



# ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022



## ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

*Patron:*

**HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN**

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10 September 2022

Sir, Most Gracious Sovereign,

May it please Your Majesty,

The members of the Royal Archaeological Institute have been deeply grieved to learn of the death of your beloved mother, Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty was our patron for 61 years and her continued support and many kindnesses were greatly appreciated. We have particularly fond memories of Her Majesty's participation in our 150th anniversary in 1994.

On behalf of our members, I beg Your Majesty accepts our profound sympathy. May your faith aid you and all the Royal House in this time of great and sad bereavement.

Assuring you of our enduring loyalty and respect,

Your humble servant

Lindsay Allason-Jones  
President

Registered Charity No: 226222

Although much of the activity has been behind the scenes, 2021–2 has been a very busy year for the Institute. Amongst other achievements, we have arranged long-term storage for our archive copies of the *Archaeological Journal* and have secured a permanent home for our paper archives with the British Library; in advance of the archives moving, selected items are being digitised for ease of access.

The problems with the content and distribution of the *Archaeological Journal* have been tackled, we hope successfully. This has been a protracted and very difficult situation and members are thanked for their forbearance; it is hoped that the problems will not be repeated. We welcome Rhiannon Stevens as our new Editor and thank Lisa-Marie Shillito for her sterling work during some very testing episodes.

The Institute has a new Treasurer, Jennifer Nye, who comes from a legal background, managing compliance and legal teams in global asset management companies. As well as dealing with our finances in these difficult times, Jennifer will be helping to implement the recommendations of the recent Review. As part of our strategy, we have instituted a new Governance Committee, which will be looking at a number of issues relating to how the Institute is run, and a Digital Committee, which will be overseeing the development of our new website and how we can best utilise modern technology to improve our

efficiency. It is also pleasing to be able to report that our Administrator's post has been made full-time – there is a great deal of work to be done over the next few years and full-time assistance is essential.

Beyond our in-house activities, we have developed new links with the Council for British Archaeology which will see us sponsoring the Early Careers Special Interest Group Conference, the Young Archaeologists Club and their Early Career Award. Following our excellent Meeting in Dover, I wrote to Dover District Council to ask them to encourage the reopening of the Painted House, offering our support to that end. It has now happened! We also sent a donation of £250 to the Dover Bronze Age Boat Trust to support their excellent work.

The year 2022–3 is likely to be another tricky one for the Institute as the global financial situation worsens; we will not be immune to the losses felt by the markets. Be assured, we are keeping an eye on the situation and the Audit and Investment Committee will be meeting more regularly for this purpose.

That said, there is much to be cheerful about as we emerge from the Covid pandemic. I would urge members to return to attending lectures in person at Burlington House; Zoom meetings do not offer the camaraderie that has been such a byword of the Institute and you are missed.

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## GRANTS AND AWARDS

### Archaeological Achievement Awards 2022

These awards are run by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) with the

support of a steering group, to celebrate archaeological achievements from across the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

There are five categories and one overall outstanding achievement award, with an emphasis on a range of cross-cutting themes that are designed to show how archaeology relates to wider society, health and well-being, and place. The Institute is sponsoring the Early Career Archaeologist Award. Judges include representatives from across the sector.

Award Categories:

Archaeological Innovation

Public Dissemination or Presentation

Engagement and Participation

Early Career Archaeologist

Learning, Training and Skills

Outstanding Achievement Award

Nominations will close on Friday 30 September. The awards ceremony will be hosted by Ireland's National Monuments Service in partnership with the Office of Public Works and will be held in Dublin Castle on Tuesday 29 November 2022. See more at [www.archaeologicalawards.com](http://www.archaeologicalawards.com)

## Council For British Archaeology Festival 2022

The CBA annual Festival of Archaeology was held from 16 to 31 July, with the theme 'Journeys'. It was again a mix of on-the-ground and online events, with some items still available to watch on YouTube. The Institute again supported 'A Day in Archaeology'. The dates for the 2023 Festival of Archaeology are 15–30 July and at the time of writing the theme is not known.

## CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGY AWARDS 2022

Each category is the Best of the Year for: Research Project, Rescue Project, Book or Archaeologist. Voted for entirely by

the public – there are no panels of judges – the awards celebrate the projects and publications that made the pages of the eponymous magazine over the past year, and the people judged to have made outstanding contributions to archaeology. The shortlists, how to vote and the date of the next annual awards will be on their website soon at <https://archaeology.co.uk/vote>

## 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. The prize will be presented at the Institute's December meeting.

## 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 [admin@royalarchinst.org.uk](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org.uk) or write

## ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE RESEARCH GRANTS

The Institute awards the following grants annually:

**Tony Clark Fund** Up to £500 for archaeological work and dating

**Bunnell Lewis Fund** Up to £750 towards archaeology of the Roman period in the UK

**RAI Award** Up to £5000 towards archaeological work in the UK

Please download an application form at <http://www.royalarchinst.org/grants> or write to the Administrator.

