EDITORIAL Katherine Barclay

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Royal Society for the Arts (RSA) brought together a range of high-profile speakers on 14 and 15 July 2014 to consider the challenges and opportunities facing the UK’s heritage sector. Delegates were drawn from the widest range of cultural and physical spheres; speakers included Director of the British Museum, Neil MacGregor, Chairman of English Heritage, Sir Laurie Magnus, as well as representatives of arts, architectural, planning and environmental quangos and charities.

The organisers had commissioned ‘provocations’, essays written by the keynote speakers, intended to stimulate audience and panel discussion; these essays can be downloaded as PDFs and the resulting debates (which had been live-streamed) are available via the website http://www.heritageexchange.co.uk/. There are links too to extensive and lively blogs and twitter exchanges.

Dame Jenny Abramsky, in her last speech as Chair of HLF, said ‘this is a pivotal moment for the heritage sector. We urgently need to look to the future, consider heritage’s role in society and explore new ways of working to ensure its resilience’. Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive of the RSA described research showing that the UK’s heritage is an ‘under-used resource’ that ‘needs to play a much greater role in helping areas thrive economically, culturally and socially’. ‘The sector must argue convincingly that what it is holding out is not a begging bowl but an untapped asset.’ Measuring and proving the impact of heritage work is crucial to sourcing non grant-based finance.

Cultural theorists Robert Hewison and John Holden, in ‘Turbulent times: prospects for the national heritage’, saw the division between cultural and natural heritage as artificial. The heritage sector is ‘populated by a heterogeneous mix of government departments, local authorities, non-departmental public bodies, expert panels, chartered organizations, and charities ranging from some of the biggest in the land to some of the smallest’. Resulting in tensions, lack of agreed priorities, and no common language, which together inhibit effective advocacy and public engagement. Their proposals included the merging of Historic England and Natural England as one agency, to take responsibility for policy advice on intangible heritage, for planning and for national and regional museums, guided by a single policy vision. ‘We acknowledge that the creation of a Historic Environment Agency is a bold challenge to a sector where conservation is too often confused with conservatism, but new models of governance, leadership and management will only emerge through more dialogue that encourages shared understanding’, they concluded. The audience challenged their claims to some extent, supported by Heritage Alliance Chairman Loyd Grossman who spoke against top-down restructuring proposed by theorists.

In his essay, ‘Re-inventing heritage: a disruptive opportunity?’, Mike Clarke Chief Executive of the RSPB argues that those who care about heritage must work together, ‘shift from being a sector’ towards becoming a ‘movement’. He had little faith in governmental institutions as agents of change, seeing government policy as very rarely framed for long-term public interest ‘We must articulate more clearly what heritage is for and why it matters; we need to be clearer about the organising ideas and frameworks that give common purpose, coherence and wider relevance to the heritage movement’ and collaborate strategically for greater collective impact.

Meanwhile: in March, the RAI responded to consultation on the National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP), who in July wrote to contributors with a summary of the rather unsurprising key points:
• There is broad support for having a unifying framework that identifies the most important things to be done.
• There is general agreement that the right opportunities, threats and priorities for heritage have been identified.
• There needs to be more clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the organisations involved.
• There should be more opportunities for people to get involved.
• The presentation, language and relevance of the NHPP need to be clearer.

And to say that feedback will now be reviewed and fed into the National Heritage Protection Plan for 2015–20, being developed by the independent Advisory Board to be published in 2014. I despair to read that another consultation will begin this autumn, on the Action Plan of heritage protection work that English Heritage will deliver for the NHPP.

Our Present Publisher

Oblong Creative Ltd is a small company of individuals with backgrounds in the publishing and printing industries. Except for the final stages of printing and binding, which they place with a few tried and trusted companies, they do all the work in their premises at Wetherby. Since its establishment in 1997, Oblong has grown steadily to become the publisher of books on history and the decorative and fine arts. They also provide publishing and distribution services to small publishers and societies, from the Chapels Society to the Regional Furniture Society, and to the RAI.

