



# ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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Gradually, despite the inevitable lack of resources, the world of archaeology, history and heritage is catching up with the job of digitization of archives and collections, reducing the sizeable backlog from centuries of collecting and research. One philanthropic project is well under way where a major aim is to reduce the use of scarce resources by heritage organizations duplicating expenditure to create independently their own systems. Following work begun in 2000 by the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) on a citywide survey of Los Angeles, the GCI and World Monuments Fund (WMF) supported the Iraq State Board of Antiquities and Heritage after the 2003 invasion of Iraq, to establish a national heritage inventory system. Further discussion with heritage organizations has led the GCI and WMF to invest in creating the Arches Heritage Inventory and Management System (Arches). It is free for heritage organizations to use and may be customized, and is designed for managing inventories of all types of cultural resources — including buildings and other structures, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, and historic districts. Historic England is preparing to use Arches for the Historic Environment Record in London from 2018, and hopes this will serve as a model for other implementations in England and the United Kingdom as a whole.

Based at the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford, another project is generously offering to digitize collections of 35 mm slides for archaeologists, as part of an ambitious and much larger ‘Then and Now’ study. HEIR with its partner HEIRtagger is ‘an important new resource for a wide range of studies, from tracking environmental and climate change to understanding human impact on the planet; from identifying endangered landscapes and endangered archaeology to reconstructing lost buildings and habitats’. They have digitized Oxford University’s huge collection of early high-resolution lantern and glass slide photographs to provide the starting point for the project. A century on, these images offer new data to help researchers understand some of the most pressing current research issues. Detailed key-wording for each image cannot be done by a computer programme. With the help of the Citizen Science Alliance, the HEIR projects will be enlisting people world-wide to help with research and with finding key-words for images.

Citizen Science is a growing aspect of research. The digital Atlas of Hillforts, recently released, includes contributions from more than 100 Citizen Scientists who submitted data collected on visits to hillforts. This data has been combined with existing research findings in a four-year collaborative project between archaeologists at the Universities of Edinburgh and Oxford, and for Ireland, University College Cork, who have sifted the information to compile the Atlas database.

The publication of our Institute’s Summer Meeting Report for 2016, Wiltshire, has been taken a step towards the future, by putting broad discussion papers, including longer statements of research achievements about well-known sites and ideas for future investigation, into the paper publication, while putting more site-specific information on our website as files downloadable site-by-site. This has allowed more illustrations and information than can usually be contained in the hard copy. Officers are exploring ways that this sort of information might be made more widely available, both to individuals and at locations, by, for example, linking via GPS.

This change is one of the questions considered by our Hon Treasurer in a separate note in this mailing. The note includes a request for feedback to help Council in planning for the next few years’ programmes.

Further details, including how to find these and other projects online, are at the start of



## GRANTS AND AWARDS

### British Archaeological Awards

The next awards, which are given biennially, will be made in 2018. Their purpose is to advance public education in the study and practice of archaeology in all its aspects in the United Kingdom, and in particular by the granting of awards for excellence and/or initiative. The Institute sends a representative to the BAA's advisory committee. The 2018 awards will be presented in July at the British Museum. They are looking for the best in a

number of spheres of archaeology: the best Project, Community Engagement Project, Book, Public Presentation, or Innovation. This is one of the key events of the Council for British Archaeology's Festival of British Archaeology, a UK-wide celebration with more than 650 events, attended by more than 250,000 people. Details of the criteria for each award, the judging panels and how to attend are available at [www.archaeologicalawards.org.uk](http://www.archaeologicalawards.org.uk)

### ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE RESEARCH GRANTS

The Institute awards the following grants annually:

<b>Tony Clark Fund</b>	Up to £500 for archaeological work and dating
<b>Bunnell Lewis Fund</b>	Up to £750 towards archaeology of the Roman period in the UK
<b>RAI Award</b>	Up to £5000 towards archaeological work in the UK

Please write to the Administrator @ RAI c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE for an application form or visit our website, [www.royalarchinst.org](http://www.royalarchinst.org)

Closing date for applications : 11 December 2017. Awards announced in March 2018.

### RAI Dissertation Prizes

The RAI awards prizes for dissertations on a subject concerned with the archaeology or architectural history of Britain, Ireland and adjacent areas of Europe. In odd-numbered years, the competition is for the best dissertation submitted by a Master's student. In even-numbered years, the Tony Baggs Award is given to the best dissertation submitted by an undergraduate in full-time education. Nominations are made by University and College Departments. The winner will receive £500 and the opportunity for a paper based on the dissertation to be published in the *Archaeological Journal*. The chief criteria considered are (a) quality of work and (b) appropriateness to the interests of the RAI as reflected in the journal.