Closing date for applications: 12 December 2022. Awards announced in April 2023.

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. A bursary was last awarded in March 2020.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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**Please note** that **non-members** are **not covered** by the Royal Archaeological Institute's Public Liability Insurance and they **must arrange their own insurance** to enable them to attend Institute Meetings.

*Places are limited, so please book promptly.*

In 2022 there will be **no** Annual Conference

2022 (postponed from 2020)

**Autumn Meeting** 22 October at Newark, led by Mark Gardner

Forthcoming in 2023

**Spring Meeting** in May, at Pontefract (details to be confirmed)

**More information will be made available on our website as soon as possible.** Once events are confirmed, full information and booking forms will be on the Institute's Meetings Programme page <http://www.royalarchinst.org/meetings>.

If you would like further details of any meetings sent to you, please send your email or postal address 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).

## MEETINGS NOTES

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### Report of the Spring Meeting at Dover 13–15 May 2022

*Ann Ballantyne, Maureen Davis, Kate Starling, Geoff Morley*

We met on Friday evening at Dover Library and Museum, just off the Market Place in the town centre. Here we attended a wine reception, with time to tour the Museum at leisure, and with questions fielded by Jon Iveson, Museums and Tourism manager for Dover. We were then treated to a lecture by Keith Parfitt of Canterbury Archaeological Trust, on the Dover Bronze Age Boat, which is in the Museum.

Keith began with a brief history and geography of Dover and background to the site, part of the new A20 road link between Folkestone and Dover; the opportunity was taken at the same time to replace part of the Victorian sewage system. It being 1991, even though the site was near the historic centre of Dover, cutting through the maritime quarters of the old town, 'Archaeology' had not been thought about as a requirement, and the extra costs (English Heritage funded, and carried out by Canterbury Archaeological Trust) had to be added on to the cost and time for the project. It was only in the following year that archaeological monitoring became mandatory for certain areas.

Work started merely as watching whilst a pipe was cut deep into the ground by the main contractor Norwest Holst, but then the scope of the work increased rapidly. The engineering project eventually required excavation deep below the modern surface through heavily stratified ground. Very little survived from the post-medieval period owing to road widening in 1837, and the frontages of the medieval

buildings were found in the middle of the modern road. Also found around this level were remains of the medieval town wall which, unsurprisingly, ran along what is now Townwall Street. Its elm piles were particularly well preserved; there is documentary evidence that the prior of Bilsington Priory, near Ashford, provided timber for piles for the construction of Dover Town Wall.

Further groundwork revealed timbers from the Roman harbour; at 1ft square, they were similar to timbers found in 1855–6, when a length of 100ft – c. 30m – was discovered during works for a gasometer. The radiocarbon dating of the new find was, unfortunately, not very precise and came in with a date of felling 'after 42AD', not exactly surprising.

Below this level, 345 days into the excavation, on 28 September 1992, in a construction pit during work for a pedestrian underpass, earlier timbers were found. First thoughts turned to the idea that it might be a Roman door, or, as the work expanded, a Roman galley? However, as more was exposed, comparisons were noted with the Ferriby Boats discovered earlier in the Humber. Once the significance of the findings was recognised, the contractors became more worried as the project was already nineteen weeks behind schedule and the question had to be asked: 'Can you get this finished tonight?' Well, they tried their best! In the end it took six days to get the first part of the boat out.

A hole in the corner of the boat is from where a sump had been dug before the boat was found, to place a pump to remove water, and despite this the boat is in exceptional condition. A rapid radiocarbon dating



The tiled mural in the pedestrian underpass at Townwall Street, Dover  
(artwork by Tessera Designs; photo by C.S. Raison)

exercise was undertaken which came back with a date of around 1300BC. Further dating samples have put that back to 1575–1520BC. With at least one top rail having been removed at that time, and one end of the vessel not there, probably removed too, maybe so the vessel would sink, the current interpretation is that the vessel was likely to have been no longer seaworthy and was being cannibalised. Ted Wright, one of the discoverers of the Ferriby Bronze Age Boats, helped in discussions about the preservation methodology. Unlike how the Ferriby Boat was lifted in 1939, it was decided that the boat should be removed in pieces, owing to its size and the size of the hole.

Michael ‘Oz’ Goldwell, a specialist cutter working for Norwest Holst, was given the unenviable task of cutting the 3500-year-old boat. With all the combined knowledge on site and the pressure of

the delay the discovery was causing the project, a methodology was made up and refined on the hoof, with the basic premise of preserving the joints of the boat as these were the most interesting, and to cut through the plain long boards of the hull. When the boat had been lifted, a complete dead fish, a bass, was found beneath the planks. It was established that this had died in autumn and therefore thought that the boat was abandoned very soon after, maybe at the end of that year’s work. A further 3.5m of the boat were excavated, giving about one-half to two-thirds of the original total length.

