



Colchester Archaeological Group NEWSLETTER

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Visiting the excavated & conserved causeway at Flag Fen

Words from the Chair

Well, here we are again, another year gone and we find ourselves squinting at the light of bright new one, I hope your Christmases were all happy and the New Year will be fruitful.

The autumn/winter so far has not been quite as wet as the last one, this has allowed the work on the ground at Fordham to continue on most of the three days a week we dig.

As a reminder, last winter work stopped at the end of October 2023 and didn't re-start until February 2024, the only season since the dig started in 2015 that there has been a pause in excavation.

Apart from Fordham, the group were engaged in various projects last year and those will be continued into this year, namely: the possible Roman road river crossing at Highwoods, the LAG group's further work on Elmstead, investigations at Jaywick and further investigations elsewhere in Fordham.

We managed to host the Young Archaeologist Club on two occasions in the summer, firstly at their multiple experience day at Fordham Hall in May and then digging on the site in September.

The group's website has now had a much needed re-vamp and as a result is clearer and more accessible, thanks to Alan Chaplin for getting that organised.

As usual, Christine Piper has put together a mixed and interesting lecture series that re-starts on the 6th of January and ends on February the 24th, coincidentally my birthday.

Please don't buy me anything, just send cash!

As always, thanks to the committee and yourselves for keeping CAG the vibrant entity that it is.

Mike Hamilton-Macy, Chairman

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Events

by Lucy Jack

Flag Fen Archaeology Park and Peterborough, 5th July 2024

I had trouble finding a coach with toilet – apparently all were booked for school trips a year in advance. Do not organise any future trips in early July! In the end 26 members travelled on a jalopy with no facilities, via a circuitous route and arrived at Flag Fen keen to find comfort. Luckily there is a good visitor centre on site with plenty of toilets!

2 knowledgeable guides led us in 2 groups round the site watched by roaming clusters of Soay sheep, close relatives of the type present in the Bronze Age which remained isolated in the Western Isles and were reintroduced from St Kilda. There are thousands on site - many landmines to dodge!

Flag Fen is one of the best-preserved Bronze Age sites found in Britain. It was discovered in 1982, excavated by the charismatic archaeologist Francis Pryor and consists of tens of thousands of timbers driven into the fen between about 1300 and 900 BCE. The archaeology of the area has been studied in detail and starts before 3000 BCE with some Neolithic features possibly arranged along an ancient routeway. At the start of the Bronze Age, around 2500 BCE, one of the first field systems known in Britain was developed. The fields were for livestock and defined by ditches roughly at right angles to the developing wetland. Peats began to form around 2000 BCE as conditions became wetter.

A causeway was driven across Flag Fen in the Middle Bronze Age (about 1300 BCE) when the field systems either side had begun to experience difficulties caused by increased wetness. The causeway consists of large posts arranged in 5 rows supporting the horizontal timbers of the surface. The timbers and other organic remains such as seeds and pollen survived in the anaerobic conditions of the peat bog. A section of the excavated causeway remains are on display in a covered hall where they are kept wet using a spray system.

At times the causeway was used as a ceremonial centre. The ceremonies involved the deposition of thousands of metal, stone, shale, ceramic and other objects, together with cuts of meat, food and other perishable items. A large number of Bronze Age swords were found, some placed into the causeway with little sign of ever having been used or had been deliberately broken. Perhaps they were made for ritual use? Why? Over 300 high status and valuable items such as jewellery were placed within the timbers of the causeway and along its “inland” side. Did giving away wealth bestow honour and prestige? Did offering sacrifices of precious objects to gods / ancestors bring good fortune or ward off evil?

The last timbers of the post alignment were added shortly after 900 BCE in the Late Bronze Age, but offerings continued to be made throughout the Iron Age. Pottery shows that the Iron Age farm to the west of Flag Fen continued to be used into the 3rd century AD (CE). A section of Roman road known as the Fen Causeway is



Soay sheep by the BA Roundhouse – based on layout of one excavated at Fengate with turf roof and walls of wattle and daub.



visible on site. It ran for 24 miles linking the town of Durobrivae (just west of modern Peterborough) on Ermine Street to settlements further east; the lands of the Iceni. Construction apparently began after the Boudiccan revolt. The road was raised above the marshy ground using layers of gravel. We learnt more about Durobrivae at Peterborough Museum after lunch.

Also on site are 8 Bronze Age log boats from nearby Must Farm ancient river channel being conserved in “the biggest archaeological chiller unit in the country.” They are being treated with a wax solution to replace water in the structures and stop the wood from disintegrating. Radiocarbon dating shows 1636-1464 BCE for the earliest boats. Alongside were found eel and fish traps woven using the same basketry techniques used by weavers today!

The on-site museum displays the astonishing array of swords, jewellery and other deposited items. Other rare finds include a Bronze Age wheel made from three different types of wood – alder, oak and ash. Also a Bronze Age coffin with samples of clothing made from nettle cordage – the stalks were spun into cord. A skirt 38cm long wraps round the body twice. We learnt “the nettle cordage skirt appears quite often in Bronze Age burial sites”. On holiday in Orkney in August I learnt of the importance of nettle plant fibres to the neolithic people who built the Ness of Brodgar stone structures, for weaving and possibly cords for bead necklaces – fascinating.

After lunch at the Flag Fen café we headed into Peterborough city centre.

Peterborough Museum

Our main aim was a guided tour of the special exhibition “Introducing Must Farm, a Bronze Age Settlement” with our excellent guide Jane. Must Farm is Britain’s most completely preserved prehistoric settlement. It consisted of round houses on stilts above a prehistoric tributary of the River Nene in the Flag Fen basin dated to 850 BCE and excavated in 2015/6. It provides a time capsule of late Bronze Age life, as the settlement was destroyed suddenly in a fire. The people abandoned their belongings as the platform collapsed and was buried in the sediment. The rapid burning and submersion aided preservation and objects were found in remarkable condition. The press coverage described it as a Bronze Age Pompeii! The modern excavation methods allowed the entire site to be dug forensically, collecting the smallest seeds and grains. Even fish scales were picked up individually! The information gained showed they ate a mix of seeds and pulses, Emmer wheat, fish, meat and game along with milk and honey. Dairy products were never found in the same pot as those that contained meat or fish, whereas meat found with honey/beeswax suggests they may have been eating honey basted venison! Remnants of porridges, stews, brewing mashes and doughs were also discovered, including a pot containing porridge with the spoon still inside, the meal being interrupted suddenly by the fire. It was incredible to see fragments of textiles (flax) of such antiquity with different weaves, and bobbins still wound with their thread. We wondered what caused the fire and what happened to the people who fled. There seems to have been no effort to rebuild or recover possessions. Were they sheltered by neighbours, carried off as slaves or killed? No human remains were found except a skull and other fragments which have been interpreted as heirlooms. Apparently, Bronze Age communities from other sites are known to have kept and displayed human remains within their houses.

