



CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

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CAS Excursions 2026

Tour of St. John's College architecture by Holly Smith. Saturday 7 March 2026, 11.00 - 13.00.

Oscar Aldred will give a tour of Wandlebury, reporting the latest finds from the Department of Archaeology excavations. 4.00 pm Saturday 2nd May.

Visit to the Ascension burial ground, (Huntingdon Road) guided tour by Mark Goldie, at 10.00 am on Saturday 16th May followed by **Histon Road Cemetery** guided tour by Michael French at 11.30 am. Limited to 25 people. We will make donations to the two cemeteries for upkeep.

Magdalene Garden Party 3:30 - 6:00pm on Sunday 19th July. Tickets, cost t.b.c.

To book, contact the excursions organiser, Simon Stoddart, ss16@cam.ac.uk or 01223 333524. There is no charge for these events, unless specified.

CAS Spring Conference, 'Standing Cambridge Buildings - new perspectives.' It will be held at Cripps Court, Magdalene College on Saturday 14th March 2026.

Bookings on Eventbrite through our website, see Conferences: www.camantsoc.org

Seventeen speakers offer new views of historic buildings and sites in Cambridge in three sessions, on topics ranging from building materials and structural form to the historical perspectives of archaeologists and building historians noted for their interpretations of the buildings of Cambridge. Organised by Jeremy Musson FSA Chaired by Prof Simon Stoddart, president of CAS.

Simon Stoddart - Cyril Fox and the relationship of archaeology and architectural history Origins and Landmarks

John Goodall; Craig Cessford; Christopher Evans; Elizabeth Deans; William Aslet

Materials and Meanings

Nigel Woodcock; James Campbell; Matt Cooper; Kieran Gleave; Frank Salmon

Historical Narratives/Narrators of Cambridge

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Alexandrina Buchanan; Holly Smith; Oliver Caroe; Polly Hudson; Jeremy Musson & Simon Bradley - Nikolaus Pevsner and Cambridge

Cambridge Architectural History Seminars - Old Hall Queens' College. All from 6.00pm in person *with drinks* and online. Registration through the website: <https://www.arct.cam.ac.uk/research/research-seminars/the-cambridge-architectural-history-seminars>

Monday 23 February, Hugh Pearman (MBE, architectural writer and former editor of the RIBA Journal, chair of the C20 Society) 'Megalithic Temple to Amazon Warehouse: What Use Is Architecture?' Register here to attend in-person: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hugh-pearman-what-use-is-architecture-tickets-1980782502787> Register here to attend online: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/a7953210-1b04-4e0d-82f4-6bbc173b53bb@49a50445-bdfa-4b79-ade3-547b4f3986e9>

Monday 9 March, Dr Sofia Nivarti (Architect, architectural historian and assistant Professor at the University of Cambridge. 'After Aalto'. Register here to attend in-person: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dr-sofia-nivarti-after-aalto-tickets-1980782699375> Register here to attend online: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/32323fa6-4697-45ca-b399-b6fd92982ce2@49a50445-bdfa-4b79-ade3-547b4f3986e9>

Huntingdonshire Local History Society Lecture: Philip Saunders - Zoom talk and workshop session at Huntingdonshire Archives, 'Ordnance Survey Maps for the Local Historian' on Tuesday 10th February, 7:30pm and 2:30pm on Wednesday 11th February. The Ordnance Survey is an invaluable tool for local history of all kinds, whether family history, history of a house or other building, landscape, agriculture or industry. It also provides the base map for many other kinds of record. In the evening talk Philip will concentrate on what is now available online and on the following afternoon illustrate what is available at Huntingdonshire Archives. For the visit to Archives please book by email to David Smith, info@huntslhs.org.uk by Sunday 8th February.

On Tuesday 10th March, **Paul Stamper: 'The Decline of the Great Estate and the Country House'** Paul worked for English Heritage for 20 years including as Senior Adviser on listing buildings. His wide knowledge has borne fruit in many academic and popular writings. He has a particular interest in the relationship of the great country house to agriculture and the landscape. As recently as the last war Huntingdonshire had many of these, but today out of town only Abbots Ripton and Elton remain in use as private homes and several of the others have disappeared entirely. To what extent is this the consequence of changing society, taxation, farming or tastes in field sports? These are some of the questions Paul will address. At 7:30pm, Huntingdon Methodist Church, 17 High Street Huntingdon. Parking at public car park on Malting Close, PE29 3AR.