### RAI Cheney Bursaries

As a result of a bequest left by Frank Cheney, the Institute has a small fund of money to enable

students to attend conferences or RAI meetings. An allocation is available annually from which individuals can apply for a maximum sum of £200. Please check with the Administrator that money remains in the yearly fund before you apply. Students who wish to apply for a bursary should email to [admin@royalarchinst.org.uk](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org.uk) or write to the Administrator, RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BE, at least six weeks before the event they wish to attend, stating: the institution in which they study, the event they wish to attend, the sum of money requested, a breakdown of how the money would be spent and a summary (up to 250 words) of why they would like to attend the event and in what way this would be useful to them. Successful applicants may be asked to produce a brief report of the event for the Institute. In 2017, several students have been awarded sums to support their attendance at our Annual Conference to be held in November (see below).

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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If you would like further details of any of these meetings sent to you, please send your e-mail or postal details to the Administrator, RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE or [admin@royalarchinst.org](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org) or to Caroline Raison, RAI Assistant Meetings Secretary, 48 Park Avenue, Princes Avenue, Kingston upon Hull, HU5 3ES, or [csraison@gmail.com](mailto:csraison@gmail.com).

### 2017

**Autumn Day Meeting** 28 October, at Verulamium and St Albans, led by Simon West, David Thorold and Martin Biddle (details in this mailing)

**RAI 8th Annual Conference** 17–19 November at York, *Arras 200 – Celebrating the Iron Age* (see below and in this mailing)

**Forthcoming in 2018** Please tell Caroline if you are interested in attending

**Spring Meeting** 11–13 May at Hereford, led by Pete Wilson and Tim Hoverd (details to be confirmed)

**Summer Meeting** 7–14 July to the Scilly Isles, led by Hedley Swain (details to be confirmed) This meeting will be mainly walking with boat trips.

Please check our website for news and early details, at [www.royalarchinst.org/events](http://www.royalarchinst.org/events)

As soon as they are confirmed, full details and booking forms for Meetings will be made available on the Meetings Programme page <http://www.royalarchinst.org/meetings>. Places are limited, so please book promptly.

## ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

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### The Arras 200 – Celebrating the Iron Age

**17–18 November, Yorkshire Museum, York, with an optional visit to the Hull and East Riding Museum in Hull on 19 November.** (N.B. This is a non-residential conference.)

Organised by the Royal Archaeological Institute in association with the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society, our eighth annual conference will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the first excavations of the Middle Iron Age cemetery at Arras, East Yorkshire, and coincide with a special exhibition, at the Yorkshire Museum, of material from those excavations.

The opening keynote lecture will be given by Dr Fraser Hunter, and the programme includes lectures by leading professionals in the field and early-career archaeologists.

Details of the programme, fees and arrangements and booking form are in this mailing.

Conference fee includes teas and coffees (York is well-provided with places for lunch).

Booking deadline: 1 November 2017.

For further details please send your e-mail or postal details to the Administrator, RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE or at [admin@royalarchinst.org](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org)

# MEETINGS NOTES

## Report of the Spring Meeting at Whitby, 11–15 May 2017

The most celebrated event which bears the name of Whitby is the Synod of 664, though there are almost no reminders of it there today. Perhaps that is not surprising for a gathering of the various ranks of the church to consider the date of Easter and the shape of the clerical tonsure, however important it may also have been in deciding the future allegiance of the English Church. Close to the Abbey a patch of grass covers the site of a building of uncertain purpose which was standing at the time of the Synod, and this was pointed out to us on the first morning of our visit. Duty done.

It was inevitable and appropriate that our meeting should begin with the hill where the Abbey sits. The ruins dominate the town and are visible for many miles inland. It is not only the Abbey which has changed in appearance over the centuries. Two photographs give an indication of the progressive erosion of the cliffs. The first, from about 1880, is by Francis Meadow Sutcliffe, a distinguished Whitby photographer, who left a comprehensive record of the town in his lifetime. The second, taken in 2000 by Michael Shaw of the Sutcliffe gallery, replicates the state of the tide and volume



Views from Khyber Pass across the river Esk to the East Cliff. Whitby Abbey is partly visible behind the parish church.  
© The Sutcliffe Gallery

*above:* c. 1880 (Francis Meadow Sutcliffe)

*below:* taken in 2000 (Michael Shaw)



of shipping and shows how the cliff edge has receded. We are very grateful to Mr Shaw for finding us these images and permitting their use here. John Burton gives an estimate of a mile as the original distance between the site of the Abbey and the sea, and says that in his day the gap had shrunk to 'scarce a furlong'.<sup>1</sup> Tony Wilmott guided us over the site and gave a comprehensive account of the different stages of occupation, starting with the now largely eroded Roman structures and then the mysterious Angles, of whom Pope Gregory the Great did not quite say, 'Non Angli, sed angeli'<sup>2</sup> (translated by Sellar and Yeatman as 'Not Angles but Anglicans').

