

# KENT UNDERGROUND RESEARCH GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1185775

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2019-10-14

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 7 Dove Close  
Kingsnorth  
Ashford  
Kent  
TN23 3NU

**Phone** 01233501191

**Email** [kurgsec@gmail.com](mailto:kurgsec@gmail.com)

**Website** [KURG.org.uk](http://KURG.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS TO ADVANCE EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT INTO THE ORIGINS, HISTORY, AND USES OF UNDERGROUND SITES AND ASSOCIATED SURFACE FEATURES ESPECIALLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY IN THE ANCIENT COUNTY OF KENT AND TO DISSEMINATE ALL USEFUL KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED BY MEANS OF PUBLICATIONS AND LECTURES AND TO PROVIDE SPECIALIST AND PRACTICAL ADVICE. NOTHING IN THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL AUTHORISE AN APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CIO FOR THE PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 7 OF THE CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT.

**Activities:** To advance education for the public benefit into the origins, history and uses of underground sites and associated surface features especially but not exclusively in the ancient county of Kent and to disseminate all useful knowledge acquired by means of publications and lectures and to provide specialist and practical advise.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Kent

## Finances

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| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2024-12-31 | £1,618 | £1,278      | -      | -         |
| 2023-12-31 | £1,794 | £903        | -      | -         |
| 2022-12-31 | £1,595 | £1,307      | -      | -         |
| 2021-12-31 | £1,488 | £1,187      | -      | -         |
| 2020-12-31 | £1,374 | £805        | -      | -         |

## Trustees

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| Name                               | Role  | Appointed  |
|------------------------------------|-------|------------|
| <b>Rodney Francis LeGear MCIFA</b> | Chair | 2018-09-23 |
| Emma Joanna Scheck                 |       | 2018-09-23 |
| Paul John Thorne                   |       | 2018-09-23 |
| Peter Howard Burton                |       | 2018-09-23 |

**KENT UNDERGROUND RESEARCH GROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185775

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# Accounts

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**Kent Underground Research Group**  
**2025 Annual Report**

The Kent Underground Research Group has again assisted many private individuals, and other charities, regarding holes in the ground in Kent. The charity has provided investigation visits, inspections, confined space access, research reports, and informal advice.

Gillingham: Investigate a deep water well shaft and underground headings for an individual.

Chatham: to assist the charity at Fort Amhurst with a safety examination of well platform

Manston Green: assessment and investigation of ancient chalk excavations.

Ramsgate - visit and advice regarding well and void in chalk.

Hothfield - visit and advice regarding sinkhole for private individual

Hoo - advice regarding sinkhole

Birchington - advice regarding "ancient well" in individual's garden

Broadstairs - visit and recording of well

Gillingham - visit and assist with recording and exploration of large well with adits.

Maidstone - respond to enquiry regarding air raid shelter.

Newington - visit and advice regarding possible icehouse / cistern.

Strood - respond to enquiry regarding possible sinkhole.

Additionally, we have helped some private individuals with further work to dig and expose underground structure, or clear underground environments of waste material.

Sundridge: Investigate and clear out a well and cistern with a view to the landowner re-using the cistern for water management.

Maidstone area: Investigate and clear out an Ice House

Assistance with finding drain runs for National Trust on WW2 site in Dover have continued throughout the year.

Finally, a number of our members are team members of the South East Cave Rescue Organisation, and have participated in various underground practices and surface training days.

## KURG Year Ending 31st December 2024

| INCOME              |                  | EXPENDITURE   |                |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Cash in Bank        | 10,452.54        |               |                |
| Subscriptions       | 1,286.00         | Newsletter    | 0.00           |
| Donations           | 100.00           | Equipment     | 179.65         |
| Interest            | 232.67           | Secretary     | 0.00           |
|                     |                  | Materials     | 0.00           |
|                     |                  | Web hosting   | 191.87         |
|                     |                  | AGM costs     | 150.00         |
|                     |                  | BCA Insurance | 677.00         |
|                     |                  | KAS sub       | 0.00           |
|                     |                  | NAMHO sub     | 20.00          |
|                     |                  | CIO costs     | 0.00           |
|                     |                  | Bank Charges  | 60.00          |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>1,618.67</b>  |               | <b>1278.52</b> |
| <b>Cash in Bank</b> | <b>10,792.69</b> |               |                |
| <b>Surplus</b>      | <b>340.15</b>    |               |                |