We also had time to wander at will round the permanent archaeology gallery. Highlights for me were the Roman exhibits especially the Nene valley pottery and the Water Newton treasure – the earliest Christian church plate from Britain. The Romans (probably the Ninth Legion whose stamps are on the excavated roof tiles) built a fortress at Longthorpe near the Nene River crossing in 43AD. After their massacre in the Boudiccan revolt, the fortress was downsized to a vexillation (half legion) fortress. The town of Durobrivae developed later when a new bridge was built along the main north-south route Ermine Street. Many workshops developed producing “Nene Valley Ware” – a finely decorated pottery traded around Britain and found in



Flag Fen display Map



Artist impression of a Must Farm house



Bobbins with thread still attached



Stamped Ninth Legion roman roof tile from Longthorpe (Tegula)



Peterborough Cathedral



The Hedda Stone carvings

abundance by our CAG diggers at Fordham. We learnt that large scale production began about 120 AD and lasted throughout the Roman era. The first types were the basic "grey ware" but by 150 AD a new slip technology meant the "colour-coated ware" could be produced and the emphasis was more on the production of fine beakers, bowls, flagons and cups. These were exported around the most important sites in Roman Britain, including Colchester.

I loved the unique face spouts – flagons modelled on a particular individual rather than an imagined face, so we have portraits of people living 2000 years ago.



Nene valley ware: hunt cup with hare



The unique face spouts

Before the bus departed there was time to explore the 12th century cathedral - one of only 6 monastic abbeys to emerge from the Dissolution with a new role as a cathedral. Information at the tomb of the last abbot of Peterborough Abbey, John Chambers, states that he was the only abbot to become bishop in the same place. Also of note is the mysterious Hedda Stone carving of monks from the Anglo-Saxon monastery from about 800 AD, probably marking the shrine of a saint

Francis Pryor calls it "One of Britain's great ancient cathedrals. The structure is mainly Norman and largely unspoilt. With a unique triple arcaded Early English west front. Internationally famous for the Romanesque painted nave ceiling (c1220) depicting saints, bishops, animals. It is unique being the earliest and by far the largest painted medieval ceiling in Europe north of the Alps."

If you haven't been to Peterborough, it definitely merits a visit as Michelin might say.

Sources:

"Must Farm pile-dwelling settlement" two volume monograph published by McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, 2024.

"Flag Fen: Life and Death of a Prehistoric Landscape" by Francis Pryor, 2011

Caistor St Edmund and Venta Icenorum, 30th August 2024

26 members (plus 2 by car) travelled to the environs of Norwich on a beautiful summer's day where Geoff Lunn our treasurer was taking part in the Caistor Roman Project excavations behind a country house hotel. Despite securing a luxury coach with on board facilities this time, the journey was not without incident as we nearly got stuck on a very narrow old bridge and caused a bit of a traffic jam!

While half the group stayed to view the Caistor Roman Project dig, the other half went on a short way to Venta Icenorum ("the market place of the Iceni"; Boudica's people), the site of the largest Roman town in East Anglia and owned by Norfolk Archaeological Trust. A very entertaining tour with guide Alex Atherton who brought the largely empty site to life, quoting writers such as Seneca describing the ubiquitous bath house and interpreting the lead curse tablet found by the nearby river Tas:

"Carried off is a wreath, bracelets, a cap, a headdress, a pair of leggings, 10 pewter vessels. Whether he be man or woman, boy or girl, if you Neptune want the pair of leggings, they shall become yours at the price of his blood."

We decided that if Neptune might be honoured to receive the leggings they must have been the equivalent of leather Gucci – clearly highly prized!

We learned that the Roman era settlement began in the 1st century after the Iceni revolt of AD 60/61. Triple ditches surrounding the civilian settlement apparently would have taken 40 men 2 years to dig! The earliest paved roads were laid out around 120 AD with a grid system of streets. Stone buildings came later with a theatre, small forum built about 140 AD (rebuilt c320 AD) and basilica – the centre of Roman rule over Icenian territory. It is interesting that there is little evidence of the courtyard houses found in other Romano British towns and traditional style roundhouses continued to be used into the 4th century. The external amphitheatre could seat about 3000 people and was made largely from earth and timber. It has not been excavated but may not have been long-lived. The central area was surrounded by large stone walls in the late 3rd century (c.275 AD), a time of unrest and plague.



CAG group with guide (dark clothes) by the town walls remains, east side



Members viewing the site



An interpretation board of the town layout

This area is larger than a legionary fortress, though apparently there is no evidence of military presence. Apart from sections of these walls there are not many other visible remains. The only building on the site is the late 11th century church which appears to follow the line of a Roman street, so is likely to be on the site of a Roman building, perhaps even an early Christian church? Roman bricks have been used in the walls.

The baths by the west gate were supplied with water piped right across town from springs to the northeast. Alex told us that geophysics had found the route of the pipeline and detected iron rings for the wooden pipes about 2m apart. This is very similar to our dig site at Fordham - Jonathan Oldham reported that our iron rings are 1.7m apart – more exact measurements made possible by excavation.

Venta Icenorum reached its peak in 4th century but there is no clear evidence of occupation inside the walls after the early years of the 5th century, consistent with the pattern of the end of Roman occupation of Britain. There is no evidence for violent conflict, but the archaeology shows a shift in the way people lived, settling outside the walls during the 5th – 8th centuries with different architecture, dress and diet. The stone of Venta was robbed during the Anglo-Saxon era to build in a better location three miles to the north where the Roman road crossed a navigable river – Norwich took over as the main settlement during the 8th century.

While Venta Icenorum's forum was the smallest in Roman Britain, its temple was the second largest! The Caistor Roman Project 2024 excavations were located on the route between the walled town and the site of



Mike Pinner & Prof Will Bowden showing us the dig



Caistor Project excavation site, area of interlocking pits and linear features {ditches}

the temple within the triple ditches. We were able to tour the excavations with Mike Pinner from Caistor Roman Project. The archaeologists have discovered that the first temple on the site was Iron Age, built to serve local Icenii gods, much earlier than the town. Professor Will Bowden from Nottingham University overseeing the dig (for the past 18 years) told us the temple was set in a prehistoric landscape including Bronze Age barrows and other Iron Age structures. They believe that Venta Icenorum was built to service this important temple which would have been a major landmark in the region. All the late Iron Age and early Roman activity took place in the temple area and continued into the 3rd or 4th century. The archaeology consists of a complex series of intercutting pits and ditches with evidence of a long-lived industrial area producing pottery, smelting iron and working bronze.