The Abbey has been a long time decaying. It was a surprise to learn that the central tower remained standing until 1830. Mention was also made of the attack on 16 December 1914 when in ten minutes the German Battlecruisers *Von der Tann* and *Derfflinger* fired fifty 11- and 12-inch shells at the coastguard station and town, killing three people and damaging the Abbey.<sup>3</sup>

Julian Litten took the party on a tour of St Mary's church. Pevsner is unusually lyrical about the interior: 'A wonderful jumble of medieval and Georgian when one walks round it, but when one enters it, hard to believe and impossible not to love. It is one of the churches one is fondest of in the whole of England.' It is a wonderful survival of a seventeenth-century interior, with embellishments added throughout the eighteenth. The Cholmley family pew occupies the space where the Rood once stood, from where they could survey their tenants in the box pews below. A three-decker pulpit of 1778, galleries, domestic windows and vamping horns complete the picture. The church was partly restored in 1905, but Joseph Morris's guide to the North Riding, published in the previous year, had described the interior as 'in the villainous taste of the 18th century'. The whole ensemble must have had a narrow escape.

<sup>1</sup> *Monasticon Eboracense* p.81. York, 1751

<sup>2</sup> Bede: *Hist Eccl.* Bk II c. 1

<sup>3</sup> This was not a one-off visit. On 4 Sept 1917 a future member of the RAI, then a 10-year old schoolboy, Charles Husband, was walking along the sea front at Scarborough with his mother and sister when a U-boat surfaced in the bay and shelled the town for 15 minutes with a 3.5" deck gun, killing three people (*Yorkshire Post* 6 Sept. 1917).

At the West end is a memorial to the heroic Whitby lifeboat crew which perished, with only a sole survivor, on 9 February 1861 within sight of the harbour. An even greater disaster was the wreck of the troopship *Rohilla*, which ran aground off the harbour in October 1914 with the loss of 83 lives. Mary Roberts, who had already survived the *Titanic*, was one of those saved.

Of Abbey House, originally built to the south-east in 1583-93 by Francis Cholmley, the principal survival is the Banqueting House of 1672, all of whose windows are blocked. Behind is the Museum, which contains the finds from excavations around the Abbey.

The afternoon provided a contrast. The preserved, steam North Yorks Moors Railway runs for 18 miles from Pickering to Grosmont, with further services to Whitby. A guided tour of the railway sheds at Grosmont became a self-guided tour. It was quite an assault on the senses, with the sight and sound of working steam engines, the curious smell of long dead herrings, grit under the eyelids and coal dust in the tea. Eggs and bacon fried on a fireman's shovel could probably have been arranged.

That evening Blaise Vyner gave a talk on the results of fieldwork conducted at Fylingdales from 2007 to 2017. A covering of heather as much as a metre deep had been removed by a massive heath fire in September 2003, exposing the surface of the soil for the first time in decades. The existence of round barrows, cairns and rock art had been known before but closer examination was now possible. Some of the rock art could be tentatively dated to the Late Neolithic and cairns to the Early Bronze Age. These need not have had a ritual significance, but could simply be the product of clearing fields for agriculture. Gullied features were found, suggesting the presence of buildings, as well as enclosures from the Middle Bronze Age and round houses of the Iron Age. Finally, evidence suggesting an environment very different from the present was found beneath an alum reservoir bank of the eighteenth century. At that period, there was a much lower incidence of *Calluna vulgaris* or Ling, which suggests that the land could once have supported a wide spectrum of activity.

Blaise's talk was given in the Pannett Art Gallery, which also houses the museum collection of the Whitby Literary and Philosophical Society,





'It didn't look like this when we dug it up' – Alan Aberg contemplates the Rosedale iron furnace, re-built at the Ryedale Folk Museum, Hutton-le-Hole (Blaise Vyner)

founded by the gentlemen of Whitby in 1823. Time did not permit more than a glance at what is clearly a very rich and varied collection, put together over two centuries of local pride and scientific enquiry.

Saturday morning took us to Hutton-le-hole where Stephen Sherlock introduced us to the Ryedale Folk Museum. This is a smaller but no less interesting version of the Beamish Open-Air Museum outside Durham. Entire buildings have been transplanted to Ryedale and show a blacksmith's forge, farm labourers' cottages, shops and the whole apparatus of life in a country village in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There was even a photographer's studio and dark room, but mercifully not the Beamish working dentist's surgery. The shops offered long-forgotten (perhaps best-forgotten) delights such as tinned spaghetti and Camp Coffee with its now politically-incorrect label.

Lunch was provided at the Blacksmiths' Arms, Lasingham, so lavish that it seemed at first to have been prepared for two or three coaches, not one. Survivors crossed the road to look at St Mary's church, with its eleventh-century apsidal crypt. The first church here was founded by St Cedd before the Synod of 664 and has undergone various cycles of destruction and restoration. It was rebuilt in stone in 725 and the present structure dates from c. 1078. Despite a complicated architectural history, the interior is remarkable for its

uniformity. The unusual stone-vaulted roof dates from 1879, when a major restoration campaign was undertaken, financed by Professor Sydney Ringer in memory of his daughter Anne, who had died aged seven, choked by a plum stone at her own birthday party.

