiries to [jpearce@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:jpearce@museumoflondon.org.uk). Bookings through Museum of London Box Office: 020 7001 9844

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

- 20-22 April *The landscape of monastic estates*  
21-23 September *Art on the Rocks – a survey of world rock art*

Historic Environment Research Conferences organised by the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, at a cost of £43 each: see [www.mcdonald.cam.ac.uk/events](http://www.mcdonald.cam.ac.uk/events) for further details

- 19 May Death, Memory and the Landscape. At the McDonald Institute  
9 June Medieval and Tudor gardens – recent research. At Newnham College

## EXCAVATIONS

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

## EXHIBITIONS

Museum of London – copper alloy 1<sup>st</sup> century AD Roman *spintria* (love token) from southern Europe, the first known from the UK and found on the Thames foreshore on display until 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Harborough Museum, Market Harborough – the newly conserved Roman helmet from Hallaton, Leicestershire is on display in the Hallaton Treasure Gallery

## LIBRARY ADDITIONS

British Archaeology March/April 2012, including article on Must Farm and Bradley Fen near Peterborough and why Mick Aston is leaving Time Team

Susan May, Secretary

Cambridge Archaeology Field Group  
Haslingfield Dig  
Archaeology in the Village  
14<sup>th</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012

Dear Member

We have been encouraged by Rob Atkins of Oxford Archaeology East to undertake an exercise of test pitting in the village of Haslingfield. Rob excavated a large site in New Road Haslingfield last year where he found Iron Age, Roman, late Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval activity. In view of this he is very keen to see if we could learn more about the settlement pattern in all period.

As a start he has retrieved all the field walking material we have accumulated from the parish over many years and this has been sent to Paul Blinkhorn [he of Time Team]. Already Paul has reported that there is Roman, late Saxon and Medieval pottery. Surprisingly there is some late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age from River Farm, fields we walked in 1982.

If you can spare some time please come along, for all or part of the time, to the launch meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> April in the Methodist Church (by the Green in the High St) 10.00 to 12.00. This will be an informal affair where we hope to recruit local residents to either dig a 1m square themselves or allow CAFG members to do the digging.

The test pitting will take place on the weekend of the 16/17<sup>th</sup> June. Hopefully many of them will be dug by local families thus introducing children to archaeology. They may well need help to get the pit dug and I already have a number of offers of gardens where the owner will not be able to dig. Therefore there will be plenty of digging for our members, so please put this in your diary even if you can only manage part of one of the days.

We have arranged for the use of a large barn to sort and wash finds and this will act as HQ on the weekend of the excavations. Rob has asked Paul Blinkhorn to come on the Sunday to assess the finds and the Jigsaw project has agreed to fund this. Rob will analyse the results and with the help of members produce a report for both publication and presentation at a meeting in the village.

Hopefully this project will be both fun and allow us to improve our knowledge of pottery identification.

Mike Coles  
Field Officer

Overleaf is the item appearing in the Haslingfield Village Magazine

# Haslingfield Dig

## Archaeology in the Village

### 14<sup>th</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012

You may have seen a TV programme called The Big Dig in which local people, guided by an archaeologist, dug a 1m square hole in their garden to look for any finds of pottery and metal. By digging test pits around our village and analysing the finds, we hope to be able to draw a map to show where our ancestors had their homes.

The recent excavation by Oxford Archaeology East on the site of Trinity Farm in New Road, now Watson's Yard, has shown that on that site there are Iron Age fields, possibly lasting into the Roman period, a late Anglo-Saxon settlement, and houses from the late Medieval period to the present day. The director of the excavation, Rob Atkins, would like to help extend our understanding of the development of Haslingfield.

The project will be organised by Haslingfield Village Society, Cambridge Archaeology Field Group (CAFG) and with the support of the Jigsaw Cambridgeshire (Heritage Lottery funded) and Rob Atkins of Oxford Archaeology East.

Start of the project 14<sup>th</sup> April Village Centre 10.00 to 12.00

The project will be launched with a meeting in the Village Centre, open to all, on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> April. Some previous finds will be on show and there will be a short presentation at 11.00 on what is known now about the archaeology of Haslingfield and about this project. At this meeting we will collect names of those who are interested in taking part.

Each trench will be placed where the owner/occupier suggests and agrees. Excavation may be done by the owner/occupier, their family and friends. This is a very good way of encouraging the interest of children in their understanding of history. If you are willing to have a test pit dug but are unable to do this yourself then members of CAFG will do the work. The 1m square will be excavated in 10cm layers and the depth would normally not exceed 70cm. Full instructions will be given.

The Haslingfield Dig Weekend 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June

On the weekend of the Dig the squares will be marked out by CAFG members, and the diggers encouraged to get digging. We will use the barn belonging to Michael Hendy in School Lane to collect and sort the finds. Each site will be visited regularly by Rob Atkins, CAFG members, Jigsaw Cambridgeshire staff and any other experienced archaeologists available.

After the excavation, a report will be written and at a meeting in the Village Centre all the results will be shown and a presentation made of what we have learnt about the historical development of Haslingfield.

More details on the 14<sup>th</sup> April or if you cannot be there speak to Michael Coles, 44 Cantelupe Road, Tel 871403 michael@coles741.freeserve.co.uk

Web sites [www.cafg.net](http://www.cafg.net) <http://jigsawcambs.org> <http://oaeast.thehumanjourney.net>