Though Tacitus says the Iceni were “harried with fire and sword”, there is very little sign of military presence apart from one 1st century spear - a possible second one had been excavated on the day of our visit! Perhaps surprisingly, the evidence shows continuity of activity and cultural behaviour from the pre-Boudiccan period well into the Roman period. The same types of ceramics were made in new industrial ways but preserving the forms of the late Iron Age. We had also seen this continuity at the town site where roundhouses were used into the 4th century. Apparently, it's a bit of a mystery what the Iceni did with their dead. No Iron Age burials show in the archaeology, and this continues until the late 2nd / 3rd century when inhumation burials start to appear. Were they burning them on funeral pyres? Research required!



CAG group at the Finds table at the Caistor Project excavation site

The second phase temple was built in the 2nd century, but later the temple was cut off from the town by the building of the walls (c275 AD) over the road connecting the temple and town, indicating that it was less important by then. In the 3rd century the temple was heavily demolished. A bit early for the introduction of Christianity but we speculated about the relocation of the centre of worship to the site of the current church within the town walls...

The dig location finds are mainly 1st & 2nd century, including good quality pottery (yes Samian), deliberately deposited broken brooches and about 200 coins from the entire Roman era, many in very good condition (also deliberately placed?).



Samian pottery



Barley twist glass stirring rod



La Tene type brooch

We were able to view some of the recent finds.

- A beautiful barley twist glass stirring rod
- A possibly pre-conquest La Tene type brooch placed at the bottom of a pit
- Samian with makers mark (Gaul 1st/2nd C) and repairs.

We were in 2 separate groups for the visits to the town and dig site, but the whole party reunited for picnic lunches in the hotel grounds. Some were even able to have afternoon tea on the terrace before we set off home! I must make sure we have the use of the facilities of a luxury hotel on every trip!

Thanks go to the Caistor Roman Project and especially Geoff Lunn and Caroline Lowton for helping me organise this visit.

CAG Website up-date

The CAG Website is undergoing a major re-vamp as it is over ten years since it was first put together and technology has moved on. There is no change to its contents but now has a more modern look. Please visit the site and let us know what you think about it and anything you think should be added.

Go to www.caguk.net

Fordham Excavations update

Jonathan Oldham, Site Supervisor, 20/11/2024

With the drier and brighter weather of summer, digging at the Fordham site has been in full swing, and the soil water table continues to fall. Mike H-M continues to work in Trench 7, finding quite a lot of pot sherds and iron nails, plus a scatter of CBM, along the eastern edge. There is no clear feature present, though the finds are mostly confined to a shallow oblong depression bounded along the west side by a broad band of flint stones on top of orange clay. A sondage slot was cut through the stone band, which was shallow, to reveal another stone surface about 0.15m beneath the clay. Further sondage slots were cut across the line of a curved feature (a very shallow ditch base) through sterile, solid orange clay to reveal the stone surface at varying depths. It was hoped that the curved feature related to a possible Iron Age round house, however the steep slope of the stone surface in most of the slots, and the depth of the clay, suggest that it is on top of the edge of a natural post-glacial feature. Anna has drawing section drawings of the slots.

Trench 4 east extension (at the NE corner of the Phase 2 open area) has been trowelled regularly, mostly by the Thursday team. It appears that a very stony layer, with comparatively few finds, overlies a less stony layer (both a dark silt loam) where a variety of artefacts has been uncovered, mainly pot sherds, bone fragments some nails, and notably a 170mm long sewing needle (in two pieces). More recently, a patch of soft, red fired clay fragments has been uncovered midway along the trench, and it continues into the south edge of the trench. This may indicate an occupation layer outside and to the east of the building. The yellow silt layer at the south end of the original Trench 4 has been trowelled down to a stone layer, which seems to be the eastern continuation of the cobble surface found in 2021 along the east side of the building. The silt layer yielded few finds with more bone than pot.

We have been able to work in many areas of Trench 1, generally trowelling down within 5m square areas to level the surfaces in the hope of highlighting features to investigate. In Areas 1A and 2A, the line of the Roman ditch has been clarified, showing clear edges with the orange clay through which it had been cut. Some pot sherds and fragile bone fragments, plus quite a lot of nails, were found by Nicholas from Argentina and others. Jan cut a sondage slot across the ditch at the north edge of Area 2A and a section was drawn in mid October as water began to fill the bottom. During the process some large pieces of cow bone were found in the upper layers of the ditch fill, and a few pot sherds lower down, though nothing at the bottom.

Much of Area 1B is very stony, akin to a disrupted cobble surface, with very few finds. A slot cut through the stony layer along the south edge of the area revealed a sandy layer below (dark at the top and at least 0.2m deep). This sandy layer slopes downward to the west and to the north in the middle of the area (where it encounters a broad finger of natural orange clay aligned west to east), suggesting a flattened dome of material. The east end of the cut exposed the loose stones indicative of a modern field drain, though this is aligned north-south in contrast to other modern drains aligned NW to SE. Penny found a post hole close to that field drain, and the half section was drawn.

A little further west (in Area 2B) initial excavation of a dark patch has revealed a concentration of charcoal, which changes shape with depth, at first appearing round then becoming more oblong at a depth of about 0.1m. Several fairly large sherds of fairly rough grey pot (possibly Iron Age) were found during the excavation, plus a large curved, very rough ceramic (another larger crucible?). Recently a lump of fired clay with small lumps of possible slag were found when the lower dark layer was removed and kept as a soil sample.

In Area 3B, the SW end of the large dark patch was excavated by Sue and myself to provide a section through the feature. The feature has turned out to be a large oblong pit with vertical sides cut into the dense orange clay, and it is most likely to be the location of the lead coffin excavated in 1984. The backfill is a mix of clay, stones and dark loam containing scattered small pot sherds and a few iron nails. Notably, at the bottom of the pit, a sizeable strip of lead was found at the west edge, and a scatter of tiny thin glass vessel fragments along the east edge.



Possible 1984 grave cut?

We have ventured further south, during a damp spell, and trowelled level the surface of Area 3D, again finding quite a lot of nails, as well as pot sherds. And on one occasion we went to the deep south to Trench 2 and trowelled level Area 10A beside the fence where the Young Archaeologist Club had dug in September. The YAC group washed many of their finds, mostly CBM and a few pot sherds and nails, before departing, though they did not have time to complete that task, and unfortunately did not see their star find of a Samian pot sherd (undecorated). However, Sue found a cluster of moulded Samian pot sherds on our second visit. These interesting finds suggest that there is Roman occupation in some form in that area, as it is about 40m south and east from the building.



Samian pot shards

In mid October the water level in Trench T, the north terminus of the 'Roman' trench located in the north-east corner of the site, appeared to have stabilised, with just a relatively small puddle at the bottom of the trench. With dry weather forecast, it was decided to try and excavate as much as practically possible of the remaining deposits, largely charcoal and grey ash. Over several weeks we trowelled down until we reached the water table, all of the time kneeling on a firm base of discarded, recorded CBM dumped at the south end of the pit. There were not many finds in these lower deposits (1.3 to 1.4m down); mainly CBM fragments, some fired clay, animal bone and iron nails. The most notable find, discovered by Paul, was a copper alloy finger ring key. On the final day of excavation there, Alan and Paul bailed out the standing water before shovelling the bottom sludge out onto plastic sheeting for hand searching of finds. Potential finds had to be washed to remove the ash residue in order for the material to be identified and ascertained whether or not it was worth keeping.