Seven miles away is St Gregory's at Kirkdale, a late Anglo-Saxon church with a tall nave, an even taller chancel and an undersized tower of 1827. Its glory is the Anglo-Saxon sundial hidden under plaster until 1771. An inscription suggests that the church was reconstructed during the earldom of Tostig, brother of Harold Godwinson (1055–65).

Pete Wilson led the group at Lasingham and Kirkdale, with Lorna Watts providing full and detailed descriptions.

Back in Whitby, the day ended with a walking tour of the West Cliff, led by Julian Litten. The main point of interest was the development begun by George Hudson, the railway promoter, and continued by Sir George Elliott. It includes the East Terrace and Crescent. Around the corner is the slightly later Royal Hotel. Joseph Morris, who obviously had a bad day in Whitby in 1904, mentions a 'huge and hideous monster hotel', probably the Metropole rather than the Royal, and rejoices that 'the watering-place part of Whitby is removed from all view of the ancient town'. For all their faded gentility, it is precisely this remoteness



At St Gregory's Church, Kirkdale (Caroline Raison)

from the town and their elevated position which give the buildings their dignity and stature.

On the following morning the road to Skinnin-grove Mining Museum took our coach past Sunday golfers looking not at all like P. G. Wodehouse's 'spavined octogenarians flicking peanuts with a toothpick', and past the site of the famous golfballs of Fylingdales. Much reviled in their day, their loss is now lamented, if only because of their even less attractive successor.

The Ironstone Mining Museum at Kirkleatham stands on the site of the Loftus Mine, which was opened in 1848, the first of some 80 such mines in the district. They provided what was for the time a high grade of iron ore at a moment of high and increasing demand. Before they were driven out of business by even better ore from Australia and South Africa, the mines produced over a third of Britain's iron. Cleveland iron was exported all over

the world and went into the building of Sydney harbour's bridge. The Museum recreates some of the atmosphere and discomfort of an iron mine and demands respect for the people who worked them. Outside can be seen some of the consequences of industrialisation: a stream dyed permanently rust-red and a village which is on many counts (health, education and dependence on benefits) one of the most deprived in England.

Stephen Sherlock rejoined the party and introduced the Kirkleatham Museum, housed in the splendid Old Hall, once a Free School. Built by Sir William Turner in 1708–9, it must have been one of the grandest free schools in existence. For many, its principal interest lay in the exhibition commemorating the life of Gertrude Bell (1868–1926), political officer, traveller and archaeologist. An interesting former resident of the building was the daughter of Grover Cleveland, a genuine Mugwump and twice President of the United States. She was presumably not the illegitimate child whose existence inspired the election jingle, 'Ma, Ma, where's my Pa? /Gone to the White House, Ha, Ha, Ha!'.

That was the end of the Spring Meeting, but not of the experience, for there was much else to remember. There were Fortune's kippers, Botham's Plum Bread and Trillo's Ice Cream. Furthermore, this is the county where 'Tin, Tin, Tin' means 'It isn't in the tin', so there were new or half-remembered expressions to learn. Ginnel and snicket were easy, but Tin Ghaut? There was also a local tendency to get kaylied. One member got up on the Saturday morning in his respectable B & B to find four policemen searching the adjoining bedrooms, with two of the occupants under arrest for causing an affray the previous evening. This is a form of entertainment for some: T-shirts can be found with the legend, 'Weekend Offender'. It is certainly not exclusive to Whitby.

The Spring Meeting was a successful and perhaps overdue venture into the north of England. Although the shifty southerner might complain of the eight-hour train journey needed to get there, it was plainly worth it and amply justified the extra day needed to make a long weekend. Thanks go to Pete Wilson and our guides for their expert help and their company and, as always, a very special thank you to Caroline for her careful planning, hard work and patience.



## LECTURES

### Presentations by Early Career Archaeologists

In the 2017–18 season, in addition to our usual programme of lectures there will again be two sets of presentations by archaeologists early in their careers. These talks will start at 3.00 pm, to be followed by tea and then at 5.00 pm, the main lecture of the day.

The first set, on 8 November, focusing on Romano-British pottery, will be given by staff from Pre-Construct Archaeology.

The second set will be given on 11 April. Three postgraduate students from the Department of Archaeology, University of Kent, will describe their work on three separate Roman sites in Kent.

Further details of these presentations are available in the detailed lecture programme on the Institute's web-site.



An early-Roman pottery kiln being excavated at Duxford (T.Woodhouse. © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd)

### Royal Archaeological Institute Lecture Programme and Abstracts: 2016/17

Meetings are held from October to May, on the second Wednesday of the month, at 5.00 p.m. in the Rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BE. In November and April, the lecture will be preceded at 3.00 pm by a presentation by new archaeologists. Tea will be served at 4.30 pm. Non-members are welcome but should make themselves known to the Secretary and sign the visitor's book.

2017

11 October

**The Lewis lochs project: exploring the earliest crannogs in Britain**

*Dr Duncan Garrow*

Crannogs – artificial island settlements constructed in lochs – are a geographically widespread and intriguing category of archaeological site.

