

SHORNE WOODS COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT, GRAVESEND, KENT

August 15, 2011 Andrew Mayfield Archaeological Media, Community Archaeology, Day of Archaeology 2011, Education, Environmental Archaeology, Excavation, Finds, Medieval, Periods, Science Academia, Anthropology, Archaeology, Army Camp, Cobham, Community Archaeology, Governor, Gravesend, manor site, medieval, Mesolithic, Museology, RAF camp, Shorne, www.facebook.com/archaeologyinkent, www.kent.gov.uk/randallmanor



Randall Manor Dig 2011

Greetings from Shorne Woods! From the 9th to the 31st of July, schools, volunteers, members of the public, local archaeology groups and societies worked on the excavations taking place at Randall Manor. The excavations form part of a wider community archaeology project to investigate the archaeology and history of the Shorne Woods Country Park. On the Day of Archaeology itself we were all hard at work trying to understand the latest in a long line of questions prompted by our excavations. How do the different building phases relate to each other? How many times was the kitchen rebuilt? Do we have a bakehouse, a brewery or even a smokehouse structure in the north east corner of the site? We have been running a daily blog about the dig on our facebook site www.facebook.com/archaeologyinkent and also have a page at www.kent.gov.uk/randallmanor

One of our youngest aspiring photographers on site has also taken a series of shots to reflect a Day in the Life of the Randall Manor Dig and I will be posting these on facebook shortly...

The manor site was occupied from the 12th century through to the early 16th century, with our pottery assemblage and historical research in agreement over the main period of occupation. The manor was home to a branch of the de Cobham family, who lived at the site from c.1250-1360. We have what we believe to be a large timber hall, it's northern end rebuilt in stone, with an additional building containing a garderobe then built onto the main building. Detached from it all is a kitchen building with successive tile and then stone hearths.

Elsewhere within the Park we have a large scatter of mesolithic waste flakes, an RAF and Army Camp and the remains of a twentieth century clayworks. LiDAR has revealed an extensive collection of earthworks relating to all periods of the Park's past, that we still need to groundtruth!



School group on site during the 2011 season