Derek Brown, managing director of Oblong, has been designing beautiful, well-crafted books for the past forty years. He is author of *Designing a Book* (2003, Primrose Hill Press) and contributory author to the fourth and fifth revisions of the MHRA Style Book. In 1976, at Maney’s, he first took charge of seeing the *Archaeological Journal* through the press. He and his colleagues, since 1997 at Oblong, have been responsible for several re-designings of the Journal and of the RAI *Newsletter*, the design and maintenance of the Institute’s first website, and the revival of the Summer Meeting Report in its new attractive format — all to the highest standards. As well as producing the RAI’s publications, Oblong is responsible for printing programmes, leaflets, the Annual Report, and other items, for mailings which are despatched by their staff. The RAI stores its stock of journals and monographs in Oblong’s warehousing facilities, and they handle sales and invoicing on the Institute’s behalf and deal with enquiries from the public about availability and price. They even plan carefully to take full advantage of a range of postage contracts in order to minimize costs to the Institute.

Derek who has been a member of the Institute since 1985, has developed close working relationships with a succession of editors and
other honorary officers, patiently offering support and guidance, and discreetly complementing the work of editors by checking and applying editorial house style, formatting tables and appendices, and giving advice on the suitability and treatment of illustrations — often working to improve illustrations several months before the rest of the volume is put in hand. From next year, for reasons of complexity of digital versions, the Journal and Summer Meeting Report will be produced by Routledge, a change which is explained further by the President, below. I earnestly hope that Oblong will continue to provide all of the other publishing services for the Institute for many years to come, so that we may benefit from the expertise and experience of those at Oblong, especially Derek Brown.

OUR NEW SECRETARY

Dr Peter ‘Pete’ Wilson, PhD, FSA, FSA Scot, MIIfA, who takes over as Secretary of the Institute from October, is Foresight Coordinator for English Heritage and was formerly their Head of Research Policy (Roman Archaeology) for English Heritage. He also leads on Portable Antiquities issues for English Heritage and is closely involved in English Heritage’s ‘Heritage Crime Programme’. His primary research focus is ‘the Roman North’ with particular emphasis on towns and civil settlement, along with the end of the Roman period. He gained his doctorate from the University of Bradford in 1995 looking at the impact of the Roman occupation on the region, local responses to it and the character of Roman-period settlement, agriculture and industry. Notable projects have included Catterick (1981–99) where a series of rescue-driven excavations in combination with extensive geophysical surveys, fieldwalking, and latterly metal detecting, investigated the Roman small town and its environs, along with aspects of the early medieval landscape; Cawthorn Camps (1999–2000), a project conceived in partnership with the North York Moors National Park, to test developing new understanding of the internationally important earthwork complex as well as contributing to the further development of the management regime for the site; and Groundwell Ridge Roman villa, a major Community Archaeology project (2003–5) undertaken on the site which was saved from development following a locally-based public campaign in Swindon.

An interview with Pete should appear in the next edition of the Newsletter.

FROM THE PRESIDENT David A. Hinton

Archaeological Journal — Publishing Partnership

The RAI has now signed a contract with Routledge (part of the international Taylor and Francis publishing group) for the production of the Archaeological Journal and the Summer Meeting Reports from next year, volume 172, for 2015. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking
Derek Brown, of Oblong Creative, who for many years has been responsible for ensuring the exceptionally high standard of these volumes, for all the work that he has done to place us in the forefront of journal publication; we hope that he will continue to help with the Newsletter and other papers.