Now that the weather has become wetter, we have resorted to recording CBM fragments again, making good inroads into the small pile of rubble sacks of CBM that remain from the three rooms of the building. In preparation for a wet winter, we have begun bagging CBM from a large untidy heap amassed during the excavation of the bath house area in 2016, pre-sorting material into imbrex, tegula and box flue fragments where identifiable, with a fourth group of 'flat' tile. So there will be plenty to keep us busy into next year.

Jonathan Oldham
Site Supervisor

The Fordham Casket Report

During the year Britannia published the report on the Fordham Casket. It is well worth reading and can be downloaded from their website.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/britannia/article/late-antique-decorated-casket-and-jewellery-from-the-roman-villa-at-fordham-essex/0D95DFA3DB4819485071C5A6651C41BF>

A Late Antique Decorated Casket and Jewellery from the Roman Villa at Fordham, Essex

By STEPHEN GREEP, MARTIN HENIG and FRANK LOCKWOOD

Landscape Archaeology Group (LAG)

Anna Moore

The LAG is still working on the parish of Elmstead, just to the east of Colchester and is hoping to produce a report on our activities in the next newsletter.

Areas of interest currently being worked on include:

- Elmstead on early Essex maps
- Transport links
- Medieval manors
- Mapping the finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme
- Investigating the relationship between Elmstead and Colchester during the Roman occupation

If you would like to join the group, please contact us via enquiries@caguk.net

Is there a Saxon burial ground at Fordham?

Mike Hamilton-Macy

In my last bone update I mentioned that more human bone had come to light during the analysis process. As a result of this discovery, I quickly scanned every bone find bag in the collection (I say quickly, it took a whole day as there are around forty museum sized boxes) to see if any more came to light, well they did.

I can now confirm that we have bones from at least three individuals, this is in addition the young Saxon burial.

I separated the bags that appeared to contain human bone and started to look through them, as I was doing this, I noticed that some trench or grid numbers kept coming up so I made a note of the bone weight for each trench or grid area.

What transpired is that there are two distinct areas where human bones have been found, one on the southern edge of the northern buildings and the other on the southern edge of the bathhouse.

What is curious is that not a single piece of bone has, so far, come to light in the area between them.

As has been reported, the young Saxon burial was found intact and un-disturbed having been buried through a Roman floor surface and consequently out of harm's way. But these later bones appear to have been damaged and moved around during ploughing.

As all these newly discovered bones were found above the Roman destruction layer it would appear that they were not buried at the same depth as the known Saxon one.

Current ground surface levels, of course, are not the same as they were one and a half thousand years ago. On top of that, those fields, all the way down to the river were ridge and furrowed north to south, then east to west after enclosure.

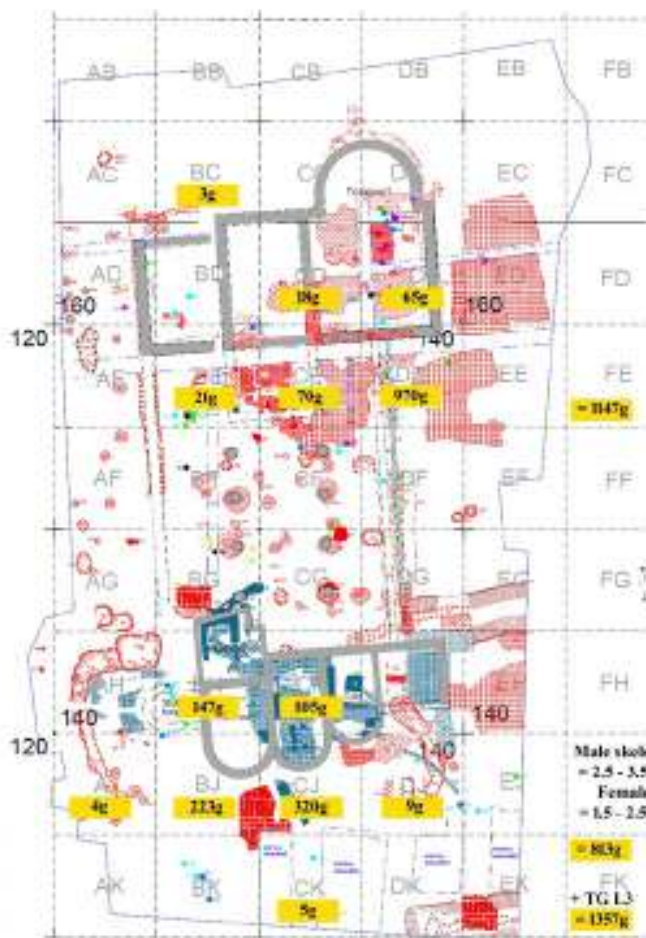
Despite all this soil movement the bones don't seem to have travelled far.

I have plotted the total bone weights for each grid square and trench and applied them to our phase two grid map.

The weights shown are for one whole grid square, not just where the label is placed, totals for each area are to the right. Trench G, over the bathhouse, of phase one covered a large area and is given a separate total, it is then added to the grids total.

For reference, the average, dry weight for a male skeleton is 2.5kg to 3.5kg and female is 1.5kg to 2.5kg.

The young Saxon was buried in the middle room of the northern range, as you can see in this range there is a very high percentage of the bone found in grid square CD.



Phase two map produced by John Mallinson with Tim Dennis's TS data.

The bone is spread a little more widely over the bathhouse with most coming from grid square CJ, this area also covers most of trench G bone finds.

I am hoping that next year we will be able to carbon date a sample from each area to see if they are contemporary with each other and what period they date to.

As it stands at the moment, I'm going to stick my neck out, put my head above the parapet and say I believe the burials will be found to be pre-Christian Saxon, as was the young girl found buried in the middle Roman room.

Berechurch Hall, St Michael's Church & The Audley Chapel, Colchester

John Moore

As you travel along Berechurch Hall Road, you will see an entrance to 'Berechurch Hall'. Sadly this does not lead to a historic country house, but to a modern building divided up into a number of apartments.