Unusually, this one site type was constructed in many different periods of Scotland's prehistoric and historic past – most scholars consider them to have been built, used and re-used from the Late Bronze Age to the medieval period. Significantly, our recent underwater diver and geophysical surveys of sites on the Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides confirmed that the origins of this site type lie 3000 years earlier than previously thought, in the Neolithic – transforming our knowledge of that period and of crannogs in general. This talk will outline the results of survey and excavation work in 2016 and 2017, also considering the possibilities that lie ahead for future discoveries.

## 8 November

### 3.00 pm: Early Career lectures by staff from Pre-Construct Archaeology

**Katie Anderson: Continental potters?**

**First-century Roman flagon production at Duxford, Cambridgeshire**

**Eniko Hudak: Pots and bodies in wells and shafts: Roman pottery from Ewell, Surrey**

**5.00 pm lecture: Two decades of research on the Lincolnshire Wolds: the discovery of a forgotten Roman landscape**

*Dr Steve Willis*

The deeply rural character of Lincolnshire has endured through modern times with large areas of the historic county untouched by development, though subject to industrial agriculture. The Lincolnshire Wolds are one area where the archaeological past has remained little explored. A project addressing this shortfall has been running since 1998 in the central Wolds focused particularly on the Roman era. Several sites have been examined via excavation and survey contributing to a growing picture of a heavily used landscape. Roadside settlements, villas and farms form a patterned system with clear indications of change through time. Evidence of buildings and settlement morphology have survived. Finds such as intaglios, literate and non-literate curse tablets and other small finds show a strong articulation with Roman norms in what might have been thought a remote part of the empire, whilst building materials and jewelry reveal long distance supply systems and comparative wealth.

## 13 December

### Twenty years of treasure

*Dr Michael Lewis*

2017 marks the twentieth anniversary of the implementation of the Treasure Act and also of the formation of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). Both have been successful in ensuring that important archaeological finds are acquired by museums, and (in the case of the PAS) encouraging finders, particularly metal-detectorists, to offer their discoveries for recording to add to archaeological knowledge.

This lecture will outline how the Treasure Act came in to being, and why government established a Scheme for voluntary recording, rather than legislate against metal-detecting. Reflected upon will be some of the most amazing archaeological discoveries reported Treasure, as well the significance of recording non-Treasure finds. While many in the detecting community are keen to co-operate, others do not, and this provides a challenge for archaeologists, particularly those interested in small finds and the historic landscape. Finally, this talk will look to the future, particularly in the context of a Review of the Treasure Act, but also exploring how archaeologists and detectorists might further co-operate in the future.

## 2018

### 10 January

#### The archaeology of anarchy? Landscapes of war and status in twelfth-century England

*Professor Oliver Creighton*

This lecture will examine material evidence for the conflict of the mid-twelfth century popularly known as 'the Anarchy', during the turbulent reign of Stephen, King of England (1135–54).

Drawing on new research and fieldwork, the lecture will provide an overview of the material record for this controversial period, covering castles, siege-castles, churches and settlements, alongside material culture including coins, pottery, seals and arms and armour, and question the 'real' impact of Stephen's troubled reign on society and the English landscape.

**14 February**

**Knole unlocked: uncovering the hidden history of a great country house**

*Nathalie Cohen*

Knole is one of England's largest country houses and is owned by the National Trust. Over the last five years, a major programme of conservation has been underway, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This has involved repairs to the roofs and exterior, and extensive work within the show-rooms, removing panelling and lifting floorboards to allow for repairs and new services. Archaeological investigation and recording of these previously unseen areas has greatly enhanced our understanding of this great house and this presentation will describe discoveries made during the course of the project.

**14 March**

**The Archaeology of large infrastructure projects: Roads**

*Dr Stephen Sherlock*

This presentation will provide some interim results from archaeological excavations on the A14 in Cambridgeshire. The excavations are being undertaken by Mola/Headland Infrastructure, who are currently employing over 200 archaeologists on the excavation of sites over a 20 mile road corridor between Huntingdon and Cambridge. The range of sites extends from 'several Neolithic henges, Iron Age settlements and Roman sites' including pottery kilns in the Great Ouse Valley. In addition to this, there are three Anglo-Saxon villages with a range of structures. So far approximately 30 buildings have been excavated with evidence for crafts, industry and recreational activities. Stephen Sherlock, the Archaeology Manager for the Joint Venture constructing the road, will present a summary of the discoveries so far, as well as being honest about some of the challenges faced on these large schemes.

