



# Colchester Archaeological Group NEWSLETTER

Registered Charity No. 1028434

July 2022 No. 008



*Fordham Phase 3 begins*

## Notes from the Chair Summer 2022

Greetings all, another winter season passes and we find ourselves back in summer again.

At the end of this summer though, we can finally look forward to attending live lectures at Circus House again, Huzzah!

Christine Piper has, again, been toiling away and put together our lecture series for 2022/2023. Precise details will follow soon but the October lectures will be at Circus House with the remaining lectures on Zoom.

The Zoom meetings will help to lower our costs, our carbon footprint and give us a wider, geographically speaking, range of speakers, if you recall, we had a joint lecture from Argentina and Spain last year!

There have and will be a few changes amongst the committee members over the year: Roger Cook has been our Vice chairman for some months now and Lucy Jack will be stepping in as the new trips and events organiser.

Sam Rowley will be changing hats; Sam will be stepping down as membership secretary but will stay on the committee as CAT representative and link to Circus House.

If anyone would like to apply for the membership secretary's post, please contact Sue Keen, our committee secretary (details on contact page of CAG's website).

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At Fordham there's a new buzz about the place..... there's now a wasp's nest in our old tin shed! Plans are afoot to regain full possession of said shed, so we don't have to creep in and out anymore.

Regarding the Fordham dig, it continues to throw up surprises and interesting spanners in the works. We have started work on phase three, part of which is several extensions to the north and east sides of phase two. Phase two refuses to lie down!

On the east side we opened up an area to see if the cobbled area continued eastwards, It doesn't appear to but we have found what looks like another occupation layer with CBM, pottery and glass.

On the north east corner we were looking to see if the ditch (evidence says Iron age) continued north... it does for a couple of metres then it stops with a neat rounded end, so it either just ends or it could be one side of an opening to an enclosure, more to do there methinks.

The biggest surprise, so far, is the discovery on the north western side of phase two of what appears to be a drain fashioned with imbrices in the same way that the drains from the bath house were laid. We opened up that area in search of a possible ring ditch but the drain appeared immediately just below the plough soil. At the time of writing, it extended to eight metres and counting, It is, inevitably, heading towards a large spoil heap!

The Young archaeologists were back at Fordham Hall in May (and will be back again in September) for various activities, metal detecting, magnetometry geophysics, pot washing and pot making with clay from our dig site, such fun;

Once again, thanks to all those that make CAG tick; I look forward to seeing you all in October.

Mike Hamilton-Macy Chairman.

## **Autumn Lecture Programme**

Following a 2 year hiatus I am pleased to say at the time of writing we will be hosting some of our Autumn meetings in person. The programme will be a mixture of Zoom and in person which is indicated in the list of lectures.

We start the season with a talk from Paddy Lambert, Project Manager for Oxford Archaeology East, on the temple-mausoleum at Priors Hall Corby. The dig won Current Archaeology Rescue Project of the year 2022. It is thought the temple dates to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century. For our second lecture we travel back to the Palaeolithic to find out about the Breckland Project and hear about the first human occupation of Britain. The talk is being given by Professor Simon Lewis, Queen Mary University of London. Our October talks are rounded off by a lecture from Lord Petre who will give us an insight into Thorndon Hall which was his family residence for over three hundred years. He will also touch upon Ingatestone Hall which is open to the public. We start the November talks with a lecture from Jackie McKinley who is known to many as the bones expert from Time Team. Her talk Death & Burial in Ancient Britain is a pre-recorded talk but she will be on hand for a Q & A afterwards. We then travel back to Mesolithic period to hear about the dig at Star Carr - one of the most important archaeological digs of recent times due to the excellent preservation of the finds. The talk will be given by Chantal Conneller Professor of Early History at Newcastle. We follow this with a talk about the Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age of Britain & Ireland by Dr Alison Sheridan from Museum of Scotland. We end our Autumn programme with a talk on the excavations at Marble Hill in Twickenham. Marble Hill is a Palladian villa built for Henrietta Howard Countess of Suffolk. The house and gardens were designed as an Arcadian retreat from crowded 18<sup>th</sup> Century London.