In addition to assistance from Norwest Holst and consulting engineers, Mott Macdonald, advice was also offered by Dover Harbour Board, Martin Bates, the English Heritage archaeobotanist, and Margaret Rule, of *Mary Rose* fame, who thought that the archaeological team had done ‘alright’.

The Dover Bronze Age Boat Trust was formed not only to preserve and display the boat's remains, but also to build a replica. This finally came to fruition in the early 2000s. The main issue with rebuilding was that it would require straight-grained oak around 20m long, which was plentiful 3500 years ago, but today would be impossible to obtain. Instead, a 50% scale replica was built using traditional Bronze Age methods and tools.

The ultimate aim was to sail the replica to France to prove it could be done, but this proved not to be feasible. After some experimental trips, Richard Parrah, a woodworker in the team, suggested that it might have been rowed rather than paddled, and so it was rowed from Folkestone to Dover and round into the Thames. The first leg of the trip from Folkestone to Dover took only two hours, proving that the boat was efficient.

Some wonderful photos of the excavations and in particular of the trip along the coast in the recreated boat accompanied the lecture. Many thanks are due to Jon Iverson and all the museum staff for their hospitality and to Keith Parfitt for an in-depth, informative and humorous lecture.

Next morning, once we were allowed into Dover Castle, we made our way almost to the top. Jonathan Coad, former Inspector of Ancient Monuments here, outlined the history of the castle and excavations there. Our English Heritage guide for the morning, Roy Porter, Properties Curator (South), described first the church of St Mary-in-Castro, and the various ways in which it has been treated through the centuries, including the latest programme of repairs which took place recently, under his supervision.

Visual evidence of Roman occupation of this area is provided by the Roman pharos or lighthouse, built early in the second century

AD when Dover was chosen as the base for the *Classis Britannica*, the fleet that patrolled the English Channel and North Sea. The Dover pharos is one of only three remaining – the others are in Leptis Magna (Libya) and La Coruna (Spain). A second pharos on Dover's Western Heights survived until the seventeenth century, after which it gradually fell to pieces (see below, 12). Braziers would have been kept burning on the top of the pharos to act as beacons, to help guide the fleet into the harbour. The pharos in the castle is angled to communicate with Cap Gris-Nez on the French coast.

The date of the church's foundation is unknown. However, on stylistic grounds the church can be dated to c. 1000, making it the second oldest building in the castle.

Archaeological excavations in the 1960s have demonstrated a connection between the church and a late Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Built close to the east of the pharos, the church is cruciform in plan, constructed primarily of flint rubble and dressed ragstone blocks with Roman tiles used as quoins. Despite the Anglo-Saxon structure largely surviving to eaves height, there are very few extant features. Two Anglo-Saxon nave doorways do survive: a blocked doorway in the south wall, the jambs of which are massive through-stones with Roman tiles forming the voussoirs of its arched head, and at the west end of the nave, at first-floor level, a second, smaller doorway, with stone jambs and voussoirs, and stepped imposts (now a window). The height of this doorway almost matches that of a blocked third-stage wall recess in the east wall of the pharos, suggesting that the pharos may have functioned as a western apex to the church. It also served as the bell tower.

In c. 1190, quadripartite vaults were constructed over the crossing and the



Looking at the north side of St Mary-in-Castro, Dover, with the pharos to right (A. Ballantyne)

chancel, with the ribs decorated with dogtooth carving, and a piscina and sedilia were introduced to the chancel. The detailing of this work matches that in the chapels of Dover Castle's Great Tower which was under construction in the 1180s. In 1223 Henry III paid for repairs to the building and in 1247 he had three altars made in honour of Saints Edmund, Adrian and Edward. In 1257 the bank to the south of the church was created and topped with a masonry wall.

Urgent works were carried out in 1555–7 because the church was considered to be in such parlous condition that it was likely to collapse. According to John Lyon, the church ceased to be a place of worship in 1690; in the early 1790s it was used as a Fives Court; during the Napoleonic war it became the garrison's coal store. Drawings made in 1856 show large entrances in the north wall of the nave and the east wall of the chancel, presumably as access for coal carts.

G. Gilbert Scott restored the church in 1860–2. His philosophy was to

preserve every ancient feature which remains in place, to restore to their places all fragment[s] whose original position could be discovered, to leave unrestored those ancient features whose restoration was not necessary to the safety or the reasonable completeness of the building, and to restore others, as nearly as evidence would permit, to the old forms, without an attempt to disguise what was new, or to render it mistakable for old work. Scott's treatment of the tower was curious (presumably reflecting a lack of funds); he capped the wall heads with a hard cementitious render so that rainwater ran off into the tower, onto a new lead covering over the restored crossing vault. The water was carried out of the tower by gullies cut through the walls to external weep-holes which allowed water to run down the external wall face.