**KENT UNDERGROUND RESEARCH GROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185775

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# Accounts

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## Kent Underground Research Group - Year ending

31/12/23

### INCOME

Cash in Bank 9,561.18

Subscriptions 1,390.00

Donations 250.00

Interest 154.23

**Total 1,794.23**

**Cash in Bank 10452.54**

**Surplus 891.36**

### EXPENDITURE

Newsletter 0.00

Equipment 0.00

Secretary 0.00

Materials 0.00

Web hosting 119.87

AGM costs 0.00

BCA Insurance 703.00

KAS sub 0.00

NAMHO sub 20.00

CIO costs 0.00

Bank Charges 60.00

**902.87**







**KENT UNDERGROUND RESEARCH GROUP**

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# Accounts

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## **Secretary's Report**

### **Investigations since the 2022 AGM**

Ramsgate well or cistern discovered during building works - advice given from viewing photographs of the site that it was indeed a cistern. Will be capped.

Baldwyn's Park, Bexley advice given to homeowner on the likely hood of deneholes in the area. Certain to be.

Shornmead Fort visit and advice regarding securing the site for bat habitat.

Dover visit and advice regarding a small chalk cave in homeowners back garden.

Dealt with enquiry from Crossness Engine Trust regarding excavation work by KURG some years previously.

Farningham Woods request for denehole information which was supplied.

Dealt with request for photographs of KURG clearance of Lullingstone Icehouse some years previously.

Stalisfield denehole opens on edge of field, visit and advice given that it may continue to subside. Has been stock fenced.

Mote Park mine door vandalised yet again. Visit and resecure the site with an improved security door.

Bexleyheath sinkhole information required and given.

Broadstairs information given regarding chalk mines.

Chatham cistern discovered, visit and advice given. Hopes to make it a garden feature.

Sheldwich, for Lady Sondes inspection of ladderway and lifeline members of the public into (and out of) denehole.

Ham street woods bunker advice given on it's location.

Bobbing near Sittingbourne visit and advice homeowner on 2 sinkholes, one of which was a well. Backfilled.

Otterden estate, Stalisfield. Visit and advice regarding health and safety of open unsecured deneholes. To be stock fenced.

Margate small subsidence by drive in garden, visit and advice given. Possible dig but no offers from members.

Bearsted, well discovered under wall of house, visit and advice given. Open and rather dangerous as appears to be slowly subsiding.

East Dean, cistern discovered - visit and advice given.

Broadstairs enquiry about chalk mines, information supplied.

Bearsted, well discovered whilst extending the property. Visit and advice given - was very quickly backfilled and capped.

Royston Cave, information requested and supplied.

Manston, responded with visit to a chap with much information on underground military sites. Copied maps both on paper and digitally.

Farnborough possible WW2 air raid shelter, visit and information supplied.

Warren Street near Lenham, denehole opens in middle of field as tractor passes over. Visited but quickly backfilled.

### Digs this year

Quex Water Tanks: The Quex Head Gardener requested help identifying and assessing water tanks that she has reason to believe are under some of the buildings in the Walled Garden. Also we are requested to look at some other manholes and the pump house for the pond.

Dover: Two days (one of which was less than dry) at Wanstone assisting the National Trust research underground drainage and electrical conduits beneath Wanstone battery and the D2 heavy anti-aircraft gunsite.

## Kent Underground Research Group - Year ending

31/12/22

### INCOME

Cash in Bank 9,273.02

Subscriptions 1,562.75

Donations

Interest 32.28

**Total 1,595.03**

**Cash in Bank 9561.18**

**Surplus 288.16**

### EXPENDITURE

Newsletter 0.00

Equipment 151.39

Secretary 24.48

Materials 0.00

Web hosting 72.00

AGM costs 100.00

BCA Insurance 858.00

KAS sub 0.00

NAMHO sub 20.00

CIO costs 0.00

Bank Charges 81.00

**1306.87**







**KENT UNDERGROUND RESEARCH GROUP**

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# Accounts

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## Kent Underground Research Group

### AGM 2022 Annual Reports

#### Secretary's Report

##### Investigations since the 2021 AGM

London Road, Sittingbourne: Private individual request

A small team of Field Officers responded to visit a void in a back garden close to the house. A combination of desk research and the visit plus evidence of cast iron pipes with a makers' name resulted in a decision that it was a well with a cistern added, with a pump on top. A full report was sent to the home-owner, who was happy that there was nothing to worry about.