**11 April**

**3.00 pm: Early Career lectures, by post-graduate students from the University of Kent**

*Andrew Bates: New survey and investigations at Bigbury hillfort, Kent*

*Caroline Farquhar: Religious and ritual aspects of the communities at the head of the Darent valley, Kent, in the Roman period: the value of new investigative techniques*

*Philip Smither: Reassessing Richborough*

**5.00 pm lecture: Reconsidering W. J. Varley's Eddisbury: Results from recent excavations and historic archive research**

*Richard Mason and Dr Rachel Pope*

This talk will take three parts. First, we will discuss the newly-dated later prehistoric settlement sequence for Varley's excavations on Merrick's Hill. We will then detail new work on the hillfort's eastern entrance, including Historic England-funded conservation and analysis of the recently discovered Iron Age gate-pivots, excavated by Varley in 1936–37. From this work, we offer a structural analysis and artistic reconstruction of the hillfort entrance, and a long-awaited reassessment of the hillfort sequence. Finally, we discuss the historic sequence for Merrick's Hill, including recent excavations on the site and a reassessment of Varley's 'lost' archive – the rich finds assemblage from which reveals a wealthy post-medieval forester's residence, with medieval origins. This work hopes to shed new light on Bill Varley's role in the development of British field method.

**10 May: The President's lecture**

**Archaeologists at war, 1914–18**

*Professor Timothy Champion*

The archaeological profession was still in its infancy in 1914 at the start of WW1, though better developed in Germany than in Britain. Many archaeologists had worked in Greece, Egypt and the Middle East, and with their specialist knowledge went on to work for the intelligence services. Responses to archaeological evidence disturbed during military operations varied: German archaeologists excavated sites on the Western Front, while in Greece France planned a research programme and Britain attempted to preserve the



antiquities revealed. Many of the activities pre-figured the more formal arrangements of WW2; Germany, concerned at accusations of barbarism,

established a commission to protect historic monuments in the war zone.

## Access to Lectures Online

To view the Institute's lectures online you will need to log in to our members' area. If you haven't yet got a username and password to log in, please contact the Administrator with your e-mail address at [admin@royalarchinst.org](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org).

Some of the Society of Antiquaries' lectures are available to all and can be viewed at [www.sal.org.uk](http://www.sal.org.uk), under News and Events.

## British Archaeological Association Programme of Meetings 2017/18

RAI members are invited to attend the meetings of the British Archaeological Association.

2017

### 4 October: Ways of Seeing Late Medieval English Art

*Dr Julian Luxford*

The lecture will be preceded by the AGM.

### 1 November: Lie of the Land: Fake history, topography, and Albion's Giants

c. 1150–1800

*Dr Alixe Bovey*

### 6 December: The Parish Church Chancel as an Architectural Genre

*Dr James Alexander Cameron*

2018

### 3 January: Woven Walls: Real and fictive textiles in Romanesque church interiors

*Dr Emma Edwards*

The lecture will be followed by the Twelfth Night Party

### 7 February: The Romanesque Columns at Strzelno: New perspectives

*Dr Agata Gomółka*

### 7 March: 'Awake thou that sleepest': the Resurrection of Mary Magdalene in Central Europe

*Dr Zoë Opačić*

### 4 April: Bridgwater Friary: A provincial tower and the Franciscan Friars in late medieval Somerset

*Dr Hannah West*

### 2 May: Inventing Vaults in the Twelfth Century: Salamanca, al-Andalus, and France

*Dr Tom Nickson*

The lecture will be followed by the President's Reception

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from October to May, at 5.00 p.m. in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. Tea will be served before each meeting at 4.30 p.m. Non-members are asked to make themselves known to the Hon. Director on arrival and to sign the visitors' book.

## Society of Antiquaries of London Public Lectures 2017

Consider joining a tour of Burlington House apartments beforehand, for £10.00 per person including tea or coffee upon arrival, and a tour (1.5 hours) led by a qualified guide.

### 16 May: The Vulliamy Clockmakers: Two clocks in the Antiquaries collection

*Jonathan Betts, MBE, and Roger Smith*

### 6 June: The Library of Saint Thomas Becket

*Christopher de Hamel*

### 12 September: Smithfield Market: Its Remarkable General Market, those Curious Columns and the Museum of London

*Dr Jennifer Freeman*

## 17 October: A Battlefield of Books: the Cairo Genizah Collection

*Dr Ben Outhwaite*

## 28 November: Will Van Gogh's Flowers Ever Wilt?

*Dr Ashok Roy*

Lectures take place at Burlington House, London, on Tuesday afternoons (13.00–14.00, doors open at 12.30). Lectures are free and open to the public, but space is limited and advanced registration is recommended: see <https://www.sal.org.uk/public-lectures> or call 020 7479 7080.

## MISCELLANY

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### Arches

This is an open-source, web-based, geospatial software platform built for managing inventories of all types of cultural resources. Version 4.0 was launched in March 2017: updates include an installation wizard; a mobile-phone data-collection app and project manager for fieldwork; enhancements to allow the incorporation of locally stored satellite imagery and other base maps; and there is a demo version to try before downloading the full system. For more information on Arches, visit the project website (<http://archesproject.org/>), where you can participate in the community forum, interact with the online demonstration version, download the software code, access documentation, view the project road-map, and sign up for updates.