The years 1888–90 saw a second phase of conservation designed and supervised by William Butterfield, who was responsible for introducing the mosaic decoration throughout the nave and chancel, a three-light window in the north wall of the north transept and for re-flooring the church. Externally, he added the vestry

and completed the restoration of the tower, raising the height of the flint walling, capping it with a brick parapet, restoring the tower's upper openings and providing a pitched lead roof. The new brick structures were faced with red and yellow bricks. Butterfield's new work appears to have been built directly on top of Scott's rendered treatment of the tower's ruined wall heads.

Early in the twentieth century, damp and water ingress became serious issues. The entire building was repointed by the Office of Works in 1914–15 using a hard impermeable cement mortar; this episode also introduced new rainwater goods.

By the twenty-first century the long-term ingress of moisture, retained within the walls by the hard external pointing of the early twentieth century which had also blocked Scott's 'weep-holes', resulting in dry rot developing in the south wall plate of the tower and around the ends of roof trusses. The ingress of water was also responsible for the staining and deterioration of masonry, particularly in the crossing. In 2016 Roy Porter submitted his proposal for a restoration of the building, which was to include the removal of all hard cementitious mortar, replacing it with a lime mortar, and the removal of impervious emulsion paint, repairing damaged lime plaster with a lime mortar and lime wash. The very successful restoration of St Mary-in-Castro has recently been completed under Roy's supervision.

The overall plan and design of the castle were then explained to us, and we were set free to explore the keep and exhibitions in the buildings of the inner bailey. We went on to lunch at Constable's Gate. On its inner side the tower includes a hall and chambers for the Constable of the castle and his household. Since 1267, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports has also been Constable of

the castle, though since 1708 Walmer Castle has been their preferred official residence, and the Gate, that of the Deputy Constable. This office is now held by the Commandant of the Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham, Kent; although they no longer live at Dover, they continue to use Constable's Gate for a number of ceremonial and social events each year, maintaining historic traditions.

Fortified, we set off for a close look at the Spur and its medieval underground tunnels. We were then privileged to be let out of (and in!) Fitzwilliam Gate, to experience the formidable northern approach. We continued eastwards around the defences, overlooking various post-medieval and later barracks, to visit 'secret' wartime tunnels. Created for housing c. 2000 troops during the Napoleonic Wars, they have fresh-water wells and drains, and came back into use in the Second World War.



Work in progress on the decorative scheme in the Constable's chambers, Dover Castle (A. Williams)

We visited the level named 'Casemate', formerly a military command centre, where operations rooms and telephone exchanges have been recreated from old photos and records, all shown off with lights, whizzes and bangs. Lastly, we went down to the Dumpy tunnel, which was constructed in 1942 for a combined forces command centre. During the Cold War it was converted into a Regional Seat of Government. In the event of a nuclear attack, it would have housed 300-odd government and military officials, the people deemed necessary for the continued governing of the country once radiation levels were considered safe. The fittings, apart from a few tantalising traces, have all gone, but the tunnels still retain a chilling air of Cold War, so we did our best to visualise. The ventilation towers have an unusual feature, moveable eyeball-like nozzles. After an exercise in 1962, when it became clear that those inside were not easily able to communicate with the outside world, a purpose-built BBC studio was added. As late as the 1980s, the Chief Inspector responsible for Dover Castle reputedly remained ignorant of the presence of this tunnel level.

Sunday started damp and grey as we met for the minibuses and said goodbye to Lindsay. We were driven up to the Western Heights, to the car park overlooking the old Harbour and Customs House Quay. Jon Iveson, our guide for the day, pointed out Dover Turret, an 1882 battery of two 16-inch guns; the restored, listed Granville Clock Tower of the 1870s; and the historic hotel below, empty.

We walked round the edge of the cliff to St Martin's Battery, with three independent gun positions aimed in three directions, to cover the Channel. They were built in 1871 for 10-inch guns, then restructured for 6-inch guns in the Second World War. Asked how far

these guns had reached, Jon said 'Half way'. We could see some way to France that day, but not the full 21 miles. Jon then took us round to the rear of the batteries and showed that it was all one connected structure with magazine stores and changing rooms. It was necessary for gun crews to change into linen gear without any metal attachments which could spark and cause an explosion.

By now the sun had come out for our walk a few hundred yards uphill to the remains of the Knights Templar Church, quite hidden in its deep excavated hollow. The rubble core of the twelfth-century footings stood 2-4 feet high, showing a small 33-foot diameter circular nave and a tiny rectangular chancel. In 1807 during works for the Western Heights Defences, it was discovered along with some human bones and medieval glass. An alternative hypothesis is that it is a wayside chapel, built by Dover Priory.

It was now time to get properly to grips with the geography of the Western Heights. From the centrally placed car park we had a good orientating view of the two main defensive parts: the Citadel to the south-west and the Drop Redoubt to the north-east, plus the dry moats, or lines, that joined them. The complex was first planned in 1804 and built, at least in part, during the Napoleonic Wars, over earlier eighteenth-century fortifications. Following a Royal Commission report in 1859 when another invasion by the French was feared, further developments took place in the 1860s. The Citadel was never completely finished.