The entrance to the current Berechurch Hall



The current Berechurch Hall

However, the Berechurch Estate has a long history. It was first documented in 1385 as the Manor of Algood, and it eventually passed into the hands of St John's Abbey, from whom it was purchased in 1519 by Sir Thomas Audley. Audley was born in Earl's Colne in 1488, becoming Town Clerk of Colchester in 1514 (he is remembered today in the city in the name of the Thomas Lord Audley School). After becoming Member of Parliament for Essex in 1523 he progressed rapidly in importance, eventually becoming Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor in 1533 (and would be the man who signed the death warrant of Sir Thomas More, amongst others). Audley bought large swathes of land around the Manor, including the adjacent St Michael's Church, also known as 'Berechurch', which was first documented in 1170 as 'Beordescherche'. In 1270 it was recorded as 'Berdechirche' - the name indicating 'a church made of boards'. Essex lacks stone as a building material, which would have to be imported from Kent or the Rutland area at great expense, so many early churches were built of timber. Greenstead-juxta-Ongar still retains its Anglo-Saxon nave of oak logs. Audley changed the name of the Manor from Algood to Berechurch, and entertained Henry VIII here in the 1530s. However, the house was damaged during the Civil War when it was the home of the royalist Sir Henry Audley, but had presumably been repaired by 1662 when the Hearth Tax showed that it had 20 hearths.

The Audley family sold the Estate in 1714 to one James Smyth, whose family then owned the property for over 150 years. James re-built the house, and later, his descendant Sir Robert Smyth employed Samuel Wyatt to improve it, becoming "*a large and handsome brick mansion, with tasteful pleasure grounds.*" The interior is said to have contained "*a fine collection of paintings, among which are several by the celebrated Fuseli.*" (Henry Fuseli RA was a Swiss painter, draughtsman and writer on art who spent much of his life in Britain.)



*Berechurch Hall & Church (on wrong side of road!)
Chapman & Andree Map of Essex 1777*



The Georgian Berechurch Hall

In 1882, the then owner Octavius Coope M.P., partner in the 'Ind Coope' brewery, demolished most of the house, and immediately built a new house of around 80 rooms on the same foundations, using red brick with stone dressings in 'domestic French Gothic' style, retaining the dining room and saloon from the Georgian house. The new house had its own generator, (built by Paxmans of Colchester) and was one of the earliest houses ever to be lit by electricity. Indeed, it is said that the occupation of 'electrician' was coined here. The biography of Mr Crompton, who was responsible for installing the lighting, records him saying: "*This was the first time that a new house and premises had been lighted throughout with electric light. It was the occasion, moreover, of a new departure in handicraft. In order to deal with the novel work of wiring and fixing, I took over from the builder of the house a party of his workman, whose previous trade had been that of bell-hangers. Several of these men gradually bettered themselves, and eventually went into business as master contractors for electrical wiring of houses.*" A stable block for 30 horses was built west of the house, and new staff houses were built on the estate.



*Berechurch Hall & Church
Ordnance Survey 25" 1897*



The Victorian Berechurch Hall

After 1921 the house was unoccupied until the War Department requisitioned it during the Second World War. A prisoner-of-war camp (No. 186) was built in the grounds of the Hall, the site now being occupied by the Army's Military Corrective Training Centre (prison to you and me!), which opened in 1986, the only surviving such Military Establishment operated by the British Army. The house was again unoccupied after the war and was demolished in 1952.

The Victorian house can therefore no longer be seen, but St Michael's Church survives, albeit completely rebuilt in 1872, apart from the C14th tower and the attached C16th chapel. A report after the rebuild said that *"...The ponderous weight of the monument to Sir Henry Audley had forced the north wall considerably out of perpendicular and the old roof, worn by successive ages, had become too tender to be tampered with and so the chapel has been, as it were, encased in a new building, with the old roof about six inches under the new one"*. Prior to the early C16th St Michael's had been a chapel-of-ease in the parish of Holy Trinity Colchester, but in 1536 it had become a parish church in its own right (when the population of Berechurch numbered 37). After the Second World War, the Monkwick housing estate was built and St Michael's became too small for the congregation, so a new church, St Margaret's, was built between 1968 and 1973 around a mile way on the Mersea Road. The congregation was transferred to it and St Michael's was declared redundant in 1975. The church lay empty and abandoned for several years before being seriously vandalised in 1981. The Diocese of Chelmsford immediately obtained a demolition order, but before it could be carried out, however, there was a campaign to save the church. This was successful thanks to the co-operation of Colchester Borough Council and the then Redundant Churches Fund. The Borough oversaw the restoration of the nave and chancel, splitting the church into two levels and converting them into office spaces. It is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, and is currently jointly occupied by a firm of architects and a firm of accountants.



*St Michael's Church
with the Audley Chapel behind*



*Map view of the current Berechurch Hall
and Chapel (Open Street Map)*

Attached to the Church is the splendid Tudor Audley Chapel, built in the early C16th as a burial place for the Audley family, which is listed Grade II* by Historic England. The chapel is dominated by the tomb of Sir Henry Audley, erected in 1648, 24 years before his death! It includes a white marble effigy of Sir Henry in armour, reclining on a black and white tomb chest containing the carved figures of his five children. There is also a tablet to Robert Audley who died in 1624 and a number of memorials to other Berechurch worthies, mostly dating to the C19th, including that of Charlotte White, the illegitimate daughter, and heiress, of Sir George Smyth. Called 'The Last Dream', it was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1850. The chapel does not, however, contain a memorial to the notorious Sir Thomas Audley, who is buried at Saffron Walden (after his burial it was written that *"the stone is not harder, nor the marble blacker, than the heart of him who lies beneath"*).



Tomb of Sir Henry Audley 1648



Memorial to Charlotte White (nee Smyth) 1845

The chapel has a splendid single hammerbeam roof, decorated with carvings that include the emblems of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, suggesting that it was completed before the royal divorce in 1533, as well as heraldic badges containing the arms of Audley of Walden.

In the churchyard outside the chapel is the tomb of Midshipman James Ward, who sailed on the 'Resolution' with Captain Cook on his third voyage to the Pacific. Ward emerged from obscurity during the voyage by being the first European to see the Hawaiian Islands when he sighted O'ahu on the morning of 18 January 1778.

According to the website of the Churches Conservation Trust, the Audley Chapel is open to the public daily
John Moore

Pot Boilers?

Mike Hamilton-Macy



Most of us will have found or heard about "pot boilers", stones that were heated in a fire then used to heat water for cooking. Hmmm!

I've had my doubts about the effectiveness of this so decided to do a bit of Googling and experimental archaeology.

It would seem that there are those that accept the idea of heating water for cooking and those that don't, indeed papers have been written on the subject.

One practice that has emerged is that during the Bronze-Age, burnt stones were placed in pots and buried, sometimes in funerary contexts. The only explanations given are possibly votive or ritual.

While water will warm up if hot stones are dropped in it, you will end up with ash, grime, grit and small flint (in our area) fragments mixed with your drink/food. Not an appetising or healthy brew.

You will also have to keep replacing the stones to get any effective cooking time, this would mean having to fish them out from your raw/partially cooked food, it all seems a bit of a faff to me, might as well put your food on a stick and hold it over the fire!

CAG members have experimented with pot boilers before but I thought I'd give it a go as well.

