



# Colchester Archaeological Group NEWSLETTER

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July 2021 No. 006



*An interesting item found while Metal detecting by Geoff Lunn.  
see story on page 7.*

## Normal service has been resumed...mostly...hopefully!

Back in April the Fordham dig re-started with numbers limited to six per day and at the time of writing, June the 4<sup>th</sup>, restrictions have been further eased with digger numbers increasing to allow work to continue more normally, thus making it likely we will be able to complete phase two this year. More information on that later in this issue.

Remaining restrictions are due to be lifted on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June; however, there is some concern that the latest variants of the coronavirus may scupper this plan. When you read this we may know the outcome.

Notwithstanding the ups and downs of said virus, plans are afoot to keep us busy into the next year with various investigations and projects in the pipeline.

The new programme of lectures has already been arranged, thanks to Christine Piper's hard work and are set to be held back at Circus House again, with the exception of one which will be given from Argentina!

We will always have Zoom as a backup should it become necessary, thanks again to Tim Dennis for doing the tech stuff for our last season of lectures.

As always, thanks for everyone's support and work in a difficult last fifteen months, CAG remains alive and well, may it live long and prosper!

Mike Hamilton-Macy. (Chair CAG)

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## The Lecture Programme Christine Piper

I can't believe a year ago with the Lecture Programme sorted for Winter 2020/21 we were in the middle of Lockdown 1 and didn't know how long it was going to last. At that point Geoff, Tim and me started discussions about how we were going to deliver the lecture programme. The first thought was to cancel however I strongly felt we should try and make it happen. The world of Zoom was still new, but it looked like it was a option.

Fast forward to 2021 and we have finished a highly successful season of lectures online. The next season of lectures is now fully booked. Hopefully, we will be able to meet up again in Roman Circus House. We start the lecture programme with a talk from Kevin Bruce. For those of you who attend Tim's twice weekly zoom meeting Kevin is a regular attendee. Kevin is a local Historian specialising in the Dengie area he is going to talk about fish traps. We follow this by a return to the golden age of airship travel and a talk about the history of these amazing flying machines. Roger Barrett was due to talk to use last year but we had to postpone. I am really pleased I was able to rebook him. A large percentage of the coins we find at Fordham come from the end of the Roman empire so this talk ties in well with the dig. When I contacted Professor Tristan Carter about the possibility of getting someone to talk to us about his project, I was not expecting he would be able to come in person. Luckily, he is going to be in the UK on a sabbatical year. Located on Suffolk's Peninsula 5km south of Ipswich the Freston 'causewayed enclose' is one of the largest Neolithic monuments in Britain. The site comprises a circular gathering space defined by banks and ditches with multiple entrances. Dr Carol Farr will talk about Insular Art specifically art from the seventh to ninth century AD. The talk will focus on two famous manuscripts, the Codex Amiatinus and the Book of Kells. Angus Wainwright was another speaker due to talk to us last year, so I am pleased to be able to reschedule this talk of the Archaeology of Orford Ness.

Whilst we have all been trapped at home Mike and Martin were able to take advantage of their daily 1hr's prescribed exercise and take out their metal detectors. Martin has been exploring the fields around Fordham for several years and approached us last year to show us what he had found. He has since teamed up with Mike and they have a range of fascinating finds all adding to the story of the Fordham villa/bath house/farm/ summer residence. Finally for the last talk of the year we are off to Argentina via Italy and Morocco. The Mezora Cromlech is a stone circle in northern Morocco. It consists of 167 monoliths and a tumulus 58m long, 54m wide and with a height of 6m. Legend claims it contains the tomb of the giant Antaeus.

I hope you enjoy the programme and look forward to seeing you all in person soon.

A copy of the 21.23 Lecture programme can be found on the CAG website

If you missed them or would like to see them again the 20/21 Lectures are still available to view on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIlaGNwd5ytH685Hw45fOb0F3Dd48WZbK>)

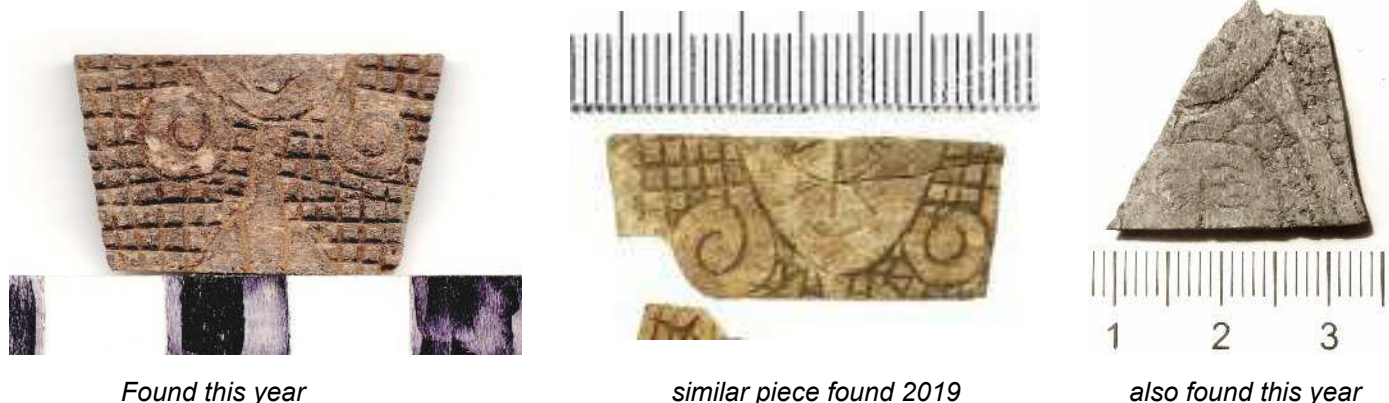
### Weekly Zoom meeting

Tin Dennis has continued to organise Weekly zoom meeting over the pandemic. These are normally well attended by about a dozen people and the subjects discussed cover a wide range of related subjects covering local archaeology and related subjects.

### Fordham Hall Dig Report

While the site was closed Jonathan Oldham spent some time wet-sieving and recording some of the soil samples taken from the site.

Work on site resumed again on 12<sup>th</sup> April numbers continued to be reduced to six diggers per day on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, weather permitting. The site continued to give up plenty of small finds, CBM. bones, tesserae, pot, glass fragments, mosaic cubes all recorded.



A Major find found by Christine was another piece of carved bone/antler veneer similar in size and shape to the many pieces found earlier in 2019. This showed the lower part of a woman's head; a long thin neck with chin and smiling mouth above, and curls of hair either side. This was followed by a third piece.

It is hoped that Stephen Greep, Archaeologist and Chair of the Roman Finds Group who gave the lecture on January 11<sup>th</sup> entitled, Colchester and Ivories of Roman Britain will be able to help identify and date the bone pieces. These featured in an article in the CAG 2019 winter Newsletter written by the late Frank Lockwood. A full report of these believed to be unique fragments will be made in a future Newsletter.

### **Notes from the Fordham site meeting on the 27 May 2021**

A small on-site meeting held to outline activity at the Fordham site for the rest of this year was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. Its Agenda covered the following

To outline actions required to complete the excavation of the open area (Phase 2) at five Acre Woolpits, Fordham.

To identify potential future work for CAG members upon completion of Phase 2.

Main discussion points

Work in the main open area.

1. Complete excavation of north part of the open area (Areas AB to EB), which appears to be mainly over cobbles. Much of this has been completed (Areas AB, DB), though it is of fairly low importance.
2. Complete excavation of the east-west baulk at the north end of the hypocaust room. Much of this has been done. Completion of this stage will lead to excavation of the north wall and the stoke hole area, working from the south side of the area.
3. The carved bone (or possibly antler) veneer pieces are unique and of great importance. Hence it has been decided to excavate below the field drain in the hope of finding a few more pieces. Mike H-M is going to oversee this development.
4. Complete excavation of the main central east-west baulk (Areas AE to EE); areas BE and EE have been completed.
5. Complete tracing a ditch that lies below the compact cobble layer (L91) to the south and east of the building. The work in the area to the south of the building has been completed.
6. Complete analysis of collected CBM fragments. Much of an initial assessment (sorting material into different types of CBM, counting & weighing fragments) has been done. The second stage is to record details of tegulae, identifying flange forms and types of undercut, which may help with dating phases in development of the site.
7. Cleaning the excavated parts of the building (covering cleaned areas with Teram in the interim) in preparation for aerial photography (by drone) of the completed excavation (of the open area).