It is not possible to visit the Citadel, which in 1956 was taken over by HM Prison Service, which ran it successively as a Borstal, Youth Custody Centre, Young Offenders Institution and latterly the Dover Immigration Removal Centre, closed in 2015. Happily, we could visit the impressive

Drop Redoubt, which is managed by the Western Heights Preservation Society. As a plus, Jon was able to take us into some parts of it usually closed to the public. The imposing structure of the redoubt is surrounded by a substantial dry moat, where the grass is currently kept in check by a small flock of ancient-breed sheep. Entry was and is over a bridge through the outer wall. Inside there is space between the massive inner and outer walls so that if enemy troops did land and got that far (none ever did) they could be trapped in between and summarily dispatched with a carronade. Inside the walls the Redoubt was a solid 'island' with barracks, magazine and artillery emplacements. At its height it accommodated 200 troops but by 1893 these had been reduced to around 90. Their quarters were in (mortar) bomb-proof casements covered with earth for protection. The Redoubt also housed a top-secret squad of commandos in the Second World War.

From the top of the Redoubt there is a superb view across Dover town itself and over to the Castle on the opposite headland. In particular, Jon pointed out where the course of the River Dour and the shoreline had been in the Bronze Age, then Roman times. The shore is now some way further out and the Dover Boat, which was originally sunk in a channel at the mouth of the river, was found during the construction of the modern A20 road. Evidence for the Roman harbour has also been found well inland.

At The Redoubt we saw fragmentary remains of Dover's second Roman pharos – the twin of the very much extant pharos on the opposite headland at the high point of Dover Castle. It is not known whether the two were in use at the same time, but it is likely. Some of the foundations can be

seen in what became officers' quarters in the Napoleonic defences, and outside is a small stump of remaining masonry, known as the Bredonstone. This was the site of the installations of the Wardens of the Cinque Ports from the early seventeenth century to the early twentieth century.

From the Redoubt it was back in the minibuses to drive to the far side of Dover, to Wanstone Farm, part of the 200-acre White Cliffs area acquired by the National Trust (NT) in 2017. It is the site of the remains of a substantial Second World War heavy anti-aircraft gun battery and is not currently publicly accessible. Known as Dover 2, it was one of three anti-aircraft batteries around Dover. We had the immense privilege of being shown round at the start of a large project to excavate, preserve, make safe and interpret the site, well before it can be opened to the public. Our guides were our member Nathalie Cohen, NT Archaeologist for London and South East England, with Jon Barker, Project Manager, and Gordon Wise, an NT volunteer. The project has three-year funding from the Heritage Lottery and others and should finish in 2024. It is involving many partners, including English Heritage, the educational charity Rejuvenate and a large number of volunteers and donors.

The battery, which was rather improbably designed by Mortimer Wheeler, includes two 15-inch gun emplacements nicknamed Clem and Jane (allegedly after Clementine Churchill and Jane, the pin-up in a *Daily Mirror* strip cartoon of the time), their attendant magazines and a number of ancillary buildings. Each emplacement had a Vickers gun operated by a seven-man crew, two on the gun itself. These guns were in particular integral to Operation Diver against the V1 flying bomb campaign of



View north over the 15-inch Wanstone Battery: the recently excavated emplacement (bottom right) of 'Jane'; two covered magazines (centre and centre-right); the Crew Shelter, built below ground and with bund protection (centre right). At left is the D2 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Site, for four 3.7-inch guns in hexagonal emplacements, serviced with two magazines (© National Trust)

1944. At first the battery was considered purely defensive – it was a full 1.5km behind the White Cliffs themselves – but the guns were capable of a range of up to 24 miles. That meant that France was in range if an offensive use was required, as Churchill in particular realised. Between them they could fire masses of debris into the sky for a scattergun effect, at the rate of 20–60 rounds per minute.

Overall, around 200 soldiers were based at the battery, engaged in a range of activities and requiring offices, shelters, guard rooms, living quarters and a NAAFI. This considerable number of ancillary buildings could vary in use over time and they, the magazines and the emplacements themselves are now in various stages of dereliction. A very early analogue computer was used here until radar took over later in the war.

At the end of the war the site was mothballed. Many of the buildings were at least partially demolished as they were

considered an eyesore and an unhappy reminder of the war. The site was enclosed by a strong fence and soon became covered by impenetrable scrub. It was decommissioned in 1957 and sold to a local farmer, who used it for arable, while some areas remained scrubland.

Excavation of the site started on the 'Jane' emplacement in July 2022, with work at Fan Bay, site of a second battery nearer the coast, due in 2023, and culminating with 'Clem' in 2024. In addition, much of the Second World War graffiti will be recorded and preserved, including one on 'how to shoot down a V1'.