Most of our Life and Ordinary Members will not notice any change, as they will still receive the printed volume, and the Summer Meeting Report each year, now to be sent by Routledge; the RAI retains control of all editorial policy matters and, apart from queries over delivery of the Journal, all matters concerning private membership will continue to be dealt with by our Administrator. A new feature will be that on-line, the Journal will be issued in two parts, so that eager authors can see their work more quickly and avid readers can seek it out, before it is printed. Other benefits of the new partnership will include an arrangement that will put all the back numbers of the Archaeological Journal on-line in one place, with full access for full members continuing. A principal reason for the move to Routledge is to take advantage of technology that permits libraries to provide secure access for their multiple readers to the on-line, fully searchable version of any journal that they hold. Libraries will now be able to have both the current journal and the back numbers on-line for all their readers.

In the last Newsletter, members were asked to comment about continuing to have a conventional index to the Archaeological Journal in future. There was very little response, positive or negative, but we discussed production with Routledge, whose experience is that once their word-searching facility is built into their on-line journals, as in our case it will be right back to the first one, published in 1845, there is very little demand for a separate index. Council therefore decided not to go ahead with compiling one for recent volumes, at least until reaction to fully-searchable on-line availability of the Journal can be judged.

The RAI and Postgraduates

One way in which we can celebrate the Institute’s contract with Routledge is to offer free electronic access to the RAI to a limited number of postgraduates — enabling them for a trial year to read the journal and the back numbers on-line, and to view the videos of our lectures and field meetings. We have already initiated the twice-yearly presentations by postgraduates and archaeologists at the start of their careers, but as I felt unsure what else we can do, I devised a survey which I tried out on a postgraduate forum here in Southampton, and took to the Annual Student Archaeology conference in Reading, bribing the students with chocolate biscuits in return for completed questionnaires.

Some of the results surprised me — not least, that half the students did their first degrees at overseas universities. Most of those replied ‘no’ to whether they had heard of the RAI, but more worryingly, a few of the British students answered ‘no’ as well, and a few (not all the same ones) could not remember having read a paper in the Archaeological Journal. Less than a quarter watch on-line lectures, and only half ‘Tweet’ — I did not ask what about. Some expressed interest in following an RAI Twitter if we set one up; I am not the best person to take this forward, but I will contact those who expressed interest to see if it is something that is really worth pursuing. One idea suggested at a Council meeting, that we might usefully make a small sum available to student archaeological societies to subsidize field trips, was enthusiastically supported, though admittedly the question was not phrased well enough to make dissent unlikely. Much more divided was whether students get enough opportunity to participate at conferences. Clearly the RAI should not try to set one up separately, but it will be very interesting to see if our conference at Bradford provides a good model, as Alex Gibson has
built a number of short student contributions into it. The one question which was unanimously answered ‘yes’ was whether a one-page guide to British archaeological institutions would be useful, a suggestion made originally by David Altoft; I am not sure how we would circulate that, but it seems worth doing.

All in all, a quite useful and interesting experiment, despite the gibe by a Reading staff member that I had taken up confectionery sales in my retirement.

The Institute subsidised the trip by delegates attending this same Reading conference to visit Silchester, and a report appears below (p. 17).

THE INSTITUTE’S WEBSITE
Susan Greaney, Website Manager

Don’t forget to look regularly at the Institute’s website at www.royalarchinst.org — it is frequently updated with useful information about forthcoming lectures and events. You can download booking forms for all our meetings, see the full programme for our autumn conference, and read book reviews online. You can even watch a documentary version of our recent London docklands visit! We would welcome any feedback or suggestions about future improvements to our website, to website@royalarchinst.org

Access for members
If you are a full member, and haven’t yet got your online log-in for the website, please send your e-mail address to admin@royalarchinst.org. You will be sent a username and password, which will allow you to access the filmed lectures and online editions of the last ten years of the Archaeological Journal.

Online lectures
We now film all of our lectures at Burlington House in London and put them online for those members unable to attend the evening. The Society of Antiquaries has recently installed upgraded cameras and software which enables us to do this, and the lectures are usually put on the website within a couple of days. We have made our two ‘debate’ lectures available for everyone to view: last year this saw David Breeze debating with
Eberhard Sauer on the function of Roman military frontier walls and this year it was Alison Sheridan, Julian Thomas and Alasdair Whittle, on how and why Britain became Neolithic — both are very much worth watching. Other lectures are available to full members using your member log-in details.