Lion Road, Bexleyheath: Private individual request

A Field Officer visit investigated a small hole, leading to a domed chamber in the middle of a back garden. There was no evidence of it being a denehole or well, and was most likely to be a now-disused cesspit. A detailed report and advice was given regarding safety measures, given there were young children in the family.

Swanley: Private individual request

A small group of Field Officers visited to inspect a possible air raid shelter. The shelter stairway had been collapsed into itself to create a pond. No access was gained, and no further action was required.

Canterbury: Private individual request during building works

A Field Officer visited a hole in the ground in Canterbury and determined that it is a small brick built cistern. The owner has decided not to fill it, but after finishing building works may pump it out and remove the debris. There is now a secure manhole cover over it for safety reasons as it was discovered open underneath rotting timber decking.

Godmersham: Farming group request

A couple of Field Officers visited a WWII tunnel. A return visit with different equipment is required in due course.

Boughton Aluph: Individual farmer request

A farmer requested help when his tractor struck a brick capping over a deep hole while ploughing. A small group of Field Officers attended and ascertained that it was a well. After discussion, the farmer is now planning to preserve the well and cap it to facilitate human and bat access.

Walderslade: Private individual request

A home-owner asked for information regarding a well near his property. Extensive desk research was done, and a brief visit undertaken. A report was given to the home-owner, and no further action required.

Challock: Private individual request

A hole suddenly appeared in a home-owners driveway, causing her great concern that it might be a deep dene hole. A small group of Field Officers attended quickly, but discovered that it was shallow, small, and most likely to be a cistern for rainwater. No further action was required from KURG.

Maidstone: Commercial contractor request

An urgent request come in to investigate a hole which has been exposed by groundworks excavations by a building contractor. Field Officers attended that same day to survey, measure and assess the hole. It was deemed to be a small, domestic-scale sand mine and a report was prepared and sent to the contractors.

### Upcoming projects

Lewisham: We have in the past been invited to look at a well in the crypt of St Mary's church in Ladywell (Lewisham), with a view to seeing whether we could dig it out. This would be a very interesting winter dig (it is undercover with electricity and water readily available). However, issues have arisen surrounding the need to obtain a "faculty" under church law for the process. In September we were contacted again about the possibility of such a project - the local historians involved have produced a nice video of the church and the well down to its presently accessible depth. Contact is continuing.

Dover Area: KURG has had a small project with the National Trust at the White Cliffs of Dover to try to track drainage systems and cable ducts at the D2 heavy anti-aircraft battery and the "Jane" 15" gun emplacement at Wanstone. This has been well-received and we are invited to do more work at D2, "Jane" and "Clem". There are also more conventional digging projects at Fan Bay and Wanstone being discussed to enable access to a Fan Bay magazine and also to work out how the drainage systems at Wanstone operated.

Quex Water Tanks: The Quex Head Gardener would like help identifying and assessing water tanks that she has reason to believe are under some of the buildings in the Walled Garden. Also we are requested to look at some other manholes and the pump house for the pond. The pump house might be the remains of the early ice house that was referenced in 1880s journals.

### Digs this year

Boxley Abbey . Again this was very well attended, with around 10 KURG members making appearances at various times over the week; whether attending some of the presentations, digging for archaeology or making further investigations of drainage channels and the reredorter. Work done by KURG at Boxley Abbey over recent years has been summarised in the KAS Newsletter and more recently in the British Archaeological Journal for Sept/Oct 2022. It is likely that KURG will be invited back in 2023.

### South East Cave Rescue Organisation (SECRO)

SECRO is manned by volunteers and these include some members of KURG. It covers all of the south east of England, London and parts of Essex although SECRO members are ready to attend other areas if called upon. We are pleased to report that there have not been any incidents or call-outs this year in the SECRO area.