Please note the November lectures will all be held on Zoom.

Christine Piper

## **CAG Trips and Events**

Lucy Jack has joined the Committee as Trips and Events Organiser. Lucy writes:

The Thursday diggers were enjoying our usual lunchtime R&R recently and Jonathan informed us of the Staffordshire Hoard exhibition at Sutton Hoo. We thought it would be fun to arrange a CAG trip to see it. The aim is for this to take place in September, or before 30 October when it closes.

This exhibition was originally planned for 2020, like so many events postponed by the pandemic. My friend Katherine and I joined CAG and the Fordham dig in 2019, since when have heard stories of past trips and events from some of the more established members. Now the pandemic is largely behind us, we would like to try to arrange more visits to places of interest. We have some ideas but if you would like to offer any suggestions or assistance please contact me via [enquiries@caguk.net](mailto:enquiries@caguk.net) who will pass the messages on to me,

## Upcoming Walk with John Moore, Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July

### An Insider's Guide to Ipswich

Join John Moore for a roughly 3-mile circular stroll around the town, to hear the history and see the sights. Unlike Colchester, Ipswich doesn't have a castle....or a Roman Circus....or an Abbey Gatehouse....or an Arts facility like Firstsite. It does, however, have a very long history, claiming as it does to be the oldest continuously occupied town in the country. It has its fair share of interesting buildings, both ancient and modern, as well as a remarkable collection of public artworks.



The walk will start at **2pm** from Ipswich Docks. Meet outside the Jerwood Dance Studio, at the bottom of Foundry Lane (arrowed in red on the map below). There are 2 car parks in the area, arrowed in black. The Grafton Way Long Stay Car Park is just over 200 metres from the walk start-point, £1.50 (or possibly £2.00) for 5 hours; the St Peters Dock Short Stay Car Park is close to the walk start-point, and is £3.90 for 3 hours, £5.20 for 4 hours. I anticipate that the walk will take around 2.5 to 2.75 hours, but it could be slightly more or slightly less.

If you require any further information, contact John on 01621 860217 or [johnsalcott@btinternet.com](mailto:johnsalcott@btinternet.com). If anyone needs to contact him on the day, his mobile is 07895 477115.

## Weekly Zoom meetings

Tim Dennis has continued to organise Weekly zoom meeting. These are now normally on a Friday afternoon when Tim is free. The subjects discussed cover a wide range of related subjects covering local archaeology and related subjects. Contact Tim if you are interested.

## Fordham Hall Dig Report

As the chairman has reported The Fordham Hall dig has entered phase 3. The report for phase 2 is now under preparation, but this may take some time with all the information collected over the last six years. The site is open on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays weather permitting from about 9.45am onward

### ***Comments and picture from Jonathan Oldham from the Fordham Local History Society Archaeology Group Facebook page***

It may have appeared to be "all quiet on the western front", however there has been feverish activity (well, hot and bothered) as diggers have toiled in the trenches trying to break through the concrete-like ground. The large Trench 1 was been particularly hard work with little to show for it, so a review of strategy is required in the absence of sufficient rain to ease progress.

A return to the small trenches clustered at the north end of the old (Phase 2) open area has yielded more results. A small select group worked on site yesterday (Thursday). Andrew has almost completed removal of a layer of stones, which others have been working on as well, and he found a lot of pot sherds, including many bases, and a large lower jaw bone. Lucy has almost completed trowelling down to the stones forming the east edge of the east ditch, though with few finds. Roger made an excellent job of cleaning around the north terminus of the east ditch, and removing the charcoal-rich silt fill for soil samples. when members are able come along to take part in the "dig"



*A new start at Fordham*

During the previous several weeks, Mike has been working in the north-west corner of Trench7A, where he has uncovered an east-west line of tiles, mainly imbrices. The tiles appear to be laid on a bed of stones or rough cobbling, and fade away to the east. The west end has yet to be uncovered.

## **Roman Roads Group Report Summer 2022**

### **Geoff Lunn June 2022**

Since the last newsletter was published, the Roman Roads Group has met twice online via Zoom, and has also had a long awaited field trip to Highwoods Park to investigate the large earthwork which was reported last time. What with the pandemic and other factors, it has taken quite some time to finally have a closer look at the earthwork, but as our old friend Frank Lockwood once said to me “take your time Geoff, the archaeology ain’t going nowhere!”.