### HEIR and HEIRtagger

This project aims to unlock the research potential of historic photographs. Bringing together scholars, software developers and a world-wide community of Citizen Scientists, this digitizing and crowd-sourcing initiative aims to keyword and identify old photos of monuments, landscapes and environments taken across the world and to re-photograph their modern settings. Citizen Scientists are helping to locate sites, re-photograph them in their modern settings, and map their distribution by using a specifically tailored mobile app.

Partners in other institutions with collections of historic landscape images are invited to join in advertising, enhancing, or linking their collections. HEIR also offer advice on how to manage large collections, in particular what should be retained or might be discarded. It is based at the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford and directed by Dr Sally Crawford and Dr Katharina Ulmschneider at [heirtagger.ox.ac.uk](http://heirtagger.ox.ac.uk)

### The Marine Antiquities Scheme (MAS)

The successful Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) has just had its twentieth birthday. Now, it is joined by the Marine Antiquities Scheme (MAS) to provide the means for members of the public to report offshore discoveries, in Welsh and English waters from the Mean Low Water Level. Like the PAS, the MAS is voluntary. It is funded through the Crown Estate's stewardship programme in partnership with the PAS and with Wessex Archaeology, which will be running it from day to day. The British Sub-Aqua Club, the National Maritime Museum, the Marine Management Organisation, Historic England, the Nautical Archaeological Society and the Receiver of Wreck have all had the opportunity for input and to give advice.

Recording is easy and gives finders immediate feedback as well as instructions on their statutory obligations, including the need to report any wreck to Receiver of Wreck. It can all be done on-line via the scheme's website using an electronic recording form, or by downloading a simple-to-use app for mobile phones and tablets. The scheme's archaeologists will find out more about the origins and history of finds submitted, and information is being published in a public database. Searching for 'pot', the first item found was a bead, with a c. 500-word description and discussion of the origins and history of the type, as well as a brief resume about the wreck with which they are associated. See more at [www.marinefinds.org.uk](http://www.marinefinds.org.uk)

### Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland

This project has created an online interactive database which includes standardised information on all known hillforts in the UK and Eire and enables interrogation and analysis at a range of



The main entrance to Kemerton Camp, Bredon Hill, Worcestershire, a mid to late Iron-Age hillfort (A. Stanford, Aerial-Cam)

scales from an individual hillfort to the whole collection. The database is linked to Google Earth/Maps so that the locations of hillforts can be seen within their landscape contexts. The printed version of the Atlas in which the data included so far will be further analysed is due to be published in early summer 2018. The data presented in the Atlas is a snapshot taken between 2012 and October 2016 and at the moment there is no provision for updating the atlas, though images or text can still be added to the database by using forms downloaded from the website at <http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/hillforts-form.html>

### Annual Pitt Rivers lecture

On 31 October 2017, the first Annual Pitt Rivers Lecture, 'Pitt Rivers: Pioneer' will be given by Professor Richard Bradley (Reading University) in the Fusion Building, Talbot Campus, Bournemouth University BH12 5BB at 7.00 pm (Displays and welcome reception from 6.30 pm). This is a free public lecture, but please book your place by visiting the dedicated Eventbrite page at: <http://pitttriverslecture.eventbrite.co.uk>

This event will launch the celebration of 50 years of archaeological and anthropological teaching and research at Bournemouth University and its predecessor institutions, and has been organized by staff and students connected to the Centre for Archaeology and Anthropology.

### The Power of Archaeology

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) has set up a project to get MPs and local Councillors more closely engaged with local archaeology and heritage issues, in order to raise the profile of threats to the historic environment posed by cuts and planning policy reform, and to make sure that decision-makers understand what archaeology does for us all and why people care passionately about it. The project is working with several partners, including the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME), the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers UK (ALGAO), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and Civic Voice. It is funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and covers England, Scotland and Wales.

The CBA Local Heritage Engagement Network (LHEN) assists local people to campaign for their historic environment. In order to do this LHEN need information when services in particular areas of the country are under threat from cuts or challenges, and this can be reported anonymously. They will investigate any information discreetly and can involve local societies and the media in an effort to ensure heritage and archaeology do not get swept up in local authority cuts.

LHEN provides advice and guidance to local people and groups who wish to champion archaeology and to emphasise the importance of historic environment, through the provision of practical advice, platforms for discussion and information-sharing, assistance and training.

The LHEN project wants local people to join in with advocacy and campaigning by:

- writing to their local MPs and Councillors;
- making sure that all archaeological projects or activities communicate effectively with the media and with local authorities;
- joining a local group which is active in campaigning in their local area

The LHEN toolkit provides practical resources, with information on everything from how to get



in touch with local councillors and Heritage Champions, to understanding the planning process, contacting local media, and effective letter-writing. The toolkit is an evolving series of documents, and is updated regularly working with stakeholders and local people on the ground, to ensure advice is accurate, current and relevant. (See [new.archaeologyuk.org/lhen-toolkit](http://new.archaeologyuk.org/lhen-toolkit))

Ultimately LHEN aims to:

- develop the Local Heritage Engagement Network as a powerful voice for local communities involved in heritage issues
- facilitate effective communication between different groups and organisations to maximise impact
- raise public awareness of local Historic Environment Records (HERs) and their vital role in ensuring that the historic environment is properly considered and protected as part of the planning process
- raise public awareness of the impact of ongoing funding cuts to local authority heritage services for the historic environment
- provide support for groups who want to get more involved in debates about heritage services in their local areas
- communicate to local government the vast public interest in archaeology, history, and heritage, and the impact of cuts, and to advise on models for sustainable delivery of services

Demonstrating the direct power of archaeology through the actions of local communities will enable us to work more effectively towards these ends.