Cambridgeshire Association for Local History lecture at 2:15pm on Saturday 7 February 2026, by Rosie Zanders on 'Cambridge per diem: a record of Cambridge connections' Rosie Zanders, a former Cambridge Blue Badge tourist guide, will be sharing insights from her book 'Cambridge *per diem*, a daily chronicle of Cambridge

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connections'. This book brings together notable anniversaries linked to Cambridge, at least one for every day of the calendar year. This illustrated talk will be tailor-made for CALH and will include some lesser-known, perhaps even surprising, Cambridge connections. At St John's Church Hall, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 8RN Entry free to CALH members. Affiliate society members are welcome on payment of £1, non-members £2.50. Light refreshments will be available.

Cambridgeshire Geological Society - Dr Mike Tuke: Monday 9th February 2026, 'Determining the shape, size, and internal structure of the Earth.' At 7.30 pm (doors open 7.00 pm). Everyone welcome, free to CGS members, £3 for non members.

Also, Monday 9th March 2026 Discovering Arthropleura – The Giant Millipede by Professor Neil Davies. Talks are held at St Andrew's Centre, Histon: Hall 1, St Andrews Centre, School Hill, Histon, Cambridge CB24 9JE. The Citi 8 bus stops outside the Centre and the Guided Bus is 15 minutes walk away. There is a free car park approximately 200m along the road just past a small supermarket.

Cambridge Archaeology Field Group - A reminder that we have a talk at the McDonald Institute Cambridge this Wednesday 4th February, 7:15-9:30pm. **Imogen Gunn, Collections Manager for Archaeology**, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge. The talk title will be: **'Getting to the Bottom of the Cambridge Ale Jug'**. For your diaries, our March talk will be given by Oscar Aldred of CAU, who will be talking about the 2024/25 excavations at Wandlebury (*as recently featured on Digging for Britain*).

Cambridge Archaeology Unit - If you're interested in archaeology a lot of our publications are available free to download from the University of Cambridge's Apollo Repository, including the Must Farm pile-dwelling settlement volumes. It's been almost two years since these were published with Volume I nearly at 18,000 downloads! <https://doi.org/10.17863/CAM.106697>

The Fenscapes project is discussed in an article by the team in the journal 'Antiquity.' Rachel Ballantyne, Phil Stastney and Neal Payne of the Fenscapes team explain their approach to characterising and synthesising data for sedimentological, biological and cultural archaeological remains. Available free here:

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/antiquity/article/fenscapes-archaeology-natural-heritage-and-environmental-change-in-the-fens-of-eastern-england/4E-BC97511951494E53243868425F4632>

Fen Edge Archaeology Group - Friday 13th February, Cottenham Village Hall, Lambs Lane, Cottenham. Joint meeting with Cottenham Village Society

'Cottenham – A brief history of Enclosure' by Bill Franklin

Enclosure by Act of Parliament shaped the modern landscape and altered the profile of towns and villages, and while much study focuses on Parliamentary Enclosure, much enclosure and many resulting changes occurred long before any Act of Parliament was passed. This talk will give a brief overview of the subject and then consider the history of enclosure in Cottenham and its effects on the landscape and the village.

Admission: free for members of either society; £3 for non-members.

Histon & Impington Archaeology Group - Monday 16th February at 7.30 pm

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From the Neolithic to the Second World War: Geophysical Surveys by the Community Archaeology Geophysics Group (CAGG), Dr Kris Lockyear, Senior Lecturer, University College, London

CAGG was founded in 2013 to undertake magnetometry surveys in Hertfordshire. Since then, the group has surveyed about 70 sites across the southeast of England and the range of techniques used has also expanded. This talk will introduce the group and then give a short introductory explanation of the techniques. The talk will then showcase some of their surveys including a neolithic long barrow, a Roman villa and a WW2 American Air Force base.

Speaker Biography Kris became interested in archaeology on a school visit to Verulamium in 1975. Later that year he joined the Welwyn Archaeological Society and 50 years later is its Director. Kris has degrees from Durham, Southampton and University College, London and is now a Senior Lecturer at UCL. He undertook earth resistance surveys for his undergraduate dissertation and has now led surveys on sites in the UK, the USA, Italy, Romania, Greece, Poland and Iraq.

As usual the talk will be held in Histon Methodist Church, 7.30 pm, and will also be available on zoom. More details can be found [here](#) Admission is free for members. For those members wishing to attend by zoom, the link will be sent the day before the meeting.

The cost to non-members is £4 payable at the venue or for on-line viewing by the purchase of Zoom tickets from our [Eventbrite Page](#)

Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London - The 'Emergence of Civilisation' and the Maghreb: New Discoveries at Later Prehistoric Oued Beht, Morocco. Thursday 12 February, 5pm. Free in-person & online lecture.