The aim is to have the above work completed by the end of August 2021. It is necessary to ensure that CAG has sufficient funds to pay for any specialist post excavation analysis (such as pot and bone), as well the cost of writing a report by a professional archaeologist (who has not been identified as yet).

Outlying areas.

The excavation of Trench T and of the west side of Trench P are likely to take longer to complete than excavation of the open area. These will continue until completed. For Trench T there is physically space for just one person at a time on any one day. Trench P is a broader area and has space for two people to work on any one day. Digging rota.

Coronavirus levels are quite low in Essex and Suffolk, so it appears safe to increase the number of people on site at any one time. Thus, from Tuesday, June 1 anyone who is on the Tuesday digging rota can come every Tuesday, and similarly Thursday diggers can come every Thursday and Sunday diggers every Sunday. It will mean up to ten (10) diggers on any one day. We will continue to follow social distancing guidelines and sanitise shared equipment.

This arrangement will continue for the rest of the excavation, unless government guidelines indicate a return to earlier restrictions.

Future work covered.

1. A structured metal detecting survey of the fenced off area, particularly the eastern side. Mike H-M, Martin Weare, Geoff Lunn, Steve Duhm and Mike Taylor are potential candidates for this exercise. Mike, Martin & Geoff are in the process of metal detecting the whole field (outside of the fenced area), and are continuing to make good progress.
2. Examination of a probable Roman road in fields to the east of the present site. Dependent upon agreement with the landowner, this may occur after the harvest. An initial geophysical survey will be conducted first, and may be followed by excavation to confirm features identified by the geophysics. This is yet to be confirmed (probably late summer), and would be just for the winter 2021/2022.
3. Excavation of a trial trench at Tendring church to confirm the presence of an attached building detected by earlier geophysical survey. This is yet to be confirmed, and would be just for the winter 2021/2022.
4. Spring 2022, excavation of Phase 3 at Five Acre Woolpits, Fordham to find evidence of a shrine or mausoleum with attached graveyard at the eastern edge of the fenced area.

Jonathan Oldham

# Roman Roads Group Report Summer 2021

## Geoff Lunn Jun 2021

The Roman Roads Group continues to meet regularly (online via Zoom), and members have been involved in various projects, both desk based and in the field.

Francis Nicholls has been working away on efforts to locate evidence for the suspected Roman road between Gosfield and Long Melford, which would also have passed close to Gestingthorpe Roman Villa. A number of interesting cropmarks have been identified, which warrant further investigation. Francis also amused the group with a tale of a spat between two antiquarians in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, regarding the route of a suspected road from Colchester to Mersea Island. Unfortunately today, both Morant and Miller Christies' alternative routes appear lost in the mists of time.

Work has continued sporadically on tracing the route of the RR from Iron Latch Lane through Fordham and Wormingford. Cropmark and Lidar traces of the road can be seen as far as fields north of Fordham, but then appear to peter out. The assumption that the road crossed the Stour in the vicinity of Wormingford Mere has revived interest in various historical anecdotes about the site of a possible battle in the area between Boudicca's rebel army and the Roman Ninth Legion, following her sacking of Colchester. Although there are numerous legends surrounding this battle (which was mentioned by Tacitus in his "Annals") as regards the location where it took place, the fact that it now appears that a Roman road may have led from Colchester through the area has added a little credence to Wormingford's claim to have hosted the battle. Members of the Group have been working on efforts to identify locations where the battle may have been fought, and permission is being sought from landowners to do investigations once crops and farming activities allow.

Roger Cook and Lucy Jack have identified a possible Roman road in Stoneymore Woods near Ingatestone, based on a Lidar image (Courtesy of Tim Dennis) which shows a straight alignment running at right angles to the known RR from London to Colchester (Margary 3b, now the A12). Roger, Lucy and friends have excavated two test pits over the suspected agger of the road, and one of the side ditches, with encouraging results. The trench over the road exhibited a large gravel layer, commensurate with that expected of an "agger", whereas the trench over the side ditch had no stones, and was filled with mud and clay. Some finds were also made, although none of them Roman. Further excavation is planned to try to locate the edges of the road, and the line of the outer ditch.

Sue Keen has been working on tracing some possible RR's to the SW of Colchester on the Tendring Peninsula which were first recorded by the Ordnance Survey during work to produce the OS Roman Britain map in the 1970's. (The Roman Roads Research Assoc has obtained all of these records which are now available online to members of the association). Sue has had some success in finding the original routes noted by the OS using Google Earth and Lidar. It is hoped that these roads can be added in due course to the CAG RR Map.

Myself and Sue Keen have been investigating a rather substantial linear earthwork in Highwoods Park to the north of Colchester, which was first spotted by David Ratledge of the Roman Roads Research Assoc. on a Lidar image. The earthwork is in the form of a linear ditch and banks which are almost certainly man made and which line up with Turner Rise to the SW and Brinkley Lane to the N, forming a possible cut to each bank of the stream which flows N to S through the park. The theory is that this could have been an alternative route in to Colchester from the NE (from Coddanham (Combetovium) and Caistor Str. Edmund (Venta Icenorum). I have been in touch with the park ranger who is now investigating historical records for the park to see if anything is recorded about the earthwork. Further investigation is planned in conjunction with the park authorities.

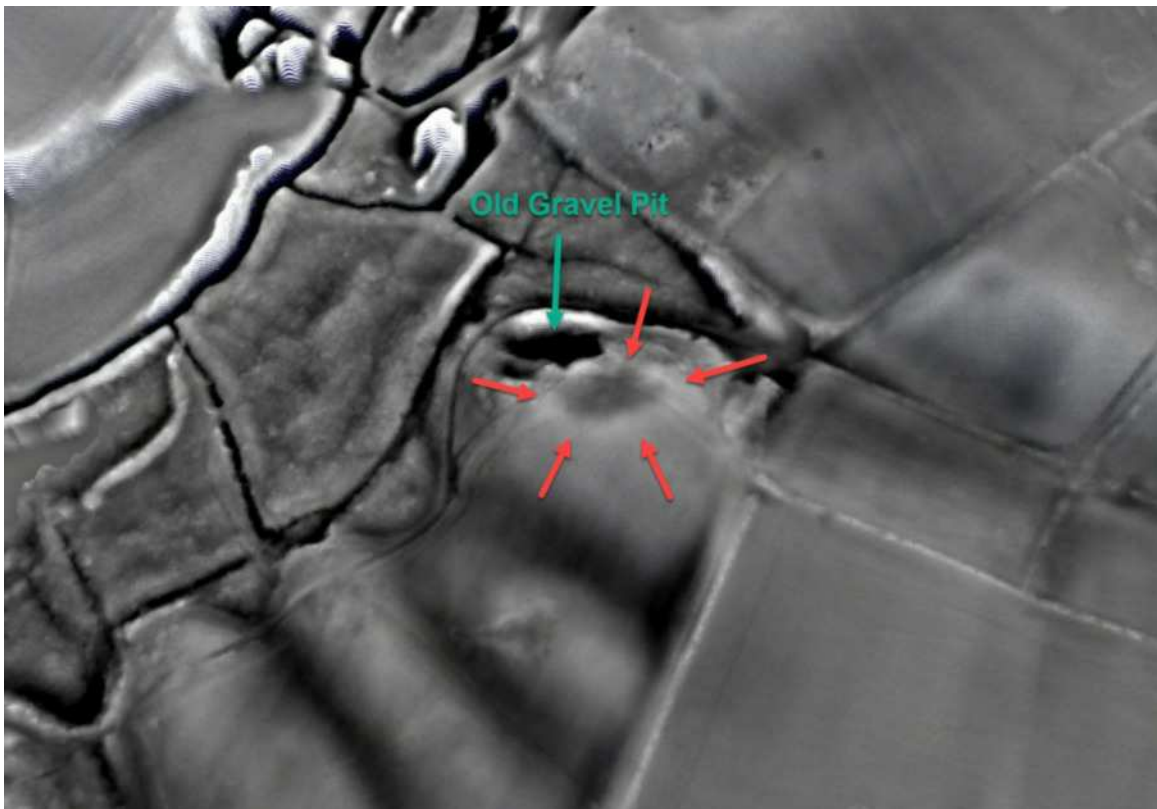
Readers may remember seeing a striking image of a cropmark near Holton St. Mary alongside the A12 in the last CAG Newsletter (Winter 2020, available on the CAG website), taken by Jim Pullen from his drone last summer. Close inspection of the cropmark shows a spur leading off the main "A12" Roman road, leading towards Holton (there is also a narrow trace which crosses the main cropmark, which we assume is a later track or droveway, probably not Roman). Since that time, I have been looking for traces of the road leading from this spur using Google Earth and Tim's Lidar images, and have also been in dialogue with David Ratledge who has also been searching using his own Lidar techniques. Recently David alerted me to a trace on Lidar near Shelley in Suffolk, which he felt could be a part of the RR, and which I had already noted but had not pursued further. This led to me spending more time on searching for the route, which I now believe goes from Holton St. Mary to Long Melford. This is based on some rather faint, but nonetheless visible cropmarks and Lidar traces which follow a pretty straight alignment between the two end points, via Raydon, Shelley, Whitestreet Green, Calais Street, Stone Street (south of Boxford) and on towards Long Melford. The placenames containing "Street" surely no coincidence, and at the Long Melford end, the road appears to head straight for a known Roman settlement recently excavated by Kenneth Dodd and his team. Lots of work still to be done to find convincing proof of this hitherto unknown Roman road.