The whole White Cliffs area is in the National Environment stewardship scheme and after clearing will be managed as high-quality chalk grassland, seeded with wildflower and bird-food mix. A barley field will be left to provide additional winter fodder for birds.

On returning to Dover centre, we had hoped to visit the Painted House – the

Roman mansio excavated and run by Kent Archaeological Trust. Sadly, this was not possible as the Trust had not the resources at the time to open it to the public, though it did reopen for three days each week for the summer.

Instead, we were again extremely privileged, this time to be shown round a site also currently in the throes of a major (£9m plus) Lottery-funded project and as yet closed to the public. Jon took us into the currently disused Old Town Hall in Dover, which incorporates remains of the thirteenth-century Hospital of St Mary, more commonly known as Maison Dieu. Founded in 1203 by Hubert de Burgh, the then Constable of Dover Castle, Maison Dieu was to shelter and feed pilgrims on their way to Canterbury. All religious functions ceased in 1534 when it was handed over to the Crown during the dissolution of the monasteries.

Since then, the site has had a succession of other major functions, with the medieval buildings being partly incorporated but also to a large extent demolished over time. From 1544 to 1830 it served as a supplies base, or victualling yard, for the Navy. This has been, and is, the subject of a number of research projects.

In 1830 it was sold to the Corporation of Dover for use as the town hall. The surviving chapel, dating from 1227, was turned into a courtroom with a prison below. To do this the floor was raised several metres – the tops of arches frame the doors in and out and the medieval windows dominate the room. The fine nineteenth-century wooden court furnishings are still in place, as, atmospherically, are the prison cells below. The courtroom remained in use until the 1980s, as a magistrates' court until the 1970s, then lastly as a coroner's court. It was here that the inquest was held concerning the loss

of life in the 1987 capsizing of the *Herald of Free Enterprise*.

In 1851 more extensive renovations were started, designed by the architect Ambrose Poynter and led by another well-known architect, William Burges, who was renowned for his enthusiasm for medieval styles. Most noticeably they incorporated the large and spectacular medieval hall, now known as the Stone Hall, built in the 1290s at great expense to house and feed pilgrims and to serve as the infirmary (replacing an earlier building). In the 1880s the impressive, and even larger, Connaught Hall was added to act as both the council meeting chamber and a concert hall, with a large Norman and Beard organ added in the 1902. The renovations incorporated many neo-gothic features including coats of arms, grotesque beasts and decorative schemes.

Thanks to careful removal for safekeeping during the Second World War, important medieval stained glass did survive to be reinstated. Little else medieval remains until you go down to the basement where there are a number of medieval tombs, touchingly peaceful in niches, and you can see parts of pillars and other pieces of masonry used to underpin later walls. It was fascinating to see this work in progress, with the Stone Hall racked out to accommodate safely fixtures, fittings and miscellaneous parts, and the prison cells put to use and labelled as temporary finds stores – 'Cell 12 Ceramics'.

Large parts, but not all, of the site are Grade 1 listed and Maison Dieu itself is a scheduled monument. The current project aims to make safe, sensitively restore and interpret the whole, medieval and Victorian alike, so that it again can be appealing and fit for purpose for many uses, private and civic.

In the past it has been used for many things from civic functions to weddings, concerts, even wrestling matches. It now needs to be available for hire in more affordable chunks. The Landmark Trust is intending to take over a section.

Both this and the Wanstone Farm project are due to be completed in 2024 and will

make substantial additions to what Dover has to offer. As it is, there is so much to see and take in now, and we were greatly entertained and enthralled. Dover is so much more than a port to pass through. We are very grateful to all our guides and to the organisers, Jonathan Coad, Caroline Raison, and Peter Ginn.

## LECTURES

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### Attending Lectures at Burlington House

We have returned to meetings at Burlington House, with live lectures and tea beforehand, but as the pandemic is not over we have to continue to exercise some caution, and it remains possible that regulations may change. We appreciate that some members may feel reluctant to resume attending such meetings in person, and so we intend to continue live-streaming of lectures.

### Access to Lectures Online

To view the forthcoming Institute's lectures online, if you have not already done so, please contact the Administrator with your email address at [admin@royalarchinst.org](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org), and before each lecture you will be sent the link.

### Royal Archaeological Institute Lecture Programme And Abstracts: 2022/3

Meetings are held from October to May, on the second Wednesday of the month, at 5.00 pm in the Rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BE. In May, the lecture will be preceded at 4.45 pm by the Institute's Annual General Meeting; in November and April, the lecture will be preceded at 3.00 pm by short presentations. Government guidance permitting, tea will be served at 4.30 pm, or before the AGM, at 4.15 pm.

For enquiries, the Institute's mobile number is 07847 600756.

