

ASHFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEPTEMBER 2019

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We welcome you back for a new season of our society. By the time we get to the AGM in May the society will have been in existence for 100 years (admittedly with a few gaps for wars etc) I hope we shall be able to put on something to celebrate our longevity!

Tonight we welcome MIKE CLINCH, Vice- President of the Kent Archaeological Society and the Field Officer for Kent Underground Research Group, to give us a talk entitled 'Underground Kent.' I know that he has spent many hours exploring dene holes and the like no doubt with one or two strange experiences.

Next month, on Monday October 21st, we hope to hear the story of 'The Sound Mirrors at Fan Bay' from Robert Hall. I heard Robert give this talk at the SERIAC conference in April and thought you might enjoy hearing about this early form of sound detection before radar. Some of us have seen the ones at Great Stone and these will be mentioned as well. Posters are available for distribution.

#### OTHER MEETINGS

The Ashford Gateway have a very interesting talk on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm entitled, 'A History of Kent through its Artefacts and Treasure from Pre-History to 1700,' by Jo Ahmet who is the KCC Finds Liaison Officer. To book ring 03000413131 or email [ashfordlibrary@kent.gov.uk](mailto:ashfordlibrary@kent.gov.uk).

Also on 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm there is the Michael Nightingale Lecture at Old Sessions, Canterbury. The subject is 'Social and Political relations in Kent after the Swing Riots.'

On the 28<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30 there is a Day Conference at the Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone entitled 'Researching the Archives of Kent's Anglican Dioceses.'

On the 12th October the KAS Historic Buildings Committee are holding a conference at Cobham Village Hall. It is entitled, 'Aspects of Kent's Ecclesiastical Heritage.' It is from 9.30-5 including visits. Info on the board.

On Friday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 and Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 St Mary's, Ashford sees a production by Tony Boyd-Williams entitled 'The Adventures of St Paul' This is a one hour, fast moving political thriller! Fliers on the bench

Also on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 in the same church there is a concert given by the Invicta Singers in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Finally, there is a KAS conference on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at Rutherford College, University of Kent, entitled 'Archaeological Perspectives on Links between the South East and the Continent.'

#### OTHER MATTERS.

CHILHAM CASTLE -Meet at 1.30 at the castle gates. The cost is £12. I have a map of car park facilities if anyone needs it.

I have put up a list of those who signed up to go. If I have missed your name, you would now like to go or you are no longer able to go please write on the list or let me know.

We had a very enjoyable visit to Cobham on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Some amazing trees, a strange mausoleum and a memorial to someone who cut off his toe and died of sepsis! A fascinating place to visit.

By-Gone Kent's (2 lots) are available for subscribers.

What's On Diaries are on the bench

Old By-Gone's and DVD's are 50p – all other books are free –help yourselves.

I have had a message from Amazon Prime about a series of programmes they want to produce. The gentleman in question may well be here. If so I will get him to explain.

Subs are now due -£10 per year –can't be bad!

The final part of Eddy, Gloria and my contact with Mr Black over the Bircholt Roman Kiln has now been played out. Mr Black presented the tiles he had got from the excavation to Ashford Borough Museum, was duly photographed and put on the Museum website. This week I heard from him that his write up has been accepted by Archaeologia Cantiana and will be published next June – fame at last!

On a final note, I am very sorry that I did not let you know that Frances Williams, wife of John Williams, ex County Archaeologist, died early in the summer. Many of us remember her for her talks on her great love – Egypt.

I still have copies of the Journal of Kent History for sale at £1.50. Money to me please. That contains all the info about the KHF conference at Sandwich in May.

I have the new By-Gone Kent's for subscribers. I would be glad of subscriptions from those who have not yet paid.

Visits – Andrew Mayfield, who came last month, will take us around some of the sites he spoke about. I have also received info from Steve Hookins who came in November and he has got his Battle of Hastings tour up and running. I have put the info on the board for you to read. Please put your names on the lists if you might be interested in either of these visits. Transport can be arranged.