*Possible Roman Road in cutting through Highwoods Park (Image courtesy David Ratledge)*

Finally, in tracing the Holton – Long Melford RR, I have noticed a number of curious earthworks in the Brett Valley, none of which appear in the Suffolk HER, but which have the distinct appearance of being manmade. These earthworks have generated great interest amongst locals, who seem keen to allow me to investigate further. Not Roman roads, but no less exciting!



*Possible Iron Age Hillfort in Brett Valley (3D image courtesy Tim Dennis – vertical height exaggerated)*

# A C13th Irish “Deer Series” Horse Bridle Cheek-Piece from Fordham

## Geoff Lunn

As many of you will know, myself, Mike Hamilton-Macy and Martine Weaire have recently been carrying out a systematic sweep of the field immediately south of the Fordham villa excavation site with metal detectors. As expected, since the field is very close to the Roman site, we have found a number of interesting Roman artefacts, including coins, but we have also found a number of artefacts of probable medieval date and later, also including coins, which suggests that the field has been used over the years for more than just agricultural purposes. It will be interesting to see what the final analysis of finds suggests to our expert colleagues once the project is completed.

One find in particular stands out as somewhat unusual for various reasons, and that is a so called “cheek-piece” from a horse bridle. The cheek-piece was found at quite a deep level, approximately 30cm below the surface, and took me quite some time to dig it out, but perseverance and a gut feeling that this was more than just another chunk of old farm machinery led to the artefact finally being liberated from its resting place.

I immediately showed the find to Mike and Martin (from a safe distance I hasten to add), and Martin immediately recognised what he thought to be part of a Viking horse bridle. As you can see from the images below, the artefact is approximately 8cm long, is apparently cast from copper alloy, and features some sort of quadruped animal figure as part of the structure. Armed with this information, we all (and several other members of CAG) embarked on a search for exactly what it might be, and very soon we found similar articles online and in specialist books, including on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website (PAS - [www.finds.org](http://www.finds.org)), most of which suggested that it was indeed a Viking era cheek-piece, broken from a complete horse bridle.

However, not all of the sources agreed that such an artefact was of Viking date, so I felt compelled to investigate further. A number of online sources described very similar cheek-pieces as being 12th to 14th century, but the feeling amongst some CAG members was that if that were the case, one would expect to have seen similar pieces in medieval paintings and other depictions, as we were all convinced that this must have been part of a high status horse bridle, used by nobles and even royalty, so why had we not seen such a thing before?



*The cheek-piece cleaned with warm soapy water and a soft brush*

My investigations continued as I began tracking down the sources of some of the online images. This led me quite quickly to a Dutch fellow named Thomas Kamphuis, who has a small collection of very similar artefacts, and who was very helpful indeed in guiding me in the right direction to find out more about the history of these objects. Thomas was the first person to suggest that although the cheek-piece was of a similar style to that found on late Viking horse bridles, the subtleties of the design suggested a rather later date, and a possible Irish influence. References on the PAS database were also suggesting a possible post Norman conquest date. The plot was thickening.

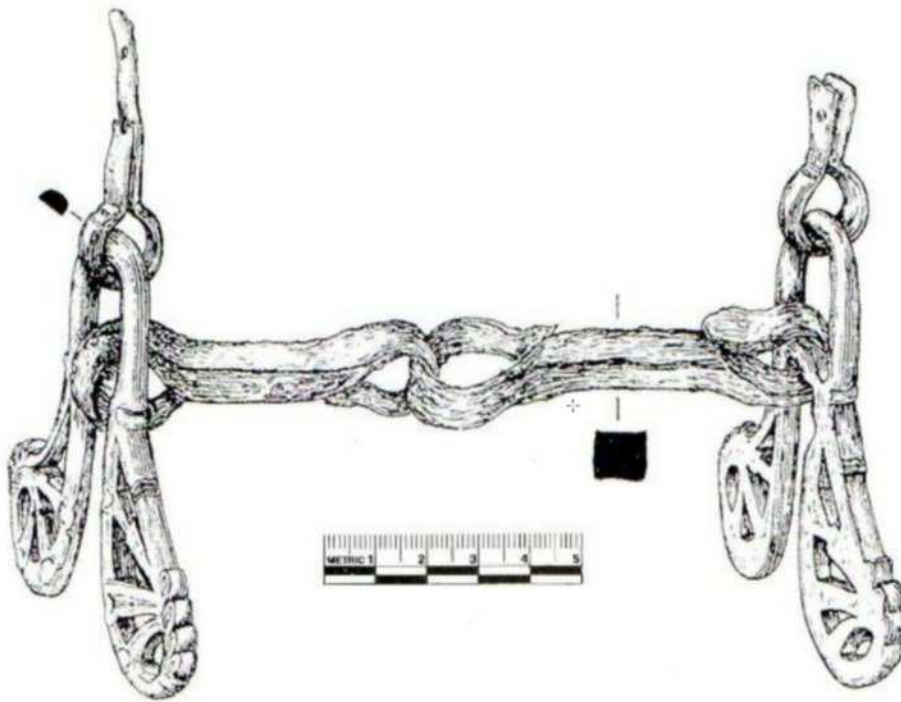
Thomas suggested that I get in touch with a lady named Anne Pedersen who is a senior researcher at the National Museum of Denmark, who had recently written a paper on late Viking age riding gear, which I duly did. Anne got back to me very quickly and confirmed that although the cheek-piece had a Scandinavian influence in its style, the design of the quadruped figure (which at this stage I had assumed was a horse) bore resemblance to later designs of the “Anglo-Norman” period (ie circa 12th century). Anne also noted that although finds of these



artefacts are scarce in mainland Britain, those that have been found tend to be located in the East of England, but they are mostly found in Ireland.

At this point, the trail seemed to be starting to go cold. I had a few more contacts via Anne and Thomas to follow up, but was not feeling optimistic, then suddenly I had a new email from Thomas, copied to Brian G. Scott based in Arizona, suggesting that I should contact him. I remembered that Anne Pedersen had also mentioned Mr. Scott, so my interest was once more revived. Brian Scott has written an article which is due for publication sometime soon, entitled "The Irish Deer Series of Cheek-Pieces", which is a fascinating 30 page plus article on cheek-pieces, and specifically concerning the so called "deer series" of cheek-pieces, which is apparently what I had found in our little field in Essex.

Brian's article explains in some detail how the zoomorphic quadruped figure is assumed to be a deer rather than a horse, based on subtle features such as the rack on the head, the overall gait of the animal, and the angle of the neck and head. He also describes the findspots of other examples of cheek-pieces, some as part of complete bridles (see image below), but also notes the fact that most finds have been made out of context, so that dating and attribution are not clear. There is sufficient evidence however to attribute this particular series of cheek-piece to Ireland in the early thirteenth century.