This lecture will present new discoveries made by an international collaboration of UK-based, Italian, Moroccan and other archaeologists at Oued Beht, Morocco, and dating to the later 4th to 3rd/2nd millennia BC. The first results have recently been published in *Antiquity*, and have attracted considerable international media attention.

Rustic Dwellings in Rugged Protuberances. Thursday 26 February, 5pm. Free in-person & online lecture. This lecture details the results of the first ever study of Britain's rock-cut sites. Often mistaken for caves, these buildings range from vast medieval hermitages to the humble dwellings of the rural poor. They have inspired everyone from Tolkien to Sabine Baring-Gould and Robert Plant, yet have (until now) been very poorly understood.

All of our lectures are live streamed and are open to anyone to join us online, Fellows and Non-Fellows. To view any of our past lectures please visit our [YouTube channel](#).

Fenland Archaeology Society, Bob Smith, 'Neolithic Orkney - a personal journey through the extraordinary.' On Wednesday 25th February at 7pm. Orkney is a very special place and like everywhere, has seen lots of changes. The impact of cruise liners and the increase of tourists has seen many of the Neolithic sites become so popular, that erosion is becoming a real issue. Bob has been visiting the sites for 35 years on an annual basis and will discuss what they represent and how it is still possible to enjoy the extraordinary richness of this jewel in the UK's neolithic crown. Bob Smith holds various postgraduate qualifications including an M. Litt from the University of the Highlands and Islands. He studied there for 2 years focusing on the history of the Highlands and Islands and the neolithic archaeology of Orkney. He is a life member of the Orkney Archaeological Society.

The venue is Wisbech Rugby Club, bookings through; info@fenarch.org.uk Wisbech Rugby Club is situated on Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. There is a massive car park, and the bar will be open. Admission £4 for non-members, pay at the door.

Spalding Gentlemen's Society Public Lecture Programme 2026. All lectures are held at Broad Street Methodist Church, starting at 7.30 pm. There is a £5 charge for everyone, payable at the door. Free entry for full-time students. See www.sgsoc.org/forthcoming-events for more information. Contact, Sue Martinelli Lecture Co-ordinator, The Museum, Broad Street, Spalding PE11 1TB Tel. 01775 724658, or visit the website: www.sgsoc.org

20th February – ‘Nature’s recovery from the Humber to The Wash: A Greater Lincolnshire story’, presented by Tammy Smalley, Head of Conservation at Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

6th March – ‘The Worshipful Company of Stationers, Past, Present & Future’, presented by Moira Sleight, Member of the Worshipful Company of Stationers.

20th March – ‘Hiding in plain sight: The Greyfriars Lincoln, England’s oldest Friary Church’, presented by Mark Gardiner, Emeritus Professor of Medieval Archaeology at the University of Lincoln.

Gresham College Lectures - ‘Mithras: Master of Mystery’ by Professor Ronald Hutton. The cult of Mithras is the most famous of the mystery religions of the Roman Empire, meaning closed societies of worshippers, entered by initiation, conducting private rituals, and intended to give members a special relationship with a particular deity or pair of them. The current evidence for it consists of 420 ruined shrines, around 1100 images, a few short texts and a few denunciations by Christians. This sounds like a lot, but actually misses almost all the information that we need about the beliefs and practices of the cult. As a result, historians are left with a scarily large amount of ignorance and a huge space for speculation. You can now listen to the audio recording download the accompanying text and watch the enhanced video online. Available now to watch on YouTube.

Dodgy Deities: Problematic Pagan Goddesses and Gods - Bridget: Goddess and Saint. Lecture by Professor Ronald Hutton, Tuesday, 10th Mar 2026 - 18:00

Bridget is the most popular Celtic goddess or saint in modern spirituality. She straddles the pagan and Christian division as no other figure does, and remains entirely benign while being also independent and capable. She is at once the Mother Saint of Gaelic people and a pagan goddess of healing, poetry and smithcraft. This lecture examines the very tangled history that lies behind this identity. It asks if the goddess became the saint, or if they were different beings, and how good the evidence is for the existence of a real woman or a genuine pagan deity behind all the mythology. <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/speakers/professor-ronald-hutton>

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust - ‘5000 years of environmental archaeology in the Fens’.

Message from Lorraine Heyes Fens East Peat Partnership Project Administrator: The recording is now available on Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust’s YouTube platform:-

[Fens East Peat Partnership \(FEPP\) and Natural England lowland peat in the Fens webinar series - YouTube.](#)

If you would like your events to be featured in our next newsletter please contact; publicity@camantsoc.org

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