Myself and a small group of explorers (Tim, Sue, Jan, Andrew, Jonathan) set off from the Highwoods car park on the morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar armed with resistance meter, tape measures, ropes and other kit, with the aim of doing a small resistance survey across the earthwork, and to investigate the possible stream crossing for clues about this large and mysterious structure.

The resistance survey was interesting as we could see what appeared to be structure in the resulting plot, but the survey area was far too small to deduce anything from it. We have also scoured the length of the earthwork for a larger clear area to survey, but unfortunately everywhere is overgrown with trees and other vegetation.



*Tim and Jonathan carrying out the resistivity survey*

What was slightly more positive was the result of the survey of the area where the putative road would have crossed the small stream. At this location we found a quantity of Roman CBM (Ceramic Building Material), including roof tile and probable brick. Finding this so close to Colchester Roman town is perhaps not unusual, but what was unusual is that these finds seemed to be concentrated in that area. I have since walked a couple of hundred metres up and down the stream looking for similar clues, and found nothing save for a couple of sherds of medieval peg tile.



*Roman ceramic building material from the stream crossing*

What we also observed at the stream crossing is a region of packed gravel showing in the side of the west bank. Again, this only appears at the crossing point, and can also be seen in the bed of the stream. On closer analysis, the gravel looks like it may even be mortar, which if it were the case would be a clear indication that it is not a natural deposit. I have since made contact with Ian Mercer via Philip Cunningham, who as some of you will know is an expert on all things geological. Ian has kindly offered to have a close look with his X80 microscope at samples of the “gravel” to look for clues as to its origin and composition. If he were to find any man made inclusions such as fragments of pottery, that would also suggest that the gravel was deposited there by humans.



*Gravel in the bank of the stream*

As I write, I have been in contact with Nicola, the very helpful Park Ranger, to arrange to get the required samples, and I'm happy to report that she is ok with that. Watch this space for further developments!

If anyone would like to see the Resistivity plot or the results of Ian's analysis before the next newsletter is published, please feel free to contact me directly. Anyone in CAG is also welcome to join the Roman Roads Group and get more closely involved with these activities. We meet once every two or three months (online by Zoom these days), and no previous knowledge of roads, Roman or otherwise, is necessary. If you are interested but don't want to get your fingers dirty, that's absolutely fine too. Just let myself or any member of the committee know and we will make sure you are added to our membership.

Finally, Jude and I spent a few very pleasant days in the Yorkshire Dales recently and having taken one of my drones, I couldn't resist the temptation on a clear and bright day to get a few pics of the Cam High Road as it climbs from Wensleydale towards Wether Fell and Ingleton. Who says that Roman Roads aren't straight!



*The Cam High Road viewed from Wensleydale*

Geoff Lunn Dec 2021

## **Report from The Landscape Archaeology Group (LAG)**

The Landscape Archaeology Group (LAG) has now been in existence for about eight months. There are twenty-eight members of the group, with about a dozen regularly attending meetings. At present these are being held via Zoom although we are planning to start meeting in person soon. The group is led by Anna Moore, with Sue Keen taking minutes at meetings, dealing with mailings and generally making sure everything runs smoothly.

Activities undertaken so far include:

- training in the use of LIDAR and Google Earth by Tim Dennis
- a presentation of 'the Historic Landscape study of Wормingford parish through Documentary Sources' by John Moore
- a presentation of a landscape project based on Brightlingsea, by Colin Burwood
- a presentation by Sue Keen of investigations into the parish of Beaumont-cum-Moze
- a follow-up walk exploring Beaumont

The LAG was contacted by the Clacton VCH\* Group, who are looking into the local history of the Tendring peninsula, and a small number of LAG members were invited to a workshop held by them in April. This proved to be very rewarding and we will keep in contact with them and hopefully exchange useful information.

Currently, projects undertaken by LAG consist of individuals or small groups investigating the landscape history of a parish (in most cases the parish where the members live). In future it might be possible for a larger number of people to join together on a wider project, but so far no subject has presented itself.

