Report for May 2026 meeting of Borden Parish Council

The BHG committee had a phenomenal surprise on Saturday afternoon, the carpark was packed within 10 minutes of us opening the Parish Hall doors!
Almost two hundred visitors and exhibitors came to the Parish hall to see our first Archaeological Roadshow.

Exhibitors included: Borden Heritage Group, Sittingbourne Heritage Museum, Sittingbourne Heritage Museum (BHG), Historic Research Group of Sittingbourne (HRGS), Milton Court Hall Museum, Commonwealth War Graves Commission (Stephen Palmer) Dr Paul Wilkinson (SWAT Archaeology), Andy Stephney (Metal Detectorist) and Sutton Baron Hall (Mr & Mrs Aspin).

The Borden Heritage Group's tables included display boards of information, resulting from Ann Sefton's research into the archaeology of the local area and items from John Hepburn's personal and BHG archives, with maps, photos, and written information. They also created a children's 'Mini-dig' activity, with an opportunity to find buried treasure, with mini tools and John's hand held detector, around 10-12 children and their families take part in this activity,

and much fun was had by all!

Thanks to a grant from Swale Borough Council Local Engagement Fund we were able to offer free entry to both visitors and exhibitions. Several members of the public brought along interesting items for our finds table and experts were available to give information if necessary.

Nearing the end of the event, Ann Sefton (BHG) was approached by Simon Mason, Principal Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council who had come as a visitor to the event; they had an interesting discussion about the significance of Borden and indeed Swale's archaeology and its importance to the national historical record. Ann and Simon discussed the Roman child's burial, lead coffin, and foundations, found during brickearth excavations in 1879, as recorded by local Victorian Archaeologist George Payne Junior, along the Borden side of Watling Street (now the A2). Simon suggested this may have been a similar mausoleum site to that recently discovered on the A2 at Teynham. They also discussed local heritage and the need for a new Museum in Sittingbourne.

Some social media comments posted after the event highlight the goodwill and positive impact of the BHG Archaeology Roadshow -

Such an enjoyable afternoon, thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this happen. I really hope it becomes an annual event. I now have a 5year old wannabe archaeologist! – Sarah

A very interesting and informative day. Brought another 4 books for my collection and had some great conversations. The exhibits were fascinating, especially the child's shoe from Sutton Baron, where my partner's ancestors once lived. Thanks to all involved - Ian

It was brilliant - Thank you! - Dani

What a great turn out it was. Very informative and came away with another book. Thank you! - Lara

Thank you to everyone involved in organising this event. It is fantastic that you are keeping our local history alive. - Trevor

This was brilliant and very interesting. Thank you! - Denise

It was great to see so many people and chat to old faces and new - Stephen

Really enjoyed all the various displays and especially the archaeological presentation by Ann at the Heritage Group tables. - Jonathan

A full report of the event compiled by Ann Sefton will be sent to Swale Borough Council, and is available from BHG on request.

Eileen Harrison BHG Chairman

bordenheritage.co.uk