### 2022

12 October

#### **Excavations at Smallhythe, Kent**

*Nathalie Cohen and Elliott Wragg*

During two seasons of excavation at Smallhythe Place in 2021–2, a team of archaeologists has been uncovering the

evidence for medieval royal shipbuilding documented at the site, previously investigated by Time Team and Archaeology South-East. This talk will present the interim results of the National Trust's discoveries, which span a time period of over 2000 years of activity along the Kent/Sussex border.

9 November

### **Reconstructing Bury St Edmunds Abbey**

*Dr Steven Brindle*

The famous monastery at Bury St Edmunds had one of the largest churches in Europe. It was, however, comprehensively destroyed in the mid-sixteenth century, apart from part of the shell of the west front. The site was partially excavated by the Ministry of Works c. 1957–64. The fragmentary state of the ruins has long presented a challenge, both in understanding this major monument of Romanesque architecture, and in interpreting and presenting the site to visitors. English Heritage has carried out new research and survey work, bringing together different strands of evidence to produce new reconstructions of the abbey church for a new suite of graphic panels that were recently installed. This lecture presents the project, the evidence and their new interpretation of this major site.

14 December

### **Return to the Neanderthal Site at La Cotte de St Brelade**

*Dr Matthew Pope*

This year saw the first full-scale investigation at La Cotte de St Brelade, Jersey, since the 1970s. The project will bring a previously unexcavated area under investigation, and combines modern research of the Neanderthal locality with a programme of engineering, designed to stabilise Ice Age deposits remaining at the site and protect them from the erosive power of the sea. Combining these imperatives with the challenges of access and safe working has resulted in the development of a hybrid project team of Palaeolithic archaeologists and engineers.

The first season has seen us excavating cold-

stage deposits of unknown age containing artefacts consistent with the technology of the Late Middle Palaeolithic levels recorded at the site. This lecture considers the significance of the finds and their place in the Palaeolithic of north-west Europe – in particular how we will approach learning more about the population of humans identified from teeth previously found at La Cotte, which combine physical features of both Neanderthal people and *Homo sapiens*.

2023

11 January

### **Recent Excavations in the Amphitheatre, Fort and Town of Richborough**

*Tony Wilmott*

Richborough has long been regarded as key in the history of Roman Britain owing to excavations by J.P. Bushe-Fox, published between 1926 and 1968. These concentrated on the area within the walls of the Saxon Shore fort, and this, combined with features relating to the Claudian Conquest, led to the site's interpretation as predominantly military. Geophysical survey has shown that it was actually an urban place, some 21ha in extent; a port town developing after the conquest, and upon which the Saxon Shore fort was imposed.

Excavations have revealed new evidence on the town, the plan of the Shore Fort, and the relationship of the site with the sea. The amphitheatre was one of the first recognised in Britain, in 1776, and the very first to be examined by excavation in 1849. Work in 2021 gave an extraordinary insight into its structure, decoration and history. This paper will discuss recent work, and how it has expanded our knowledge of this iconic site.

8 February

### **Circular Building, Circular Economies and Circular Ecologies: Learning from Scottish Prehistoric Roundhouses**

*Dr Tanja Romankiewicz*

Research into later prehistoric buildings in north-west Europe – and the Scottish roundhouse record in particular – has highlighted how much reusable, renewable building materials, such as earth and turf, influenced the character of dwelling spaces. What has emerged is a dynamic concept of prehistoric architecture as a metamorphosing process of circular building, embedded in circular economies and ecologies, interwoven with human lives. This new research now takes a holistic, long-term, multi-disciplinary perspective, by applying these ancient concepts to modern low carbon architecture.

8 March

### **Building Westminster Hall: Modelling the Original Roof Structure**

*Dr Gavin Simpson*

Before building, the architect needs certain facts about the site, the cost, the materials and where they can be obtained. Hanmer's Chronicle, neglected in plain sight for centuries, provides some answers. It records that timber for the roof of Westminster Hall came from Ireland, following negotiations in 1098 between William II (Rufus) and Murchard the High King. The Westminster roof had an estimated external span of 25m. Clearly, William was unable to find timbers of the required dimensions in England. A reconstruction drawing has been based on the Romanesque roof (16.8m span) at Ely Cathedral (1104–40). A century later, a further development of the roof over St Hugh's Choir at Lincoln Cathedral (14.21m span) saves timber by reducing the number

of tie beams to every third frame. This development was extended in 1292–3 by Margaret of Burgundy in building a hospital (21.1m roof span) using timbers felled locally at Tonnerre (Yonne), of dimensions similar to those of Westminster Hall which may have been the model for her project.