## **TAG 2017**

The 2017 Theoretical Archaeology Group conference will take place at Cardiff University 18–20 December. The theme of the conference is Time. A wide range of sessions are accepting submissions covering topics ranging from the archaeology of early medieval Wales to the relationship between archaeology and poetry. Further information on the conference can be found at [www.tag2017cardiff.org](http://www.tag2017cardiff.org)

## **The Summer Meeting Report**

In addition to the paper publication, for the 2016 meeting, there are additional digital files online. To explore the site-specific notes for Wiltshire, go to our website, click on Publications (from the top

row of options), then click on Summer Meeting Reports (at the bottom of the left hand box). There are twenty-three sites to choose from, in alphabetical order from Amesbury to Wansdyke via Salisbury Plain Training Area!

## **The Institute's website**

From the Institute's website at [www.royalarchinst.org](http://www.royalarchinst.org) all readers can download booking forms for our meetings and see the full programme for our autumn conference, and access site-specific notes from last year's Summer Meeting. Please send any feedback or suggestions for future improvements to the web manager at [website@royalarchinst.org](mailto:website@royalarchinst.org)

## **Access for members**

If you are a full member, and haven't yet got your online log-in for the members' area of our website, please contact the administrator with your e-mail address. You will be sent a username and password

## **The Archaeological Journal online**

The *Archaeological Journal* from Volume 1 (for 1844) onwards is now available to ordinary members via the members' area of our website. Log on with your User name and password. On the publications page, you will find a link that takes you to the Taylor and Francis website, where the entire run of the *Journal* is now searchable and copies may be downloaded. Online, each year the *Journal* will be issued in two parts, the first in January and the second in June.

For associate members and others, these same volumes are available on a pay-per-view basis on Taylor and Francis' website. Volumes 1 to 120 are still freely available to all on the Archaeological Data Service website at <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/archjournal/volumes.cfm>

## **Book reviews**

As soon as they are ready, we are now putting online the book reviews prepared for the *Archaeological Journal*. Further information is available on the publications page.

## **Online lectures**

The video recording of the Institute's lectures at Burlington House to link them to our website is continuing, at a much-improved quality since the Society of Antiquaries' technological services upgraded their equipment. Ordinary members

may view them by logging in to the members' area of our website.

Some of the Society of Antiquaries' lectures are available to all and can be viewed at [www.sal.org.uk](http://www.sal.org.uk), under News and Events.

### Members' e-mail addresses

We are still seeking e-mail addresses from members, so that when we have sufficient we could mitigate the impact of increased costs of distribution. Council would like to make more information digitally available. The impact of high postage costs would be reduced if we could send out material as attachments to as many members as possible. These might include the notices of forthcoming meetings, the Accounts, the programme card, and possibly the *Newsletter*. If you would be willing to receive information digitally, please send your e-mail address to [admin@royalarchinst.org](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org)

### Subscriptions

The current rates *by direct debit* are: Ordinary member, £35, Associate £15 or Student, £20; Life member, £750 or £525 if aged over 60. Life membership represents good value for both the member and the Institute and it shows a member's commitment to the Institute.

### Sponsored Young Student Membership of the RAI

A year's membership of the Institute, sponsored by volunteer existing members, has been given to some second- or third-year degree students under 26, nominated by their archaeology department, and to winners of dissertation prizes. Thank you to those members who have been sponsors, and it would be a great help if you'd like to continue. New sponsors are always welcome – £20 pays for a year's membership for one. In 2016, there were five such members. If you can help us to expand the scheme, either with funds or by proposing more candidates, please contact the Administrator at the address below.

### The RAI office

The telephone number for the Administrator is 07847 600756, the email is [admin@royalarchinst.org](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org) and the postal address is RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE. The RAI has no office in London, but the Administrator will usually be at this address on the second Wednesday of each month from October to May, between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm.

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## ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR Katherine Barclay, Williamsgate, Governor's Green, Pembroke Road, Portsmouth, Hants. PO1 2NS. Email: [newsletter@royalarchinst.org](mailto:newsletter@royalarchinst.org)

NEXT ISSUE Copy for the next issue must reach the editor by the end of January 2018 for publication in April 2018.

THIS ISSUE'S COVER PICTURE: 'Magpie' (LMS 'Black 5' No. 44806) steaming at Grosmont, North Yorks Moors Railway (taken by Caroline Raison at the Spring Meeting 2017)

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