I started wood fire and once it was well under way I placed a group of flints of varying size and colour in the centre, covering them with more wood.

After about half an hour they were a bright, chalky white, I removed several of them and dropped them into about a litre of water, several more I laid on the ground to cool naturally.

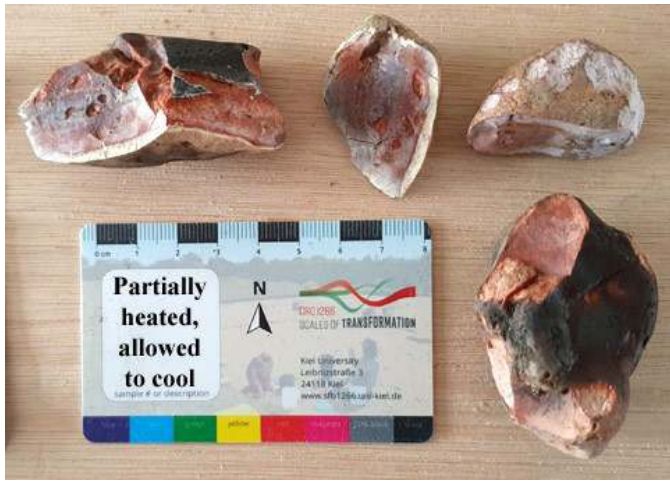
Now, I was expecting the water plunged flints to crack on the surface, the outer layer cooling faster and contracting more quickly than the inner, logically I thought would cause this phenomenon.

I also expected them to retain their newly acquired white colour.

I was wrong on both counts!

The results of various treatments are below.





As a comparison, below are some of the many, many heated flints I have found at Fordham, white pot boilers have also been found.



On handling the flints after they had cooled I noticed that the feel of the stones had changed depending on their treatment. Those that were highly heated seemed softer.

It then occurred to me, having just found another piece of flint tempered, Iron-Age pottery at Fordham, there may be another reason flint was heat treated. The flint tempering of pottery!

More experimental archaeology ensued. I took one of the flints and ground it into powder/fine fragments. This was surprisingly easy, the flint was considerably softer than untreated stone which shatters and flies all over the place when struck.

Below is a sample of the finished tempering with the Iron-Age pot sherd previously mentioned.



It was now time to test the flint temper in some pottery; I have previously experimented with the clay found on the Fordham site, as have the Young Archaeologists on one of the practical days we put on for them.

I tried firing a pot I'd made, having let it dry for weeks, in our oven at home.

Unfortunately it exploded into hundreds of pieces with a loud bang, I was not popular!

This time, with plenty of flint temper and heating it more slowly with a wood fire, my hopes for the desired result were higher. Sadly those hopes were dashed when another explosion occurred, hey ho.

On the bright side, the pot fragments do resemble partly oxidised Iron-Age pottery.



So, in conclusion, it is my view that using hot stone to heat water for cooking is a highly inefficient and slow process. I think it is just as or more likely that the white heated flint was used for pottery tempering.

Ecclesiastical Census Returns 1851

Alan Chaplin

While doing some recent research I was pointed to the Ecclesiastical Census Returns for March 1851. This may be of interest to members researching their local parishes. It is not a well known source of information unlike the general census of that year. It is available free on-line to download as pdfs. Go to the National Archives HO-129 and search for the Parish you are researching. Downloads are large so may be split.

The list is not comprehensive. It is disappointing as a number of well-known local churches do not appear to be in this record.

As described in Wikipedia: The Government conducted a census in England and Wales of churches and chapels, endowments, sittings, attendance at religious services on Sunday 30 March 1851 both large and small and the average numbers during the preceding twelve months. Reports were collected from local ministers. The attendance count was 10,896,066 (60.8%) out of a population of 17,927,609. There were 5,292,551 (48.6% of total attendants) attending Church of England services, 4,536,264 (41.6%) attending other Protestant churches, and 383,630 (3.5%) attending Catholic services. This was a unique experiment, not repeated at any later census.

There was no penalty for non-compliance, unlike the population census so it was up to local census takers and local clergy to fill in the returns based on local knowledge and perhaps some (best) guess work. Also, some non-conformist sects may have been missed. Records have been hand-written which can make it harder to read.

This census gives us some insight to the social structure at the time when village populations would have been smaller and the influence of the church and religion in people's lives would have been greater.

It would be normal at this time for those families attending the service to walk, possibly a mile or two to church in their "Sunday best" summer or winter. If you worked for the local Lord or a religious employer it would have been compulsory. To some however it was the social event of the week and time to catch up on the gossip.

The two examples are from Stanway (now Shub End church) a large parish church with an average attendance of about 200 which was then about normal for a C of E church and a non-conformist meeting house with an average attendance of 35.

Census of Great Britain, 1851. 205-8-7-7

(13 and 14 Victoria, Cap. 53.)

37

A RETURN

of several Particulars to be inquired into respecting the undermentioned CHURCH or CHAPEL in England, belonging to the United Church of England and Ireland.

Similar Return (complete or partial) will be obtained with respect to Churches belonging to the Established Church in Scotland, and the Episcopal Church there, and also from Roman Catholic Priests, and from the Ministers of every other Religious Denomination throughout Great Britain, with respect to their Places of Worship.

NAME and DESCRIPTION of CHURCH or CHAPEL.																																			
All Saints Church, for consolidated District Chapels formed from contiguous parts of the parishes of Stanway & Lexden by 59 Geo. III. 16 Dec. Chap: 136																																			
WHERE SITUATED.	Parish, Ecclesiastical Division or District, Township or Place	Superintendent Registrar's District	County and Diocese																																
Stanway	All Saints Chapel, Stanway & Lexden	Lexden & Stanway	Essex, Rochester																																
WHEN CONSECRATED OR LICENSED	Under what Circumstances CONSECRATED or LICENSED																																		
Consecrated 8 April 1845	additional for inhabitants of Lexden Heath, and to supply the place of a church in Stanway, destroyed partly & consecrated during the war																																		
In the case of a CHURCH or CHAPEL CONSECRATED or LICENSED since the 1st January, 1800; state																																			
HOW OR BY WHOM ERECTED		COST, how Defrayed																																	
By private subscription and grants from the Incorporated and the Essex Church Building Societies.		Church Building Society, By-Parish money, &c. 350 Residual Here 2585.16 Total Cost 2935.16																																	
V. HOW ENDOWED		VI. SPACE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP																																	
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>£</th> <th>s</th> <th>d</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Endow. of Rect. House</td> <td>60</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rect. House</td> <td>40</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Permanent Endow.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Sources</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>100</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			£	s	d	Endow. of Rect. House	60			Rect. House	40			Other Permanent Endow.				Other Sources				Total	100			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Free Sittings</td> <td>202</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Sittings</td> <td>66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Sittings</td> <td>268</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Number	Free Sittings	202	Other Sittings	66	Total Sittings	268
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Estimated Number of Persons attending Divine Service on Sunday, March 30, 1851.		AVERAGE NUMBER OF ATTENDANTS during 12 Months next preceding March 30, 1851. (See Instruction VII.)																																	
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Evening</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>General Congregation</td> <td>95</td> <td>148</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday Scholars</td> <td>56</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>151</td> <td>178</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Morning	Afternoon	Evening	General Congregation	95	148		Sunday Scholars	56	30		Total	151	178		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Morning</th> <th>Afternoon</th> <th>Evening</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>General Congregation</td> <td>110</td> <td>160</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday Scholars</td> <td>42</td> <td>42</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>152</td> <td>202</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Morning	Afternoon	Evening	General Congregation	110	160		Sunday Scholars	42	42		Total	152	202	
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Total	152	202																																	
REMARKS																																			
The holy Communion having been administered on Sunday March 30, and a heavy shower having come on in the afternoon both the morning & afternoon congregations were below the average.																																			