Book reviews

As soon as they are ready, we are now putting online the book reviews prepared for the Archaeological Journal. Currently available to read and download are reviews for Volumes 169 and 170.

Archaeological Journal online

Until our new publishing partnership is established, we are temporarily hosting recent issues of the Archaeological Journal online on our website. At present, using a member log-in, you can download from our website all articles and contents from Volumes 161 (2004) through to 170 (2013).

For associate members and others, these same volumes are available on a pay-per-view basis through the CBA’s ArchLib website, http://archlib.britarch.net. Each article is available as a PDF, as well as shorter contributions and reviews. Volumes 1 to 120 (for 1844–1963) of the Journal are freely available to all to search, download and read on the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) website at http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk. Volumes 121–160 will be digitized and, we hope within the next year, made available through our new publishing partnership.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

British Archaeological Awards 2014

Once again I was delighted to represent the Institute at the 2014 British Archaeological Awards ceremony, hosted by the British Museum on 14 July and compèred by Loyd Grossman. Prizes were awarded to:

Best Archaeological Book: Interpreting the English Village: landscape and community at Shapwick, Somerset, by the late Mick Aston and Chris Gerrard
Best Community-Engagement Archaeology Project: Scotland’s Coastal Heritage at Risk
Best Archaeological Innovation: ShoreUPDATE: Sites at Risk Map web portal and app
Best Public Presentation of Archaeology: New Secrets of the Terracotta Warriors
Best Archaeological Project: Bloomberg London, MOLA

Beatrice de Cardi who recently celebrated her 100th birthday received an Outstanding Achievement Award presented by Dan Snow, CBA President.

Guest speaker at the event, Ed Vaizey, Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, described archaeology as a ‘living discipline, allowing the people of the past to speak’. He said that the archaeological community in the UK was ‘second to none’ and that the engagement of volunteers in archaeology was ‘part of the ecology of the UK and something unique in the world’. As always this was a wonderfully uplifting event, and one of few opportunities to celebrate the very best of British Archaeology. Congratulations to all the winners and highly commended runners up.

The next awards will be made in 2016 with nominations opening in late 2015. Full details on the criteria for each award, and how to attend the ceremony, will be found on their website later this year at www.britarch.ac.uk/awards.
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 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

Closing date for applications: 12 January 2015. Awards announced in April 2015.

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 competition is for 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 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2014

Autumn Day Meeting 11 October at Greenwich led by Anthony Quiney and Hedley Swain. (details with this mailing)

Annual Conference 17–20 October at the University of Bradford (see below and details with this mailing)

Forthcoming in 2015 Spring Day Meeting 7 March to Colchester Castle Museum led by David Hinton (details with this mailing)

Spring Meeting 15–17 May to East Dorset led by David Hinton (details with this mailing)

Summer Meeting 4–11 July to Sweden, Stockholm and its environs led by Hedley Swain (details to be confirmed)

The 2015 Summer Meeting will be to the capital of Sweden, Stockholm, and its environs. One of the most beautiful cities in Europe, built on fourteen islands, Stockholm includes a well preserved historic core and many museums and buildings that reflect a long and significant history as a
capital, royal court and imperial maritime centre. Several days will be spent in the city centre visiting the historic old town, royal palace and some of the notable museums including the incredibly well preserved seventeenth-century warship the Vasa, and the Historiska (History Museum) with its important archaeological collections and national treasury.

Day trips from Stockholm will include the famous cathedral and university city and Dark Age burial mounds at Uppsala, and the seventeenth-century royal palace complex at Drottningholm, a world heritage site that includes a working eighteenth-century theatre and a Chinese pavilion. We will also visit important regional archaeological sites including the Viking settlement of Birka. Some travel will be by boat.