Training events and practices have taken place near Reading at the Emmer Green Chalk Mine, near Godstone in the series of stone mines, and in the Forest of Dean for a multi-agency training day both below and above ground. These were all well attended.

### Bat Inspections for Kent Bat Group

KURG members again helped the Kent Bat Group gain access and investigate dene holes and other structures mainly on the North Downs to count bats and check on their health.

### Subscriptions and insurance for 2022

- These are due before the end of the year. The membership subscription will be unchanged for 2022. We have not yet heard from BCA regarding their membership/insurance fees.
- Emails with full details will be sent to you in good time before the end of the year.
- Please note that BCA insurance has no 'grace period' and expires on 31<sup>st</sup> December, so unless you renew promptly, you will not be covered from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.
- We currently have 59 members of KURG. 55 have Active Caver insurance and 4 have Non-caver insurance.

### Web Report

A massive thanks is due to Stuart Fraser who stepped forward as our webmaster at last year's AGM after we had been searching for one for many years.

Since that time he has migrated the entire site to a new, off-the-shelf platform and this gives us the benefit of it being easy to amend or add things, plus, importantly, a very good system that enables visitors to the site to contact us. We have been receiving a steady flow of requests for investigations and queries.

Additionally, the new platform makes creating reports easier, should we need any.

### Newsletter Editor's Report

Thanks once again for the great variety of articles submitted over the last 12 months to the KURG newsletter. It's great now that we are able to include so many pictures in the digital format as it really helps to bring the reports to life. Plenty of time to submit something for the December edition - in whatever format is easiest. Also happy to receive any critique or suggestions to freshen up the format.

### Equipment officer report

All equipment is serviceable, but does not get much use!

Both gas meters have been calibrated, serviced and repaired as necessary (sensors replaced as necessary at end of life).

New calibration gas cylinder purchased which I use to recalibrate the Honeywell meter myself.

| <b>KURG Accounts ending</b>   |                 | <b>31/12/21</b>    |                |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>   |                 | <b>EXPENDITURE</b> |                |
| Cash in Bank  | 8,972.00        | Newsletter         | 64.24          |
| Subscriptions   | 1,339.00        | Equipment          | 0.00           |
| Donations   | 148.25          | Secretary          | 48.72          |
| Interest  | 0.76            | Materials          | 84.00          |
|   |                 | Web hosting        | 78.03          |
|   |                 | AGM costs          | 50.00          |
|   |                 | BCA Insurance      | 678.00         |
|   |                 | KAS sub            | 25.00          |
|   |                 | NAMHO sub          | 20.00          |
|   |                 | CIO costs          | 51.00          |
|   |                 | Bank Charges       | 88.00          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1,488.01</b> |                    | <b>1186.99</b> |
| <b>Cash in Bank</b>   | <b>9273.02</b>  |                    |                |
| <b>Surplus</b>  | <b>301.02</b>   |                    |                |
| Prepayments of 2022 subs received by 31/12/2021 £1,027.00<br>So total cash in bank £10,300.02 |                 |                    |                |

## Kent Underground Research Group - Year ending

31/12/21

### INCOME

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Cash in Bank  | 8,972.00 |
| Subscriptions | 1,339.00 |
| Donations     | 148.25   |
| Interest      | 0.76     |

**Total** **1,488.01**

**Cash in Bank** **9273.02**

**Surplus** **301.02**

### EXPENDITURE

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Newsletter    | 64.24  |
| Equipment     | 0.00   |
| Secretary     | 48.72  |
| Materials     | 84.00  |
| Web hosting   | 78.03  |
| AGM costs     | 50.00  |
| BCA Insurance | 678.00 |
| KAS sub       | 25.00  |
| NAMHO sub     | 20.00  |
| CIO costs     | 51.00  |
| Bank Charges  | 88.00  |

cost of changing bank account

**1186.99**









**KENT UNDERGROUND RESEARCH GROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1185775

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# Accounts

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## **Kent Underground Research Group**