12 April

### **Settling Down, Moving On and Coming Back – Prehistoric Discoveries at Llanfaethlu / Ymgartrefu, Symud Ymlaen a Dod yn ôl – Darganfyddiadau Cynhanesiol yn Llanfaethlu**

*Catherine Rees and Matthew Jones*

Archaeological excavations in advance of the construction of a new school at Llanfaethlu, Ynys Môn (Anglesey) uncovered Mesolithic and later Prehistoric remains of national significance, including a Mesolithic tree-throw containing a sizable lithic assemblage and disarticulated human remains, four early Neolithic long houses, middle and late Neolithic pit groups, an inhumation and a burnt mound. We await the radiocarbon dates on the human remains from the tree throw, but if of Mesolithic date they will be the only remains from this period recovered from Cymru (Wales) found in non-cave locations. The group of four contemporary early Neolithic houses is also unique in Cymru, hinting further at strong similarities with sites in Éire (Ireland). As post-excavation works near completion, we discuss the development of the site and the repeated use of the locale over millennia. This lecture will be given in English.

10 May **The President's Lecture**

### **My Garden's Part in Hitler's Downfall**

*Lindsay Allason-Jones*

When I was buying a house in Berwick-upon-Tweed seven years ago, the structure

in the garden described by the vendor as an Anderson shelter was considered simply as something to be got rid of, albeit by sound archaeological methods. The excavations, however, revealed, not an Anderson shelter

but a 'Wilmot's Fortress' shelter which proved to have played a previously unknown part in the Radio Security Service's activities during the Second World War.

## British Archaeological Association Meetings

Royal Archaeological Institute members are invited to attend the meetings of the BAA. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from October to May, at 5.00 pm in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries of 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. Videos of previous BAA meetings are available to view online at <https://thebaa.org/videos-of-baa-lectures/>

### 2022

5 October

#### **An Open and Shut Case: Displaying Medieval Art in Private Collections**

*Dr Paul Williamson*

This lecture will be preceded by the AGM.

2 November

#### **The Chantry Chapels of Cardinal Beaufort and Bishop Waynflete in Winchester Cathedral**

*Jane Stewart*

7 December

#### **The Abbey of Santa Maria a Mare, San Nicola di Tremiti: An Important Early Romanesque Monument All But Lost at Sea**

*Dr Francis Woodman*

### 2023

4 January

#### **Opicinus de Canistris (1296–c. 1352) and Diagrams of Time in the Late Middle Ages**

*Dr Sarah Griffin*

1 February

#### **The Sources of Viking Wealth: New Results from Lead Isotope Analysis of Viking Silver Hoards**

*Dr Jane Kershaw*

1 March

#### **Digging for Medieval Seals: Does Gender Matter?**

*Dr Jitske Jasperse*

5 April

#### **Intertextuality and Romanitas: Twelfth-Century Responses to Roman Antiquities**

*Dr William Kynan Wilson*

3 May

#### **The Cosmati Mosaics at Westminster: Art, Politics, and Exchanges with Rome in the Age of Gothic**

*Professors Paul Binski and Claudia Bolgia*

### Request

If members have links to local or learned societies anywhere in the UK, could they please register them with the Administrator; local contacts are so helpful in the running of meetings.

### The Sixth Annual Pitt Rivers Lecture, 25 October 2022

'Prehistoric Monuments and Communities on the Fenland Ouse' will be given by Christopher Evans FBA. The lecture will consider how cross-landscape sampling on a multitude of sites and monuments in unprecedented detail allows unique insights into prehistoric communities and their riverine land-use.

This is a free public lecture that will be held as a hybrid event, available via Zoom. The live presentation in the Fusion Building, Talbot Campus, Bournemouth University, Bournemouth BH12 5BB, at 7.00 pm will follow a welcome reception with displays, from 6.30 pm. For further details and registration, please visit the Eventbrite page at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sixth-pitt-rivers-lecture-excavation-as-experiment-by-christopher-evans-tickets-312789480757>

### 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 available at this address on the second Wednesday of each month from October to May, between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm.

### Subscriptions

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

### The Institute's Website

From our website at [www.royalarchinst.org](http://www.royalarchinst.org) all readers can download booking forms for our meetings, and access site-specific notes from previous Summer Meetings. Please send any feedback or suggestions for future improvements to the Administrator at [admin@royalarchinst.org](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org)

### Access for members

If you are a full member, and have not yet got your online log-in for the members' area of our website, please contact the Administrator with your email address. You will be sent a username and password.

### Book news

Following the success of the 'Borderline Funny' exhibition, which was mounted by the Friends of Segedunum at Wallsend fort on the occasion of the last Pilgrimage of Hadrian's Wall, one of the cartoonists, Doug Lawrence, has been inspired to produce a small book of his cartoons on the subject of Hadrian's Wall. This is due out soon. If anyone is interested in purchasing a copy, please email [Lindsay Allason-Jones on allason.jones@btinternet.com](mailto:Lindsay.Allason-Jones@btinternet.com), and she will send you details when it comes out.



Re-entering Dover castle via Fitzwilliam Gate, added in the 1220s; the brick walling and steps are 1930s. Taken during the Institute's 2022 Spring Meeting at Dover; see above, p. 10 (A. Williams)

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## ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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NEXT ISSUE Copy for the next issue must reach the editor by the end of January 2023 for publication in April 2023.

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