If you would like further details, please send your e-mail or postal details to Caroline Raison the Assistant Meetings Secretary at RAI, The Firs, 2 Main Street, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9GD, or csraison@gmail.com. Full details of the Summer Meeting will be in the Spring Mailing, and on the RAI web site at the end of the year.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014 in partnership with the University of Bradford

Science in Archaeology

University Of Bradford, 17 – 20 October 2014

There are still places left at this non-residential conference celebrating the 40th anniversary of undergraduate teaching at the Department of Archaeological Sciences at the University of Bradford. The conference will review the contributions that science has made to archaeological studies since 1974, and some of the directions in which it is now progressing. Keynote speakers will consider how it has changed their area of interest; the shorter papers will explain current related research projects taking place at Bradford and what they hope to achieve.

The full programme and booking form are included in this mailing.

MEETINGS NOTES


Jewels are bad. They tempt the greedy, corrupt the innocent and generally bring out the worst in people. It was, therefore, with some trepidation and an unhealthy excitement that members of the RAI approached the Museum of London (MoL) in March, on a day of brilliant sunshine that would have out-sparkled any other collection of artefacts. And there we would discover that jewels can, in scholarly hands, exert the most benign influence and engender research of the highest calibre.

The Cheapside Hoard is not a new accession to the museum’s collections but it has been newly displayed in a special exhibition, the fruit of new and exceptional research. Our President had prepared a day of treats for us; and we gathered in a very green seminar room (it was like being inside a lettuce, but there all vegetable similarities ceased) to hear his inspiring description of the nascence of the London jewellery trade, as evidenced by seventh- to ninth-century burials. During that time, the city grew rapidly. The wealthy, their disposable incomes burgeoning with the pace of urban development, demanded suitable regalia to sport in life and death and, thus stimulated, the multi-various skills, stylistic influences and exotic materials flowing into the city were harnessed to the production of objects of supreme quality. David showed us a glorious selection of must-have grave-goods, beautiful in design and of extraordinary workmanship. Already the craftspeople of London were hitting their mark.
Next up was Hazel Forsyth, Senior Curator, Medieval and Post-medieval, at MoL. Hers was the wonderful research that has under-pinned the display of the Hoard and ‘London’s Lost Jewels’, the accompanying book. Research, yes, but that seems too dry a word for the exciting stories thus revealed. The Hoard itself exploded (sic: see below) into the light of a summer’s day in 1912, with a blow from the pick-axe of workmen demolishing cellars on Cheapside. What happened next was worthy of a Savoyard libretto, with a full cast of moustache-twirling types such as Stony Jack, Dr Waldo and Viscount Harcourt. Only lacking, alas, was unspoiled virtue: lust-stoked by the baleful allure of the jewels, the museums of the metropolis jostled for ownership. It was not until 1976 that most of the Hoard was re-united in the new Museum of London and displayed close to the original finds-spot.

Hazel’s research, based largely on unpublished sixteenth- and seventeenth-century sources and on new analyses of the jewels, has revealed, in extraordinary detail, the history of Cheapside as the centre of the jewellery trade in Elizabethan and Jacobean London: the history of the buildings and their many alterations; the tenants who lived there; the ways that the jewellery trade operated, from winning the raw materials to the pinning of an exquisite jewel on a ruff; how the carriage of jewels to London could involve smuggling, murder, intrigue and theft on the high seas; and how the jewellery trade, necessarily secretive, was regulated. And all this busyness was created by the demand of those (very few) with wealth and a taste for displaying it. We had seen already that this demand had an ancient lineage but, in the late sixteenth century, it was given a top-spin by the vanity of one woman, Elizabeth I.