*Image showing a complete bridle from Doohatty Glebe, Co. Monaghan (Image courtesy Brian G Scott)*

Finally, Brian Scott appears to have made an exact identification of the Fordham find, based on his meticulous research and very informative article (Brian has requested permission to use an image of the Fordham cheek-piece in his article, which I have happily granted). So, what was an Irish cheek-piece of the early thirteenth century doing in Essex one might ask? The final piece of the jigsaw is perhaps the association between this type of bridle and the Irish "Hobelars". A Hobelar was a kind of Irish mounted mercenary of the period who were known for their prowess in battle on small but agile horses, riding without saddles or stirrups, and who gave their name to our "hobby horse". Brian was curious to know if there is any historical mention of Hobelars in this part of Essex as they were often hired by English Royalty to fight in their armies. I am no historian, but I was able to find some interesting references to Royal musters in the Colchester area at that time in Victoria County History (<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol9/pp19-26>), in particular those of King John who laid siege to Colchester Castle early in the thirteenth century, and interestingly we have also found a small number of coins of that era during our metal detecting project. The Fordham site is also of course very close to Fordham Hall, which is mentioned in Domesday Book. Mike Hamilton-Macy has done quite a bit of research into the history of Fordham Hall, so I was able to forward all of this information to Brian. So far, we have not been able to find a conclusive association between the residents of Fordham Hall, and the Royalty of the day, but it seems feasible that Irish Hobelars may have visited the Colchester area at that time, possibly also Fordham Hall, and that one of them lost a part of his horse bridle whilst riding around the estate.

And, in case you were wondering, I have been back to the findspot several times with my detector and scoured the area for the remaining parts of the bridle, but so far no luck!

# Two Theories on the Roman Road from Colchester to Mersea

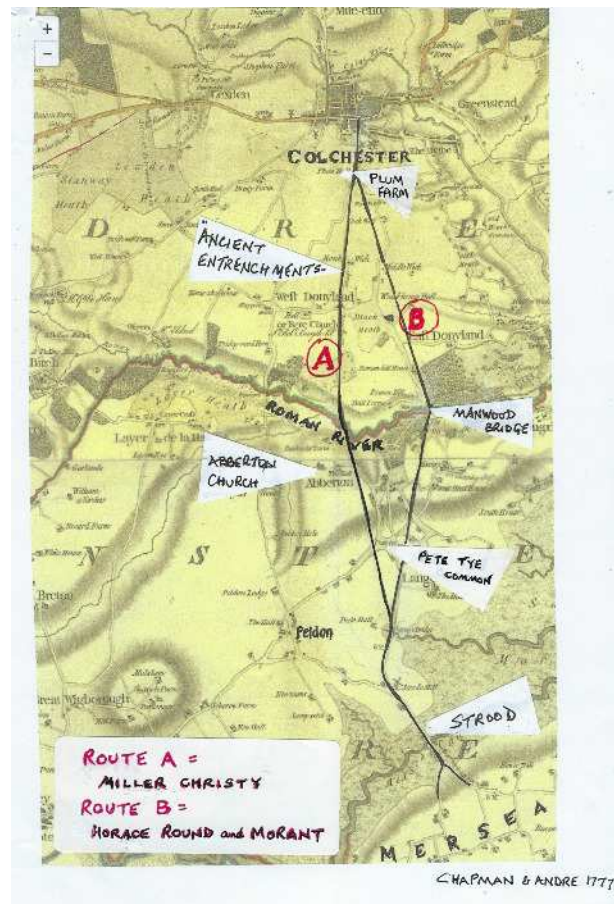
## Francis Nicholls

This Chapman and Andre map of 1777 is the background to a paper given to the Essex Archaeological Society in 1920 by J.H.Round (Horace Round), a member of the Round family of Birch Hall.

He was one of a number of enthusiastic antiquarians, who wrote pamphlets and articles on a wide range of historical subjects. Many of the authors were never afraid of presenting their theories as facts. They were usually benign if you agreed with them but swift to take offence if you didn't!

Round decided to take issue with another prominent Essex historian, Mr Miller Christy who had just published a short essay on a possible route of the Roman Road from Colchester to Mersea Island. He decided that this needed challenging.

His paper begins with the words "Mr: Christy's article on Roman Roads in Essex is both interesting and stimulating but the author himself confesses to being unable to follow his own route with complete confidence!"



ROUTE A (Christy) leaves Colchester at St.Botolphs and goes south to Plum Farm. At this point, Berechurch Road branches away from Mersea Road, SW to Monkwick. It then runs to the west of Black Heath along an interesting feature, marked on Chapman and Andre's map as "ancient entrenchments"

His road then goes south to Abberton Church at which point he says that any traces are lost and that the road probably continued to southwards to Pete Tye Common. It would have then followed today's road to the Mersea Strood.

ROUTE B (Round)'is the same as the route proposed by Morant in 1768. It also leaves Colchester at St Botolphs and runs as far as Plum Farm. It then follows along the east side of Black Heath, then over Roman River at Manwood Bridge and continues across Abberton Common to Pete Tye Common. Like Christy, the route would have then followed to line of the modern road. to the Strood.

Due to illness, Mr.Round was not able to present his paper to the Society himself. However there is an addendum to the published paper, in which he writes

"A newspaper report informs me that my paper was attacked with some vehemence by one of the other speakers. It was alleged that there were inaccuracies and errors it it. After careful examination, I have nothing further to add".

***Hell hath no fury like an antiquarian scorned!***



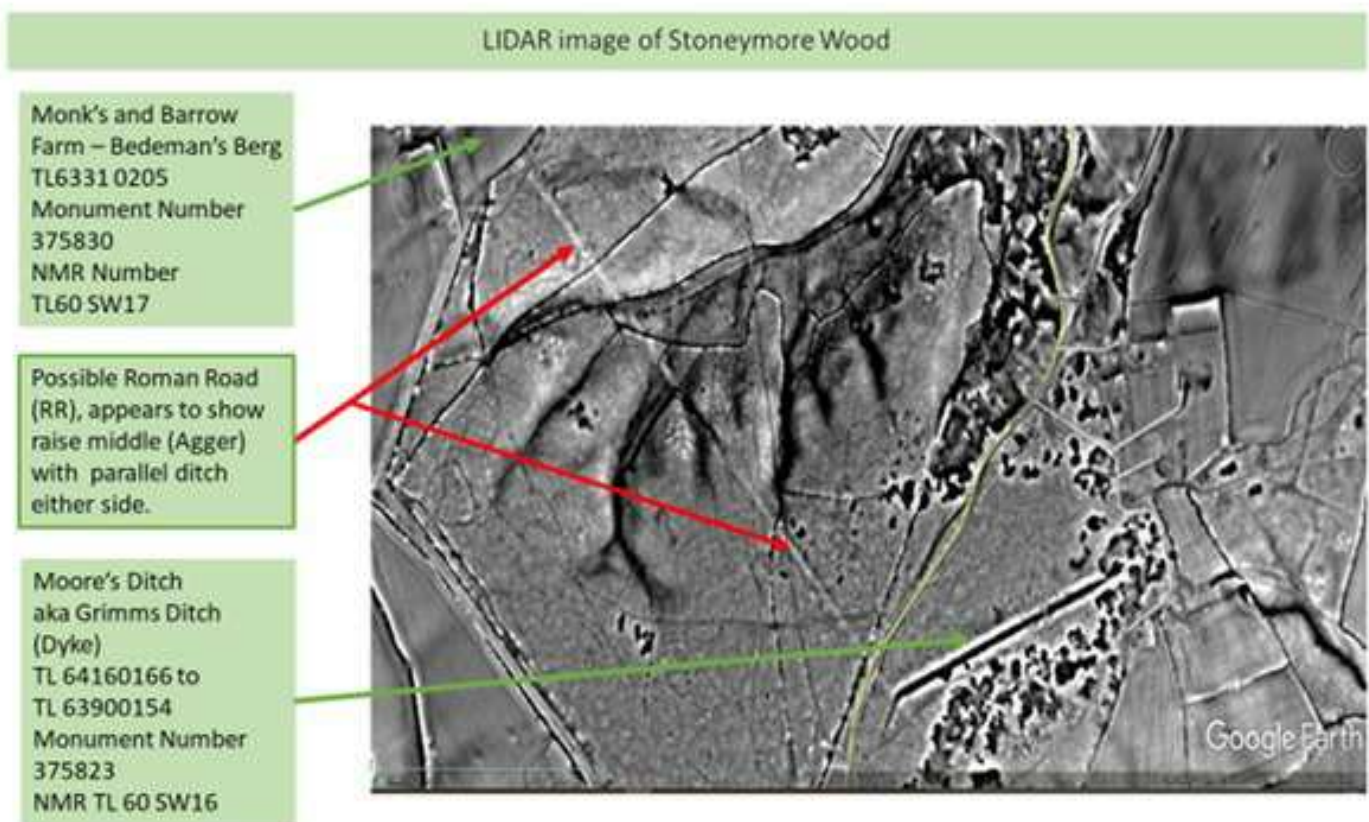
# **“What did you do in the lockdown, daddy”?**

**Roger Cook**

Well, I couldn't dig or go very far, so I decided with the great assistance of Tim Dennis's enhanced LIDAR imagery in conjunction with Google Earth images to look for interesting archaeological features. I would concentrate on my local area where I could explore any findings within the lockdown rules. I brought a second PC monitor and settled into my uncomfortable study chair with copious cups of tea and coffee to see what I could find.