If any member of CAG is interested in joining the LAG or would like to know more about our activities, please contact Anna Moore on [annaemoore@btinternet.com](mailto:annaemoore@btinternet.com)

\* Victoria County History

## Who was the man in the Mersea Barrow? More secrets revealed by latest scientific analysis

Sue Howlett, Spring 2022

### Excavation of the Mound

The mysterious Mersea Barrow was excavated for the first time in 1912, by Samuel Hazeldine Warren. After five weeks of digging into the heart of the massive earth mound, he discovered a circular tomb built up of Roman roof tiles. This was sealed by a layer of red mortar, intended to protect it from ever being

opened. Warren carefully dismantled one side of the structure to reveal a square cavity containing a mysterious lead casket. Inside this was a perfectly preserved largely blue glass bowl, half full of cremated bone. The containers were identified as Roman, but experts at the time had no means of analysing the bones which were simply described as 'the cremated remains of an adult'.

For a hundred years, the lead box, glass bowl and cremated bone from the Mersea Barrow remained on display in Colchester Castle Museum.

Unfortunately, there was no way of attributing a name or any individual information to the bones from the Mersea Barrow. It was not until more than century after their discovery that scientific analysis revealed more detailed information about the man beneath the Mersea Barrow.



*Warren's 1912 flashlight photograph of the opened tomb structure. (Mersea Museum ID COLM\_BAR\_043)*

When Mersea Museum celebrated the centenary of the excavation in 2012, funds were raised to pay for analysis of the bones. Osteoarchaeologist Jacqueline McKinley identified the bones as those of a robust male between 35 and 45 who had developed a painful skeletal disease known today as DISH (Diffuse Idiopathic Skeletal Hypertosis). In addition, the cremated bones were found to be covered in a strange sticky substance with a resinous smell. This was identified by a PhD student at Bradford University, whose extensive analysis proved that it consisted largely of precious frankincense, which had been poured over the bones as part of the dead man's funeral rites.



*The glass bowl containing partially cremated bone, photographed in 2012 (Mersea Museum ID TM2\_6444)*

These two analytical procedures carried out on the Mersea bones answered many questions about the unknown man whose cremated remains were buried at huge cost and labour beneath the Mersea Barrow during the 2nd century AD. He may have served in a Roman legion anywhere in the Roman empire, but early onset of joint disease led to his retirement, or deployment to an official post, on Mersea Island. He was a man of wealth and high status whose bones were consumed on a funeral pyre, before being washed, placed within the precious glass bowl and anointed with frankincense. Finally an immense mound was constructed above his tomb, concealing his burial for nearly two thousand years. However, unlike two examples of Roman tombstones in Colchester, there was no trace of an inscription to identify Mersea Man or his homeland.

### **The Riddle Solved:**

Fortunately, the answer to one of those questions was provided by a timely collaboration between Colchester Museum and the University of Reading, when a team of scientists and archaeologists analysed Roman cremations discovered in Colchester and Mersea Island. For the first time, the scientific technique of isotope analysis was applied to Roman cremation burials, revealing the distant homelands of 15 Romans who happened to die in this area. The results could be seen in a stunning exhibition, 'Decoding the Roman Dead', displayed in Colchester during the second half of 2021. The most interesting aspect for Mersea Islanders was the concluding, spectacular display of the contents of the Mersea Barrow. This was described in the accompanying text as 'one of Essex's most exceptional Roman burials'. Even more exciting was the final discovery of where Mersea Man probably grew up. A fragment of petrous bone, located close to the ear, was subjected to strontium isotope analysis. Results revealed that 'the individual may have spent their early years in areas of western Germany or southern Gaul' (south-west Belgium). This border area was the home of two Gallic tribes, the Treveri and Tungri, who both constructed burial mounds very similar to the Mersea Barrow.