I certify the foregoing to be a true and correct Return to the best of my belief.

Witness my hand this 31st day of March 1851.

IX. (Signature) John L. Dole

(Official Character) Incumbent

(Address by Post) Stanway & Lexden

Colchester

(13 and 14 Victoria, cap. 53.)

A RETURN OF THE SEVERAL PARTICULARS TO BE INQUIRED INTO RESPECTING THE UNDERMENTIONED PLACE OF PUBLIC RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.

(Note: A similar Return will be obtained from the Clergy of the Church of England, and also from the Ministers of every other Religious Denomination throughout Great Britain.)

I.	II. Where Situated, specifying the			III. Religion	IV. When	V. Whether a	VI. Whether	VII. Space available for	VIII. Estimated Number of Persons	IX. REMARKS
Name or Title of Place of Worship	Parish or Place	District	County	Denomination	Erected	Separate and Entire Building	used exclusively as a Place of Worship (except for a Sunday School)	Public Worship already Provided for: Free Other Sittings	attending Divine Service on Sunday, March 30, 1851	
	(1)	(2)	(3)					(4) (5)	Morning Afternoon Evening	
Colgate	Colgate	Colgate	Colgate	Methodist	1800	No	No	No sitting	General Congregation 25 Sunday Scholars 35 TOTAL 60	
								Free Space or Sunday Room for	Average Number of Attendants during 12 months (See Instruction VIII.)	
								General Congregation Sunday Scholars TOTAL		

I certify the foregoing to be a true and correct Return to the best of my belief. Witness my hand this 20th day of April 1851.

X. (Signature) William Thorne

(Official Character) Wesleyan Minister

(Address by Post) Colchester

205 129 OH

Colchester Civil War Pamphlet 1648

Alan Chaplin

During the seventeenth century pamphlets were the main source of information for most members of the population. Printed on one sheet of paper and sold in the streets. Here is one from the Siege of Colchester in 1648.

During the Siege both sides were involved in skirmishes one major incident was when the Royalists broke out of the town at East Gates with 500 men and 200 calvery and engaged Parliamentary positions across the river. The battle continued until the Royalists finally retreated after running out of ammunitious. (1)



A Transcription of pamphlet is:

A great and bloody*

FIGHT

AT

Colchester upon Sunday night last, and the

Sallying out of General Lucas General Hastings and

Colonall Farr , with a great Party of Horse and foot, upon the Parliaments Forces, cutting off the Perduce** and advancing up to the

Works, with the number that were killed and taken, and their displaying of new stratagems by fire. Likewise, Gen(eral) Fairfax his

Propositions to the Soldiery in the Town. And the Princes Reso-

lution concerning the Army Signed, Charles T.

Colchester Leagure***

(A Woodblock Print)

Printed for G. Holton and are to be sold at Temple gate

MDCXLVIII

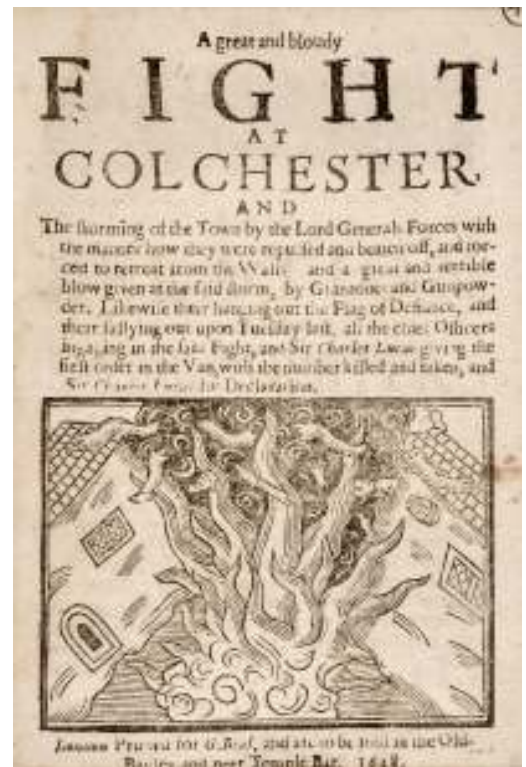
Notes

*Bloody; Bloody, **Perduce: Front line/sentries, *** Leagure: Camp

Sources

- (1) Starvation or Surrender. Matthews Carter's Siege of Colchester. Presented by John Hedges and Patrick Denny. JMH Publications 2002. Limited edition
- (2) Pamphlet images sourced from the Internet

Here is one you can transcribe yourselves:
(Sorry about the quality)



Katherine's Cookies

As those who work on the Fordham site it has become traditional for some members to bring in a sample of their home baking to share at break time. This normally happens on a Sunday. However, on Tuesdays Neil brings in cookies made by his wife which are always appreciated. Katherine is American which is reflected in her baking. Below is her recipe for chocolate chip cookies if you fancy trying it out.

Chocolate Chip

It's an American recipe -- 1 cup is 8 fluid ounces. To measure the butter, fill a glass measuring cup to 12 oz...add butter (fully submerged) until the water rises to 20 oz...and you've got 8 oz of butter.

Ingredients:

- 2 1/4 cups self-raising flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda (bicarb)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 8 oz butter
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar (should keep its shape when tipped out of the measuring cup; I use a random mix of light and dark brown)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- 2 cups Nestle's choc chips (you can use any brand...or roughly chop a bar of dark chocolate)
- 1 cup chopped nuts (I tend not to bother)

Method:

- Sift flour, baking soda and salt into a small bowl.
- Beat butter, sugars and vanilla in a large mixer bowl until creamy.
- Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.
- Add flour, chocolate (and nuts) and mix well.

Drop by rounded tablespoons onto ungreased baking trays. I use a mini ice cream scoop -- faster than fiddling with spoons...ask N to get one next time he's in the US...