One of the beauties of LIDAR is its ability to penetrate woodland and exposed the underlining ground profile. This would give me the opportunity to see features which have not be levelled by the modern plough. The recent introduction of LIDAR for archaeological analysis is making new discovering across the United Kingdom.

A few miles to the north east of Shenfield lies several woods which are the remnants of Writtle Forest. Oliver Rackman said of Writtle Forest – “nearly everything one sees there is of fourteenth century or earlier; the great assart surrounded by hornbeam springs and alder slades; the heathland. Pollard oaks, and wood-banks: the lonely cottage with a palfrey grazing on its pibtle, on the site of the hermitage where a solitary monk dwelt. This astonishing survival from the depths of the medieval countryside”.



One wooded area caught my eye, Stoneymore Wood near Mill Green. There appeared to be linear feature which ran for 700m through the wood with a raised centre and a possible ditch either side. I was intrigued. Could this be a Roman Road? A search of the online records drew a blank.

The north western end of the feature appeared to terminate near a farm, called Monk's and Barrow Farm. The feature at the farm disappeared in the small field prior to the farm, presumably as it had been ploughed away.

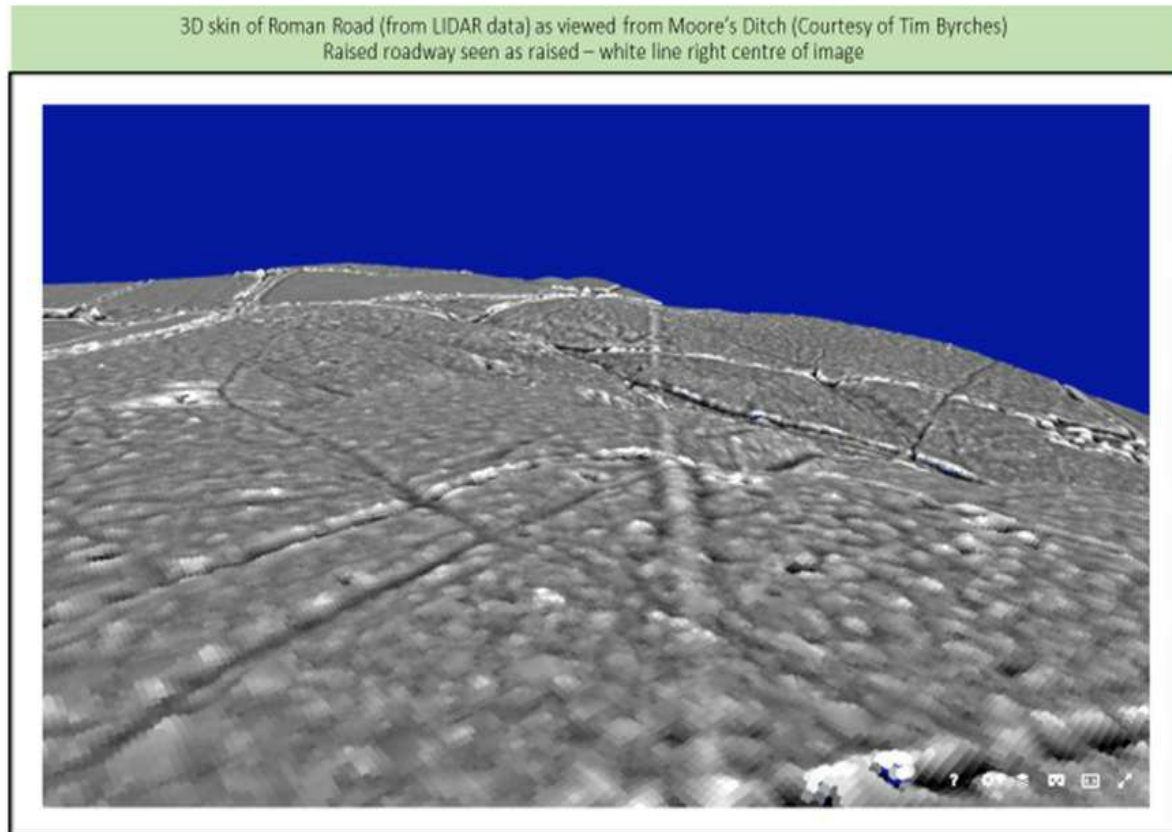
This farm is close to the site of a hermitage of a monk (as mentioned by Oliver Rackman) in the reign of Henry I (1068 -1135). Investigations at the site previously have found small quantities of Roman tiles (Teg) and a fragment of Lava millstone.

Later, Henry II confirmed its possession to COLCHESTER provided that 2 monks dwelt there in perpetuity. The Benedictine Priory cell was dissolved in 1536.

Was the hermitage built using some building material from an earlier roman building on the site? There is a scheduled Roman "villa" some 1.25Km to the east, so the area was populated in the roman period and to the west of the hermitage (300m) is a 60m ring enclosure "hidden" in the woods, which is again unrecorded.

The south eastern end of the linear feature can be picked up near Moore's Ditch before being obliterated by numerous gravels or clay pits. The line of the feature then disappears in the subsequent fields. No crop marks were observed on the Google Earth timeline. However, Geoff Lunn noted extrapolating the line of the feature aligns with the Little Hyde Lane which terminates at the ol Roman Road between London and Colchester (Margary 3A).

Tim Dennis placed the LIDAR data into SketchLab and applied a 4X to the vertical scale. This application creates a 3D image that can be rotated and angled to show a particular feature. This cemented the view that this feature was worthy of further investigation.



The landowner was happy to allow a preliminary survey on his land. Lucy Jack and I walked the "feature", and it was visible for some length in places. One spot was selected and a profile across the linear feature was obtained. The ground was then probed with a rod to see if there was an inkling of an underlying structure. "Nothing ventured, nothing gained". There was a suggestion from the profiles that Roman Road was not out of the question. More invasive investigation was justified.

Permission has now been granted for test pits to be dug on the line of the profile.

*.....to be continued*

## **The Vikings of Fordham and Essex**

### **Mike Hamilton-Macy**

When I started researching Fordham and West Bergholt for the V2P project, one of my first ports of call was the Domesday Book. This gave the number of manors that existed in 1066, the Lords that owned them, the land area, occupants, animals etc. within and the subsequently changed situation in 1086 at the time of the survey.

I noted the Lord's names and holdings then moved my research on, not digging any further into the individual's identities. Below are the four entries for Fordham and their translations

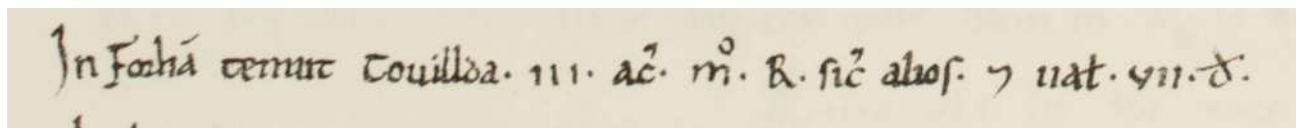
from [www.opendomesday.org](http://www.opendomesday.org), this a great site, which you are probably familiar with and is really easy to use.

However, not all villages appear to be directly listed, for example, if you search Tey, Marks Tey or Great Tey (with an ey or ay) you get no results but search Colchester and they are mixed in there, despite being in a different hundred.

I have subsequently found a more detailed, though much less user friendly version, <https://hydra.hull.ac.uk/resources/hull:461>. It's all on one page with no index and the counties are not in alphabetical order so you have to scroll your way through endlessly to find what you're looking for.

It should download but didn't when I tried, so I did a really long copy and paste of the Essex entries instead! There are also some contradictions and omissions between the two, so I have put in both entries. Hydra.hull marked in ***bold italic***.

### Land of Richard son of (Count) Gilbert



Annual value to lord: 5 pence in 1086.