When Samuel Hazzledine Warren excavated the Mersea Barrow in 1912, he was convinced that it had not been erected by Romans, since 'barrow-building was not a Roman custom'. However, the Roman Empire encompassed people from far flung regions including Syria, Libya, Bulgaria and Britain. Veterans of the Roman army from across the empire served far from their homelands and were granted Roman citizenship on retirement. The great success of Rome was to integrate this diversity of peoples within one dominant power. When Mersea Man arrived in Britain, he brought with him burial customs from his birthplace on the borders of Germany and Belgium, but the values and culture of an elite citizen of the Roman empire.



*a. The Mersea Barrow  
(MM ID LH53\_026)*



*b. The tumulus of Koninksem, Tongeren, Belgium  
(Wikimedia Commons)*

The Mersea Barrow, a landmark for nearly two millennia, continues to mark the importance of the man once buried deep beneath, in a tomb intended to be sealed and preserved for eternity. The bones once concealed within, no longer unknown, have at last given up their secrets. Mersea Man, first discovered over a century ago, may have no name. But expert human knowledge, and the fast-developing technical skills of the last two decades, have revealed much more than originally known about his origins and life experiences.

**Mersea Island Museum** is at 12 High Street, Mersea Island, CO5 8QD (Next to the church). It is open 2pm-5pm Wednesdays to Thursdays. Admission is £2.00. ([merseamuseum.org.uk](http://merseamuseum.org.uk))

Many thanks to Sue Howlett who is one of the dedicated volunteers working at the Museum Trust for use of this article.



## **Fordham's Archaeology under threat!**

**Mike Hamilton-Macy**

As you may be aware, National Grid have announced their plans to build a new 400,000 volt power line between Tilbury and Norwich, using 50 metre tall, steel pylons for most of the route. (Using underground cables through the Dedham Vale, a designated A.O.N.B.).

They have just finished the public consultation for our area, I think outrage would be a fair description of the response, during which they published their "preferred corridor" where they plan to install the power lines.

The corridor runs right over, and I do mean right over, our current Roman dig site!

It then travels north east across the Fossetts Lane area of the parish.

I and other CAG members have been surveying this area for several years and I can tell you (spoiler alert!) that in the immediate path of the pylons are:

The Roman road that extends from Iron Latch Lane, crossing the River Colne then on to Wormingford.

Three additional, confirmed unrecorded Roman building sites.

A further probable unrecorded Roman building site.

Two highly complex, unrecorded, multi-period sites.

A confirmed medieval site dating from at least 1250 ("possible moated site" on H.E.R. site).

More than a dozen ring ditches, some of which appear to still have intact burials at their centre.

Now your average person would be happy with underground cables instead of pylons for the simple aesthetic side of things, but from an archaeological point of view that option would be devastating.

The underground cables run in four, one metre wide trenches, one point two metres deep (I don't know what the spacing between them is), on top of this they need regular access stations with roads leading to them. It will be impossible to avoid all the archaeology in the area.

Whether they use pylons or cables, they are going to hit archaeology and when they do, it won't be CAG or Fordham History society that gets to do the rescue work, it's possible that decades of community archaeology will be lost.

I have, in my Fordham researches, accidentally discovered watching brief reports on a number of the water and gas pipelines that pass through the village.

These reports are not sent to local groups of interest and there's no record of what happened to the finds, so the information and history is basically lost to most of us, I personally find this really annoying.

Pressure is being applied to run an undersea cable from Tilbury, out through the Thames then northwards to Norwich, hopefully this will be successful.

National Grid, a private company, mostly owned by a few very wealthy types many miles from the UK, plan to start construction in 2027.

The way things are going at our current dig site, we will still be there in 2027 and pylons/underground cables notwithstanding, beyond.

## **About a Coin**

**Geoff Lunn**

Annia Galeria Faustina Minor, better known as Faustina II or Faustina the Younger was the youngest and only surviving child of Emperor Antoninus Pius and her mother Faustina Senior. She went on to marry the future emperor Marcus Aurelius and so was in the Roman limelight for several years and featured on numerous Roman coins of the time.