### **AGM 2021 Annual Reports**

#### **Secretary's Report - Emma Scheck**

##### Investigations and Digs since the 2020 AGM

- The Northfleet Restoration Trust (Charity number 1158702): This charity is based near Ebbsfleet and requested KURG's help to investigate a chamber to be found up a pipe with a water flow. KURG as able to clear and excavate brick and rubble to gain access to the chamber which has been one of the harbour inlets. This was a cold task, and the water flow was considerably stronger than expected. Assessment for safety and a survey were produced and provided to the Trust.
- Maidstone Girls Grammar School: Following the original dig to locate the entrances and confirm the state of the interior, KURG was requested once again to assist. The entrances had been re-sealed and covered for safety and security, but now that the school has acquired funding to turn the bunker into an educational space for schools in the area, the contractors involved in that task needed help refinding the three entrances.
- Family Vault in Bishopsbourne: For the second year in a row, KURG has been asked to help with vaults. This year it was to open a family vault and check for bad air and any other safety issues prior to the undertakers descending to assess burual requirements for a family member.
- SPAB (Charity No.111 3753) work at Boxley Abbey: We were again invited to investigate the culverts and the reredorter at Boxley Abbey by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). We were able to provide them with additional information due to having use of new equipment lent by Clive Penfold.
- Broadditch Farm: A small team went to investigate a newly opened hole at the farm shop. Following a great deal of online research it has been found to be a denehole, but on the day it was not descended due to instability at the opening requiring rigging equipment.

##### Update of other Digs

- Shottenden Hole investigation  
Help was requested by a lady when a small hole appeared close to her house while she was gardening. Following an initial inspection followed by a small dig, the extent of the hole was discovered, and she was advised by KURG to get professional advice regarding underpinning parts of her house.

We understand she took KURG's advice and has had remedial work done to her house. She reiterated her gratitude to KURG for all the help and advice that we gave.

#### South East Cave Rescue Organisation (SECRO)

- SECRO covers all of the south east of England, London and parts of Essex.
- There have not been any incidents or call-outs this year in the SECRO area.
- There are typically three SECRO practices per year
- There are still very few representatives from KURG in SECRO.

#### Subscriptions and insurance for 2022

- These are due before the end of the year. The membership subscription will be unchanged for 2021. We have been advised by the BCA that their insurance fees will be increasing for 2022.
- Emails with full details will be sent to you in good time before the end of the year.
- Please note that BCA insurance has no 'grace period' and expires on 31<sup>st</sup> December, so unless you renew promptly, you will not be covered from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.
- We currently have 55 members of KURG. 51 have Active Caver insurance and 4 have Non-caver insurance.

#### Web Report

- We are still in need of a webmaster. Please step forward if you could possibly help with this. It is not a huge task, but needs somebody with enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.
- Thank you to Dave Cushing who is still helping us with this despite having resigned from it nearly a decade ago!

#### **Newsletter Editor's Report 2021 - Angie Harwood**

A huge thanks once again to everyone who has contributed to the KURG newsletters this year; and a special mention to Robert Hall and Terry Reeve who achieved a hat trick by providing great articles for every edition in the last 12 months.

In the last 3 editions of the newsletter, in total there have been 9 direct contributors (although many more have added to the experience by featuring in some of the photographs)! Please bear in mind the newsletter whenever you are engaged in or stumble across something that may be of interest to our group, and consider sending me a few lines for inclusion in the next edition, in whatever format is easiest for you.

Finally, if anyone has any suggestions for improvements to the current format of the newsletter, please let me know - I'd gratefully receive any feedback.

**Treasurer's Report - Pete Burton**

| <b>Accounts</b>     |                | Year ending 31/12/2020  |               |
|---------------------|----------------|---|---------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>       |                | <b>EXPENDITURE</b>  |               |
| Cash in Bank        | 8402.75        | Newsletter  | 0.00          |
| Subscriptions       | 1366.00        | Equipment   | 0.00          |
| Donations           | 0.00           | Secretary   | 0.00          |
| Interest            | 7.97           | Materials   | 0.00          |
|                     |                | Web hosting   | 0.00          |
|                     |                | AGM costs   | 0.00          |
|                     |                | BCA Insurance   | 739.00        |
|                     |                | KAS sub   | 25.00         |
|                     |                | NAMHO sub   | 20.00         |
|                     |                | CIO costs   | 20.72         |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>1373.97</b> |   | <b>804.72</b> |
| <b>Cash in Bank</b> | <b>8972.00</b> |   |               |
| Surplus             | 569.25         | Surplus is greater this year due to accounting methods being changed in previous year |               |