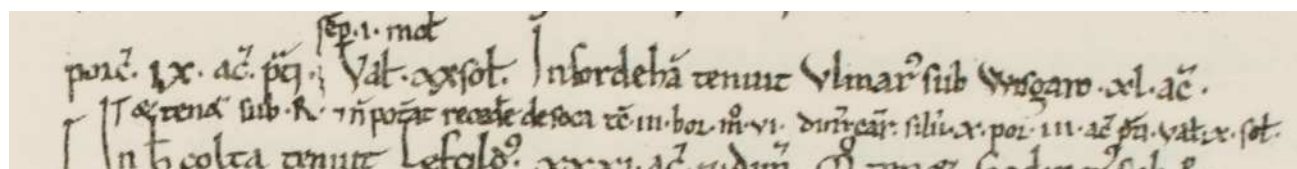
Tenant-in-chief in 1086: Richard son of (Count) Gilbert.

Lord in 1086: Richard son of (Count) Gilbert.

Lord in 1066: Tovild.

***In FORDHAM Tovild held 3 acres. Now Richard [holds them on the same terms] as the others. Value 7d. [= Annexation[s] of Richard son of Count Gilbert =]***

### Land of Richard son of (Count) Gilbert



Households: 6 smallholders.

Meadow 3 acres. Woodland 10 pigs.

Annual value to lord: 10 shillings in 1086.

Tenant-in-chief in 1086: Richard son of (Count) Gilbert.

Lord in 1086: Wulfmer.

Overlord in 1066: Wihtgar (son of Aelfric).

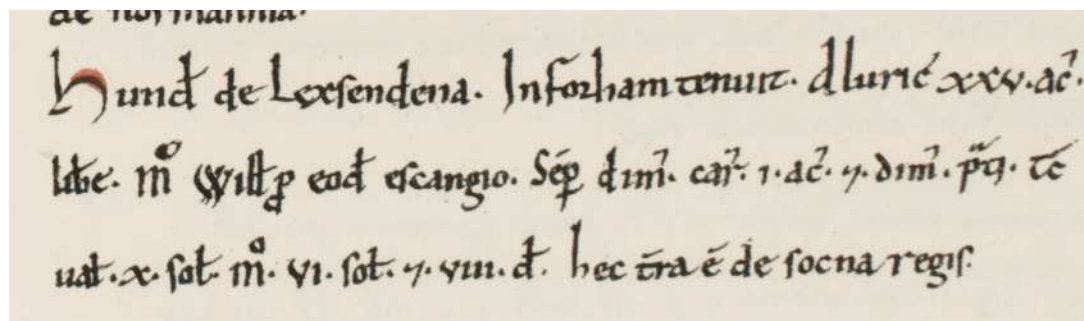
Lord in 1066: Wulfmer.

***In FORDHAM Wulfmer held 40 acres under Wihtgar [\* son of Aelfric \*] and holds under R[ichard]. He could not withdraw from the jurisdiction.***

***Then 3 smallholders, now 6. 1/2 plough. Woodland, 10 pigs; meadow, 3 acres.***

***Value 10s. [= ??? Land of Richard son of Count Gilbert in Essex =]***

### Land of William of Warenne



Plough land: 0.5 lord's plough teams.

Meadow 2 acres.

Annual value to lord: 6 shillings and 7 pence in 1086; 10 shillings in 1066.

Tenant-in-chief in 1086: William of Warenne.

Lord in 1086: William of Warenne.

Lord in 1066: Aelfric.



### **Hundred of LEXDEN**

**In FORDHAM Aelfric held 25 acres freely. Now William [holds them] by the same exchange. Always 1/2 plough.**

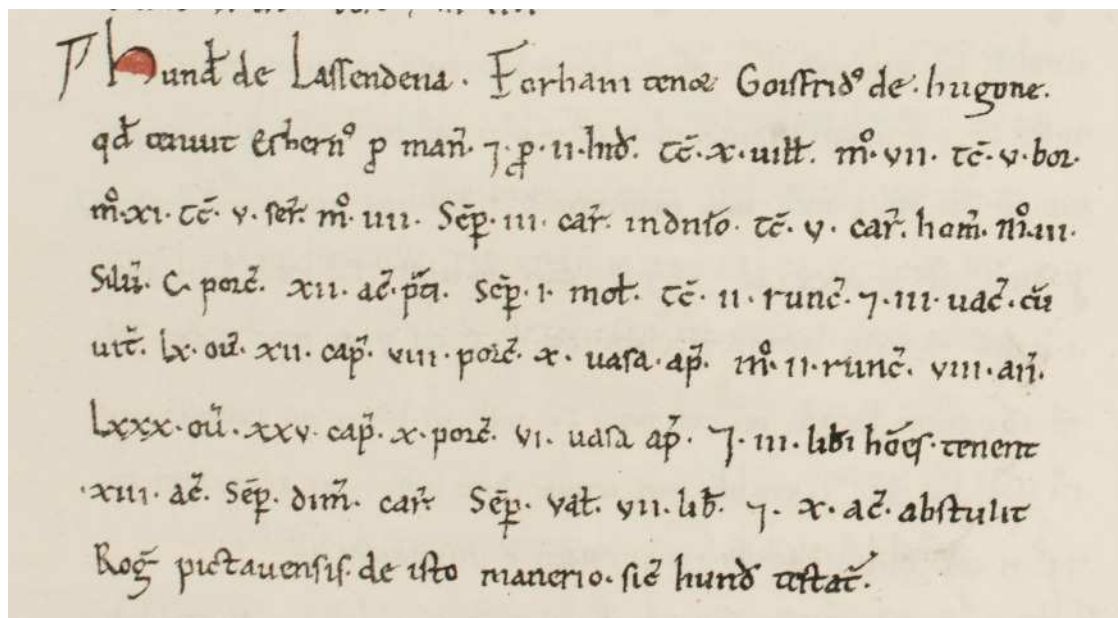
**Meadow, 1 1/2 acres.**

**Value then 10s; now 6s 8d.**

**This land is of the King's jurisdiction.**

**[= ??? Land of William of Warenne in Essex =]**

### **Land of Hugh of Gournay**



Households: 7 villagers. 3 freemen. 11 smallholders. 4 slaves.

Plough land: 3 lord's plough teams. 3.5 men's plough teams.

Meadow 12 acres. Woodland 100 pigs. 1 mill.

Livestock in 1066: 2 cobs. 3 cows. 8 pigs. 60 sheep. 12 goats. 10 beehives. 3 calves.

Livestock in 1086: 2 cobs. 8 cattle. 10 pigs. 80 sheep. 25 goats. 6 beehives.

Annual value to lord: 7 pounds in 1086; 7 pounds when acquired by the 1086 owner; 7 pounds in 1066.

Tenant-in-chief in 1086: Hugh of Gournay.

Lord in 1086: Geoffrey.

Lord in 1066: Esbjorn.

**Geoffrey holds FORDHAM from Hugh, which Esbjorn held as a manor, for 2 hides.**

**Then 10 villagers, now 7; then 5 smallholders, now 11; then 5 slaves, now 4.**

**Always 3 ploughs in lordship. Then 5 men's ploughs, now 3.**

**Woodland, 100 pigs; meadow, 12 acres; always 1 mill.**

**Then 2 cobs, 3 cows with calves, 60 sheep, 12 goats, 8 pigs, 10 beehives;**

**Now 2 cobs, 8 cattle, 80 sheep, 25 goats, 10 pigs, 6 beehives.**

**3 free men hold 13 acres. Always 1/2 plough.**

**Value always £7.**

**Roger of Poitou took away 10 acres from this manor; so the Hundred testifies.**

**[= ?47? Land of Hugh of Gournay =]**

Over the last couple of years I've re-visited the Domesday Book on and off, and it dawned on me, having read some information on the Saxons, that one Lord's name in particular struck me as distinctly un-Saxon.

Then after Adrian Hutson's lecture on "Godric, Colchester's forgotten Colcestrian" back in February, with the mention of many Saxon names I was again reminded of the lord's name that didn't sit right, I decided to take a closer look.

The Lord's name is Tovild, he is listed as a landowner but only gets one line in the book, no land or animals are mentioned in one translation, just three acres in the other and in 1086 it's valued at only 5 or 7 pence, for comparison, Fordham Hall manor was valued at £7!

I began looking on websites with Saxon names and their meanings but Tovild was nowhere to be found, not even in part i.e. Tov, ild or vild. So, following my suspicions, I went trawling for Scandinavian names and bingo, there he was, or should I say there he or she was, for Touillda, as it's spelt in the book appears to be a female name.