The rather wonderful silver denarius above was recently found on a site near Colchester, and features Faustina II on the obverse, and the goddess Ceres (goddess of agriculture and harvest) on the reverse. Although not a rare coin, it is however of great interest in terms of social context and the modern cataloguing of Roman coins. (Those of us of a certain age who remember coins before decimalisation in 1971 will recall that a penny was referred to in those days as “1d” – the d being Denarius, the granddaddy of the English penny)

Whilst researching the coin, I discovered that there are various versions, or “variants” in existence, all featuring Ceres on the reverse, seated on a chest and holding two ears of corn in her right hand, and a torch in her left. One of the standard catalogues of Roman Imperial coins is the “Roman Imperial Coin” or “RIC” standard, and this coin is given the number RIC669. It is not unusual to find variants of Roman coins, but the RIC system usually discriminates between the variants, either with a separate number, or a variant number (eg RIC669 Var. b). The RIC catalogue runs to several large volumes and costs a small fortune (and is constantly being updated), so I, amongst many others, tend to rely on some of the excellent online coin websites, in particular [www.wildwinds.com](http://www.wildwinds.com), for classification of coins. I became more and more curious when I found that there do not appear to be any variants recorded in the RIC system for this coin, although it was obvious from the numerous different online images that were popping up, that there is quite a lot of variation in the design of this coin. (I should note here that not having access to the complete RIC catalogue means that I cannot be certain about the lack of recorded variants).

An obvious difference on the obverse of the coin can be seen below, in the images from the British Museum, where the ears of corn in Ceres’ right hand can appear above the “E” in Ceres, or in some cases below it. The torch in her left hand also appears in different positions, sometimes upright and sometimes angled across her body, and in quite different lengths. Although the reverse of our coin is not very clear (possibly having been scoured by a bulldozer!), I was rather pleased to eventually find an image which matches it rather well, with the ears of corn above the “E”, and the torch at an angle (bottom left below)



*Some of the variants in the British Museum*

All of this led me on to the rather more interesting issue of Faustina’s hairstyle, because it soon became apparent that this same coin appears to have been issued at different times of her life, where she would be sporting the latest fashion in hairstyle of the day. Further research showed that Faustina and other prominent empresses in Roman times were very much leaders of fashion, and the fashion-conscious ladies of the day would copy the empress’ hairstyle and clothing in much the same way as they do now. As you can no doubt see above, Faustina’s hair seems to have been constantly changing, which must have cost the ladies of the day an awful lot at the hairdressers.

As I think Tim Dennis commented the other day “nothing much has changed then!”

Geoff Lunn June 2022

## Ellie Mead



**20/5/1961 – 10/3/2022**

Earlier this year, we received the sad news that Ellie Mead had died after a long illness.

Ellie first became interested in archaeology through taking her son Dan to the Young Archaeologists' Club and became a helper. She joined CAG when we started excavating the Tudor Hunting Lodge at Worningford, not far from her home at Little Ropers Farm, Bures St. Mary. She was a keen digger and also dug at Cowlins Fields, Markshall, St Johns Abbey and at Fordham. In 2013, she joined the CAG committee, becoming secretary the following year, a post which she fulfilled until illness forced her to retire in 2021.

When a group was set up to investigate the prehistoric cropmarks in the Middle Stour Valley, Ellie took up the project with great enthusiasm and became a very active member of the group; being married to a farmer who farms in the valley, her contacts and local knowledge were invaluable; she also volunteered to act as secretary to the group, which she did extremely efficiently. She was one of the team who researched the cropmarks, being particularly interested in the Suffolk side of the river, mainly the Bures cursus, and the origins of Worningford Mere. When we decided to publish the results of our research, she helped to put together the publication 'The Stour Valley: A Prehistoric Landscape' and was very good at marketing and promoting it.

Later, the Cropmark Group took up experimental archaeology in order to try and understand prehistoric life a little better. I'm not sure this was ever achieved but we spent many happy days, quite a lot of them at Little Ropers Farm, attempting to make and fire pots, cook a meal using stone 'potboilers', and, the last meeting Ellie was able to take part in, make string from nettle fibre. Gary the goose and Raisin the dog were our usual companions.

Whenever Ellie was involved in any activity, it was always great fun. Her drive and enthusiasm will be much missed by CAG.



