



# Project Newsletter

## Issue 2

November 2020

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Welcome to the Lossenham Project newsletter. Once a month we will be keeping you up to date with the latest news and any events you can get involved in.

In this issue we will be updating you on the first metal detecting survey, introducing you to the History Group, and on the other events that happened throughout October.

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### Metal Detecting Survey

On 5 October we conducted our first metal detecting survey with the Kent Archaeological Metal detector Support Group (KAMSU). We focused our attention on a field on the high ground overlooking the levels, but couldn't resist the opportunity to do a bit of detecting on the lower ground whilst it was dry.

The finds were predominantly made of iron and reflected the agricultural nature of the landscape with machine parts, horse shoes, barbed wire, bolts and nails, and the waste from shot cartridges.

Of particular interest, however, was a small fragment of a possible medieval cauldron recovered from the high ground. As the area was ploughed in the past so it will be impossible at this stage to say where it originally came from, but we have plans to do more detecting in this field next year and hopefully uncover more evidence.



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Any questions about the project can be directed to Annie Partridge [annie.partridge@canterburytrust.co.uk](mailto:annie.partridge@canterburytrust.co.uk)

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## Introducing the History Group

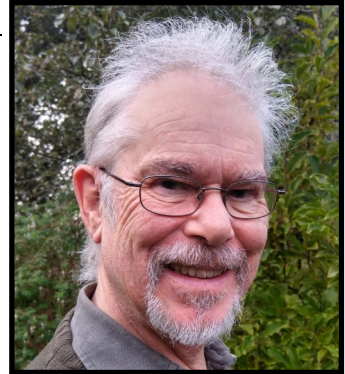


Åke Nilson

Åke has lived in Newenden for thirty years and has no relevant qualifications other than an insatiable curiosity about why things are how they are and were. A series of lectures for the Friends of St Peter's Church in Newenden formed the basis for a small publication of historical essays in 2013 and, although now retired from his role as Chairman of the Parish Council, he continues to take an interest in this small community on the border of Marsh and Weald.

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Brendan Chester-Kadwell



Dr Brendan Chester-Kadwell is a landscape historian specialising in the development of rural settlement associated with coastal wetlands. He has published on settlement in the Eastern High Weald, including the Rother Upper Levels, and is researching wood pastures in the High Weald. He also has a background in medieval theology and church history and edited and co-authored a book on the Carmelite Friary at Burnham Norton, Norfolk (2019). Brendan once lived in East Sussex and knows the area intimately.



Richard Copsey, O. Carm.

Fr Richard Copsey is a member of the Carmelite Order, a teacher, and priest. He taught in the English Province, where he was Prior Provincial for three years and, after time at Rome and Aberdeen, now serves the parish of Faversham. He has published on Carmelite history, contributed entries on Carmelites to the ODNB, and his Biographical Register of Carmelites in England and Wales 1240-1540 appeared recently. His survey of Lossenham in the 2020 volume of *Archaeologia Cantiana* is the priory's most up-to-date history.

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Helen Clarke



After retiring from the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, as Senior Lecturer in Medieval Archaeology, Dr Helen Clarke continued her work on the archaeology and history of English medieval towns concentrating on Sussex and Kent. The lost site of Sandwich Whitefriars, encouraged her Carmelite studies and visits to Norfolk introduced her to another medieval Carmelite friary there, Burnham Norton, which was founded just before Lossenham in Kent. Participation in The Lossenham Project is a logical next step.



Sheila Sweetinburgh

Using a microhistory approach to the study of 'history from below', Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh has explored numerous topics within medieval and early modern Kent society. As well as working on agrarian society, she has published extensively on various aspects of urban culture and edited *Early Medieval Kent, 800-1220* and *Later Medieval Kent, 1220-1540*. Also with Boydell, she is one of the editors of *Maritime Kent through the Ages*, which it is hoped will be out in 2021.



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## The History Group

The four founder members of the History Group met on 6 October to discuss the aims of the Project. Together we cover many aspects of research, particularly with medieval documents relating to Lossenham, Newenden and neighbouring parishes. Future work will entail visits to the County Archives and there will also be opportunities for fieldwalking, to discover and record earthworks as evidence of medieval and later occupation.

We hope to recruit volunteers for both indoor and outdoor activities, with our member Åke Nilson, a Newenden resident, campaigning for volunteers in the village. If you would like to receive our Newsletter to keep you up to date with what is happening, please send your email address to Annie Partridge ([annie.partridge@canterburytrust.co.uk](mailto:annie.partridge@canterburytrust.co.uk)).

The first organized activity for volunteers will be a Workshop, date to be confirmed, when we will talk about what has happened so far, show examples of different types of documents, and discuss what they can tell us. Because of Covid-19, this Workshop will be a Zoom meeting, hosted by CAT, ideally before Christmas 2020. So, once again, let us know your email address and we will tell you about the date and time of the meeting. Keep an eye on your Inbox!

*Helen Clarke for The History Group*

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### Summary of work up to November

The weather at the beginning of October was beautiful and we took advantage of the pleasant autumnal sunshine to get some fieldwork started.

In the next issue we will be updating you on the borehole survey undertaken on the levels. A borehole survey is where a small core of earth is analysed and specialists can chart changes in the landscape over time. How far back we go depends on what questions we want to answer but archaeologists focus mainly with the past 900,000 years—anything older than that in the UK is pre-human habitation (but no less interesting!). We hope to have some results of the survey to share with you in next months newsletter.

We have started the magnetometer survey with the Hastings Area Archaeological Group and will share those with you in the New Year. The magnetometer survey is a form of geophysics (often called 'geofizz' on Time Team!) and will tell us where we want to target any trenches we want to open.

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### Covid update and future events

When writing the first issue back at the end of September we were hopeful of perhaps being permitted to continue with our work at Lossenham, winter weather permitting.

Unfortunately, as you will know, the pandemic situation continues to change rapidly and the current restrictions make physical events impossible. We will continue to give you the results of any field work we have managed to accomplish and update you on the History Groups research over the winter, and with a bit of luck we can start planning some events for next year!

We look forward to meeting you all when it is safe to do so, and we thank you for your continued patience and understanding. In the meantime we are discussing hosting a zoom workshop before Christmas so do make sure Annie has your e-mail for the contact list if you want to join in.