I can find no entries on name sites for Touillda but it may come from Tofa hildr = Tofa's (Tofi's in the mother's case) daughter (hildr), Hildr is also likely where we get the name Hilda from.

There is a Scandinavian variant for Tovild i.e. Torvald, Tor vald = Thor's ruler, a male name.

If you just look at the translated name, it appears to be male, the jury's out on Tovild's gender for the moment.

Having found one Viking, though unsure about their gender, I decided to take a closer look at the remaining three lords.

Aelfric came up as Saxon, the first element Aelf (the A&E are joined) = elf and the second element, ric = ruler or mighty.

Next we have Wulfmer; whose overlord is Wihtgar (son of Aelfric), both Saxon names; Wulf = wolf, mer = famous and Wiht = spirit, gar = spear.

Unusually, Wulfmer seems to have been able to retain the use of his land after the Norman Conquest because he is still lord in 1086 but the tenant in chief (the one in overall charge of lands that collects taxes on behalf of the king) is Richard, son of Count Gilbert.

Lastly we come to the main landowner in Fordham, Esbiorn, I don't know why I didn't spot this before as it's fairly obvious that it's a Scandinavian name, a version of Bjorn, meaning bear. Perhaps the Es in front disguised it a little.

Before we proceed further, I have to backtrack somewhat.

Whilst reading the more comprehensive information of the Hydra.hull translation I noticed that Tovild only has three acres of land, that's a plot of around 110m x 110m, a modest small holding at best, definitely not a manor.

I then looked at the land of the other three owners, Alfric had 25 acres, Wulfmer had 40 acres, neither being larger estates but Esbiorn had 2 hides which he "held as a manor" so did Fordham have just one manor in 1066 and not four? It certainly looks like it. My initial assumptions appear to have been wrong.

By the way, there is some debate as to what a hide actually is/was, post conquest it's reckoned to be 120 acres, which would make Esbiorn's land area very nearly a square kilometre.

It was earlier said to be the land required to support one family, the actual amount would vary according to the quality of the land, poor land = more area and vice versa.

Regarding the amount of land listed in the book, there's a possible proviso in that it probably only mentions land that's in use at the time of the survey, i.e. meadow or woodland for pigs, it's quite likely there was more land within each lord's ownership but it may have been uncultivated or unusable.

Anyway, having had to rethink and alter my previous perceptions of the manors of Fordham and their owners (and rewrite this piece!), I had a look for Vikings in other parishes.

So far I have found five Scandinavians in control of land in Essex and they are:

"Northmann" held land in Lexden, I'm guessing this was what he was known as by the locals at the time, not his actual name. "Northmann" is or are associated with seventeen other places in the Domesday Book.

"Othin the Dane," bit of a giveaway, held Berewick, somewhere in Essex, the location is now lost but berewick is an early word for an outlying estate.

"Anund the Dane," again, obviously not Saxon, he held Walter (Hall) in Chelmsford.

"Fin the Dane," ditto above, he held Barrow Hall in Rochford, Langham and Wibrightesherne (Latchindon). There are also four places in Suffolk and one in Buckinghamshire attributed to "Fin the Dane" which may or may not be the same person.

Finally there's "Thorkil the reeve." He also held Walter Hall in Chelmsford.

At 1066 in the Domesday Book there were one hundred and forty three places associated with Thorkill, from Yorkshire down to Cornwall and from Wiltshire across to Norfolk, then thirty two places at 1086.

I think it's fair to assume that there was more than one Thorkill!

As the east of England was part of Danelaw and the Saxons were, alternately, fighting and bargaining with the Scandinavian invaders for approaching three hundred years, it should come as no surprise that there were quite a few "Northmann" holding substantial lands at the time of the Norman conquest.

It would seem that, at that time, Fordham Hall was the only manor and was in Viking hands. It looks like the other, subsequent three manors of Fordham (Little Fordham (south of the river, now in Aldham), Great Fordham (aka Much or Magna Fordham) and Argenteins (now called Archendines) were established by the Normans sometime after 1066.

But then I could be wrong...again!

Mike Hamilton-Macy

# Obituary

## Frank Lockwood

In January this year Frank Lockwood unexpectedly died. This was a great shock to his friends, family and members of CAG who had worked closely with him on the Fordham dig project. Frank was well liked and always happy to give unexperienced diggers his advice and pass on his knowledge. Frank is also remembered for his single mindedness and attention to detail.

Frank was well known to members of the Archaeological community in Colchester having from the 1980's worked for Colchester Archaeological Trust as a professional digger and was responsible for many of the high-quality photographs they produced. It was while at the Trust he meets his partner Karen who was also working there.

They set up home in Cowdray Avenue together.

There were not many sites in Colchester Frank did not work on during his time with the Trust.

Frank was not one to speak of his early life but we have been given these details from his son Mathew.

Frank was born on 17th September, 1952 in Poole, Dorset

to Arthur and Elsie Lockwood, Arthur was in the army for many years which meant both Frank and Anna, his sister spent a lot of their education in army schools in Libya and Germany. I guess for dad and Anna, it made them more rounded (if I can say that) as children, cultured and more educated due to the fact they were living abroad, experiencing other cultures, ways of living and understanding how things are in life better.

His past was probably the reason why he was very organised, efficient and tidy at home as well as he was in his professional life.

Frank's family was very caring, generous and loving and always helped each other. As a teenager he was very sensible and sound and never really got into trouble. Funny as I was the same when I was younger.

Frank and his family moved back to Colchester where they settled in Mill Street for a number of years before he met my mother. Memory is not great here but I believe he was about 17 or 18 years old when he met my mother and not long after they were married.

They soon moved up to Rosyth, Fife where Frank worked in the Rosyth Naval Dockyard where he got started in the paint shop and later worked as an engraver. His only child (me) was born in 1972. Unfortunately, his marriage to my mother didn't last long and soon after went over to Italy to spend some time with his sister Anna.

Soon after Italy he moved over to Israel where he worked in the kibbutz for a number of years which was mainly based working in agricultural communities. He worked on a number of agricultural projects and worked his way up to being a community leader which meant he was very thought of and respected due to his drive and reliable personality. I understand he was nearly drafted into the IDF (Israeli Defence Force) if he wanted to stay longer which then prompted him to return back to England to his parents in Colchester, in the mid-eighties where he then got involved with the Archaeological Trust.

Here are three of the many contributions from members on Frank.

### Denise Hardy writes

"I was sorting some flints out when I came across a bag marked Flint photos and with a sinking heart this was destined to go to Frank for his skill in photographing them. My memory of Frank on site came flooding back, for he was an exceptional Archaeologist who was not frightened to speak his mind, sometimes getting frustrated over some particular aspect of the dig, but he always gave good advice and help. He had a fantastic sense of humour and would often banter with me which always made me laugh. His advice was invaluable, especially over CBM and its typology. Frank was well liked and respected on site and although he wasn't there over the last year would always email/phone. However, his main love of his life was Karen, his wife, whom anybody could tell he was deeply in love and devoted to. He will be sorely missed. Nulli Secundus"

### Professor Nicolas Balbi writes (from the Fordham Facebook page)

I remember Frank from 2016 when I started digging at Fordham. In the following years, we met at his house regularly, usually three times a week and we continued like this when I left England (returning home to Argentina) until my return and also during 2020, when we continued to speak about weekly, in the middle of my difficult schedule. I always admired his sense of humour, his attempts to make jokes to me in Hebrew, remembering the



Frank and Nicholas Balbi on site in Fordham





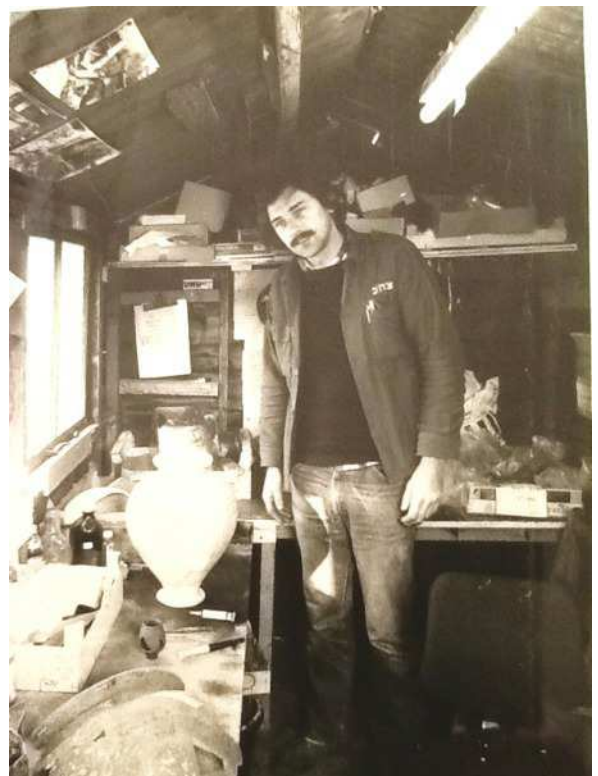
*Frank and his son Mathew*



*Frank and his Sister, Anna*



*Family shot taken by his sister Anna. Frank's Mum and Dad, Karen and John. Anna's partner.*