*Ellie at Markshall*

*Right: 'Potboiling' at Little Ropers Farm  
with Gary the Goose*





*Sue, Graham, Jane & Ellie in Trench D, view north (Fordham 2016?)*

## **Colchester Young Archaeologists' Club**

### **Report for Committee meeting 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Although the club has taken on some new members, we are still receiving regular enquiries and have a waiting list for membership of more than 30 potential new members.

There is a lot of interest among young people in archaeology. Two schools in the area are hopefully starting their own YAC club. These are Great Bentley Primary School, which was studying their local history and I met on a very cold day in January, and Littlegarth School, which has asked to share meetings and ideas with us.

Members completed their input to the "Caught in a Treacherous Tudor Web" project at the February meeting. Since then, their artworks and research have been designed and printed into a trail leaflet.

In March we held our meeting at Colchester Natural History Museum. Using artifacts from the museum, we learned what to look for on the Essex coast for our April fossil hunting session with expert Wayne Dutnell of the Museum Services. We had a clear April day for this. Eighteen members were successful in finding fossil shells fossil sponge and sharks teeth, with our expert on hand to identify and explain what we had found.

A very successful morning at Fordham gave members the opportunity to use magnetometry on a field in Fordham and study the results. They also had a chance to learn and practice the ever-popular art of metal detecting. There was find washing and identification and the members had the opportunity to use the local refined clay, to hand cast pots. Members received their membership cards and membership badges at Fordham and at our June meeting in Roman Circus House.

We are scouring our resource cupboard for activities for Archaeology Day on 30<sup>th</sup> July, to which we will invite the many potential members we have.

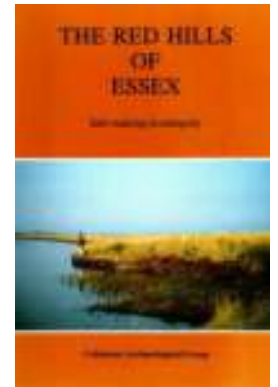
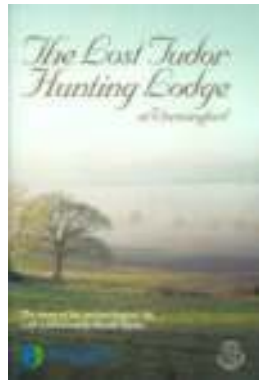
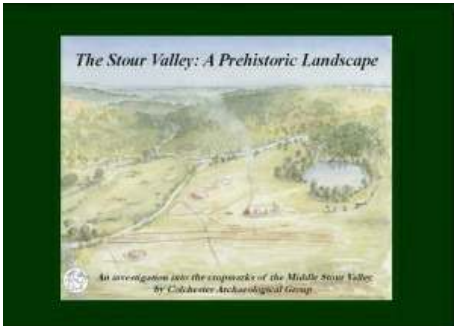
Encouraged by the CBA, we have entered our "Caught in A Treacherous Tudor Web" project for another award and we have been short-listed for it. The CBA is very keen for a representative of the club to attend, which looked as if it would be difficult to begin with, but Sam has rearranged her plans for that weekend and will represent us at the awards ceremony At Segedunum Roman Fort on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Plans for the autumn and winter include archaeological-based activities/training at Fordham. We also plan to draw pictures and make colourful artworks for our own palaeontology timeline. As there is a major exhibition of hieroglyphics at the British Museum starting in October, we may plan one or two meetings on ancient writing, cuneiform, hieroglyphics, and runes (it must be ten years since we wrote in runes!). We could also look at (decent!) graffiti seen at Pompeii, Skara Brae, and Deir El Medina.

**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**

## COMMITTEE

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Sales – [sales@caguk.net](mailto:sales@caguk.net)

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

## Notices

**Membership fees.** To be agreed at the AGM. The membership fees for 2022/23 will be:  
Single member £15.00. Student member £10.00. Joint members £25.00

[A copy of the 2022/23 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)

The Editor welcomes articles of interest to members on archaeology and local history for inclusion in the Newsletter. Our next issue is due in January 23. Please submit your articles or items of interest by the beginning of December to [alanchaplin2@sky.com](mailto:alanchaplin2@sky.com)

Please feel free to share copies of this newsletter with like-minded friends and associates