Bake at 375F for 9-11 minutes. Don't let them get too brown (or they'll be harder / drier)...use the shorter time for chewier cookies...take them out when they look just set.

Cool on the trays for a couple of minutes, then move to wire racks to cool completely.

Obituary



Jan Harrison (1937 – 2024)

Jan was a member of CAG for about thirty years and was almost always present at our events. She hardly ever missed a Monday evening lecture and came on most of the walks, visits, coach trips and weekends. She was always very helpful when anything needed doing. For many years she and Dave ran the bar at CAG parties and a highlight of those parties was her home-made (and home-grown) redcurrant dessert for which there was always a long queue. CAG will be the poorer for her absence. *(Anna Moore)*

Jan and her husband Dave were for nearly twenty years core members and leaders of our often unsung and overlooked, but essential, finds processing team -working on CAG's digs at Great Tey, Wormingford, Marks Hall and latterly Fordham, as well as many other minor digs.

Working in borrowed barns, outhouses and corners of industrial units, often in cold, damp, poorly lit and totally unsuitable conditions, they must have washed, processed, conserved and catalogued hundreds of thousands of finds, making them suitable for subsequent investigation, identification and archiving. *(John Mallinson)*

I first met Jan about 30 years ago when we were doing one of Pat Brown's courses – Improvers Archaeology I think it was called. I had done 'Beginners' the year before and Jan was one of four ladies who had done it the term before.

The five of us quickly established a friendship group and had many trips out together – West Stowe, Fitzwilliam Museum, Sutton Hoo to name but a few. We quite often just had lunch together – missing out on the archaeology! Jan was always very sociable and keen to do anything, or go anywhere.

Jan and Dave, her husband, were always very good company on our CAG weekend trips away, which we did for many years. They made sure single ladies, such as myself, were included in the late-night drinking in the bar – not that it was very late. Those archaeology weekends could be hard work!

Jan was a dear friend to me, and will be sadly missed. *(Hilary Cairns)*



Summer and Autumn with Colchester Young Archaeologists' Club

Barbara Butler

Colchester YAC continued to go out and about in the Summer. In June we enjoyed a visit to Fordham, kindly hosted by CAG members, where we learned bone identification, and tried reconstructing pots from sherds. Most popular was the metal detecting. The group were delighted with a large lump of rusty metal, which had given a very strong signal. "We dug it up!" One of them announced, delightedly.



YAC dig on the Fordham Roman site



Ashley Cooper shows YAC members the Hill Farm site

CAG member Ashley Cooper hosted a memorable visit to Hill Farm Roman site and museum at Gestingthorpe, in July. Colchester YAC members were able to answer his questions and enjoyed exploring the site.

We have been able to welcome two new volunteer assistants for the club, which has enabled us to invite more members to join and shorten our waiting list. Some of these came to Fordham in September, where Mike Hamilton Macy and Jonathan Oldham hosted us. Members identified their finds from pictures. These included Roman tegula and pot fragments, burnt flint, bone, iron, and a nail. We identified these from pictures at our November meeting.

The club met at Roman Circus House in October. Members brought in finds to identify. These included a fossil bison leg bone, which was discovered on East Mersea mud at low tide. It is thought it had been dislodged by high tides and strong winds which had eroded the cliffs. There was a further intake of new members from our



Bone identification at Fordham



Fossil Bison bone found by YAC



*Volunteer Sam makes medieval purses
with the YAC*



Life on earth

waiting list. Caroline Davies brought in some intriguing artefacts, for us to identify, which she had found in drawers, cupboards and pockets. Mike Corbishly donated a boxful of books to the club, many of which he had written himself.

In November we unveiled our “Life on Earth” timeline. This project has been ongoing since 2013, when Adam Wightman enthralled club members for two hours by talking about and explaining the “stones”, which they had gathered on a field walk. Our field walk in Wormingford had been organised and overseen by archaeologist Howard Brooks. When we were going through the finds from our field walk, Adam told us that, using the scale of our rudimentary timeline, we would need to be extend it out of the door, down the stairs and up the road to indicate the millions of years required. Our fossil expert made us a timeline on paper before the pandemic. Club members have since been illustrating this. The donations in memory of Mark Davies enabled us to engage a graphic artist to re-draw and colour our paper timeline and use the artworks from club members to illustrate it. This has been printed on vinyl which is flexible and durable. We have now embarked on our “Human Life” timeline project.

Barbara Butler

Late News

A Letter to Philip Crummy MBE

Dear Philip.

On behalf of the Colchester Archaeological Group committee and membership, I would like to congratulate you on being awarded an MBE “For services to Archaeology and Heritage.”

This is a well-deserved award for your 55 years (and counting!) of dedication and work.

From your first dig in Oxfordshire as a student to your directorship of Colchester Archaeological Trust with many excavations and the publication of 48 books, articles and reports along the way. The discovery, excavation and preservation of Colchester Roman Circus, being a standout example of your achievements, crowning a long and exceptional career.

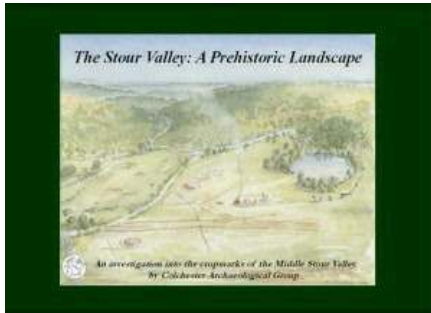
Well done!

Best regards,

Mike Hamilton-Macy (CAG chairman).

CAG Publications

contact CAG Sales – sales@caguk.net



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.

On-line publications found on our website: caguk.net/publications

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:

- (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 Brook

Four of the Citizan reports on the Mersea Island Discovery Programme are now available to read or download (PDF):

1. Survey of intertidal remains adjacent to scheduled ancient monument 1013832 Tudor Blockhouse East Mersea, Essex. O.Hutchinson & D.Newman. September 2022
2. The intertidal archaeology of Monkey Beach Mersea Island, Essex Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network Report. O.Hutchinson. September 2022
3. A mid-Saxon structure in the intertidal zone at Point Clear, River Colne, Essex O.Hutchinson & D.Newman. September 2022
4. A large mid-Saxon timber structure in the intertidal zone Sea View, Mersea Island, Essex Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network Report. O.Hutchinson. September 2022

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



CAG COMMITTEE

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General member	Don Goodman

General enquiries – enquiries@caguk.net

Membership – membership@caguk.net

Sales – sales@caguk.net

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

Registered Charity No. 1028434

Notices

Membership fees. As agreed at the last AGM the membership fees from the 1st October were: Single member £15.00. Student member £10.00. Joint members £25.00

Membership renewal forms will be emailed out before the next AGM

GDPR act. For a copy of our Data protection policy please contact the Membership secretary
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 July 25. Please submit your articles or items of interest by the end of June to alanchaplin2@sky.com

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