*In his workshop*



*Photo taken in the winter of 1984/5 at what is now the Sixth Form College. We excavated the foundations of the first permanent legionary fortress built in Roman Britain following the invasion of 43 AD. You can see Frank, Don Shimmin and me. I think that the picture was taken by Steve Willis who is now Professor of Archaeology at the University of Kent. - Paul Goodhall*



*During excavation at Colne Lodge Garden*





*Tea Break at Fordham*

times when he dug in Israel and North Africa. Although he considered himself originally from Yorkshire, he became a fan of the Liverpool football team,

He loved to arrange my photos, leaving them neater and he had a personal sense in his own photographs based on perspectives, compositions and forms, almost Renaissance. The photo I chose was a scene in 2017 that we celebrated a lot and that we laughed at many times. In 2019 we prepared a work on the "Roman Baths", based on material that I brought from Germany two years ago and that we presented at the European Archaeology Association in 2019, of which we could not do the conference due to the restrictions of 2020. Since we talk about three times a week, we talk about everything: Archaeology, of course; politics; history; and how the English relate socially, issues in which I have made many mistakes, which at times were difficult for me to understand and with which he liked to laugh.

You may think this message is one of those mistakes, but I think Frank would approve it. It is the only way left for me to celebrate having met him and that he had enriched my life. I will miss you. Rest in peace.

### **Neil Short writes**

I unfortunately had relatively little time to get to know Frank. I started at the Fordham dig site in late 2017 and what with bad weather, the pandemic, my holiday absence, and several family duties for Frank we probably only overlapped for around a year or so (on two days per week max).

The two pictures I include within this note offer a view of Frank as was often demonstrated at the dig. Frank was commonly seen and heard to be pointing out the error of someone's way (archaeology issues only, of course) or informing anyone who would listen of a piece of key information related to the dig and its context. Certainly, both aspects were addressed to me over our shared time.

However, despite, at times, his somewhat gruff approach, my overriding memory of Frank was one of a helpful man who was keen to aid a suffering and naïve "new-boy" with his experience and knowledge. He was always happy to answer my questions, however stupid, and took time to inform me of current thinking on the site and its aspects.

Frank therefore played a big part in my education on site, and indeed I will never look at a piece of Ceramic Building Material in the same way again!

I will miss Frank, an honest, straight-talking, and supportive colleague and friend. Sleep well Frank, and thanks for all the memories.

*Many thanks to Frank's family and friends who have contributed to this article. Alan Chaplin*

## **Obituary**

### **Ernest Black**

CAG group member Ernest Black died early February this year.

John Mallinson writes: 'Ernest was a very well respected Romanist, as well as a long-standing member of the Group. Ernest had been very helpful to us over the years, and had recently been giving very useful input to me on interpretation of our site at Fordham. He had been ill for some considerable while, and had been in and out of hospital on several occasions last year. He lived alone, was a very private man, had no relatives,

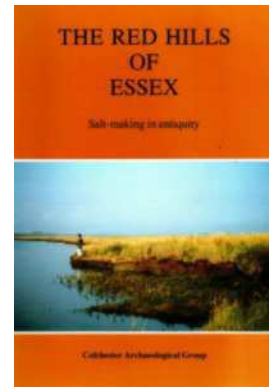
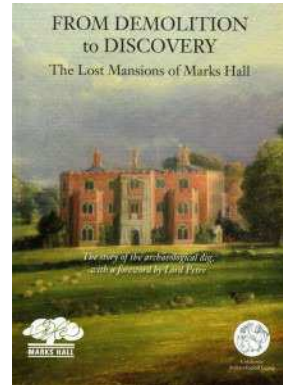
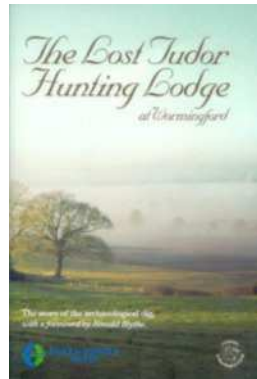
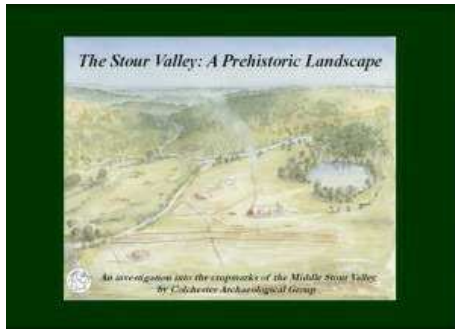
Anna Moore writes: I was sorry to hear about Ernest. I knew he suffered from diabetes (Type 1 I believe) but didn't know he was so ill. As John says, he was a very private man and not easy to get to know but he did involve himself with the group, often coming to the Monday lectures and always asking very erudite questions. He even occasionally came on some of the social events, including one or two of the weekend trips, where he was always willing to give a impromptu talk on any of the sites where he felt his expertise would be of use. I first came across him on the CAT Head Street Post Office site where I was doing finds processing and Ernest was analysing the CBM.



*Ernest explaining the Roman Brickwork at Westhampnett church, near Chichester on 22nd May 2013.- Barbara Butler*

# CAG Publications

contact CAG Sales – [sales@caguk.net](mailto:sales@caguk.net) Also available at Monday night Lectures



## **The Stour Valley: A Prehistoric Landscape.**

A 40 page summary of investigations by CAG into the cropmarks of the Middle Stour Valley (Bures – Wormingford area). This covers evidence of a Neolithic Cursus, a Long Barrow and Bronze Age rings. Each section of the flood plain is covered in detail with maps, aerial images and explanations. £3.00 plus p&p.

## **The Lost Mansions of Marks Hall – From Demolition to Discovery.**

The story of the CAG Archaeological dig at Marks Hall. 26 colour pages. £5.00 plus p&p.

## **The Lost Tudor Hunting Lodge at Wormingford**

The story of the excavation of a Tudor Hunting Lodge on the Essex/Suffolk border. A4, 24 pages, fully illustrated throughout in colour. A4, 24 pages and fully illustrated throughout in colour. ISBN 978-0-9503905-2-9. £2.00. plus p&p. LIMITED STOCK

## **The Red Hills of Essex**

The Survey of Essex Salt making red hills by CAG published in 1990 is still a key reference book for anyone studying this subject. 100 pages, £5.00 plus p&p.

***The full set of four publications can be ordered for £10 plus p&p.***

***All publications are in stock. Sorry not available on Amazon***

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## **On-line publications found on our website**

**Survey of World War Two Defences in the Borough of Colchester by Fred Nash, CAG and Essex County Council, Project report 2007. On-line edition 2020**



The original Report is now divided into five downloadable pdf files from our website: [caguk.net/publications](http://caguk.net/publications)

- (1) Prelims and Contents
- (2) Introduction, History to Appendices Site Grading and Inventory and map of Defence sites,
- (3) Section A: Sites Records SMR 8913-10961
- (4) Section B: Site Records: SMR 10962-20511
- (5) Section C: Site Records SMR 20512-21159

**The report of the Middle Bronze Age burials and Anglo-Saxon ditch excavations by the Colchester Archaeological Group in 2003-5 at Teybrook Farm, Great Tey. by Laura Pooley and Howard Brooks.**

**Also found on our website the annual CAG Bulletins from 1958 to 2016**



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Please use the contact emails above and mark for the attention of specific committee members.

## Notices

**Membership fees.** As agreed at the AGM the membership fees from the 31st March 2020 will be: Single member £12.00. Student member £4.00. Joint members £20.00

[A copy of the 2021/22 Membership renewal form can be found on the CAG website](#)

GDPR act. For a copy of our Data protection policy please contact the Membership secretary,  
[membership@caguk.net](mailto:membership@caguk.net)



*Frank congratulating the editor on finding a large piece of samian at Fordham in 2019*