As Hazel told us, the Cheapside Hoard is the greatest cache of its kind in the world. It is unique in size, in the variety of materials, the global extent of their provenance and for the workmanship of the finished pieces. It comprises over 500 items, including enamelled and gem-set gold chains; grape-cluster earrings of gold, amethyst and emerald; brooches, bracelets, rings and pins of gold set with rubies, emeralds, garnets, sapphires, diamonds, opals, spinels, pearls, moonstones, toadstones, lapis lazuli, turquoise, cornelian and coloured glass; antique cameos and intaglios; loose gems; gold wire-work pendants; an exquisite scent bottle of enamelled gold and inset gems; table-wares of jade and agate; a parrot charm made of emerald; a squirrel of cornelian; and a watch set in an emerald case. I have not listed everything. We do not know who assembled and owned the Hoard, nor who buried it. We know that it is a jeweller’s stock-in-trade, an assemblage of finished pieces and items for re-cycling. We know that the gems came from across the globe: Sri Lanka, India,
Persia, Afghanistan, Iran, Burma, Russia, Colombia. The earliest object is a cameo, cut in Alexandria in the first or second century BC; royal and aristocratic portraiture of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries shows jewels similar to many in the Hoard. The latest object, an intaglio of the first Viscount Stafford (1640–1666), also provides a plausible reason for the Hoard’s burial: the Great Fire of London. Hazel pointed out that many of the skills evident in the cutting of the gems, the hand-eye co-ordination and sensitivity to each piece, are recognised and appreciated by modern jewellers, even if, sadly, these skills survive now only in India.

At long last we approached the exhibition itself, where a stringent handbag policy and armed police fuelled the excitement. We were greeted by a simulacrum of the Hoard’s explosive re-appearance in 1912 (that pick-axe moment), followed by a low-lit and serious introduction covering all the essential details of historical context, skills, materials and consumer demand. This was scholarly stuff and we walked round quietly and individually, reading the words, nodding as we absorbed the information. How clever this was: the exhibition designers were preparing us for one of the most spectacular coups de theatre I have ever encountered in a museum. Round the corner was a blaze of multi-faceted, multi-coloured light, the voltage ramped up inside turquoise-coloured galleries hung with jewels glittering and twinkling like forbidden fruit, stretching far into the distance. Clutching our magnifying glasses (another brilliant idea), we ran about and chattered like children in a sweet shop, dragging each other to see yet another wonderful thing. Portraits of swaggering Tudor and Jacobean aristocrats lined the walls, their clothes and persons glittering with jewels. In the cases hung great swaths of gold chain decorated with enamelled daisies and gems. Individual stones, earrings and pendants twirled gently on their threads, each in its own spotlight to catch the colour and translucence. Special things — that emerald watch, the emerald-encrusted gold salamander (a fore-taste of Wallis Simpson) — glistened inside their own cases, whose evident high-security specifications enhanced their value — as if that were needed! We gasped and admired. This was object display of the very best kind, allowing the sheer quantity and quality of the jewels to elicit a visceral response that Elizabeth Tudor would well have understood. Phew.
Salamander; gold, diamonds and emeralds: £12.66 (SL)

It was interesting to observe how the exhibition fuelled the desire to eat and shop.

Urges satisfied, we returned to the lettuce for an altogether calmer experience. John Clark, Curator Emeritus at MoL, presented for our quiet contemplation 'The Other Cheapside Hoard'. This collection of base metal beads, brooches and rings, some with decorative glass inlay, was recovered from a watching brief and catalogued in 1838, eventually being studied in 1989. I found this fascinating. The date of the hoard is early — John thinks that it is pre-conquest, from the first half of the eleventh century; therefore a rare find. Technically, it has several interesting features, including the casting of lead/tin beads in strips like sausages. Many casting flashes remain in place untrimmed. Casting and wirework may, unusually, be the work of one craftsman. How very intriguing to consider, as John suggested, that these objects may have been based on long-gone gold and silver prototypes, the designs and techniques adapted to the baser metals in a trickle-down effect to meet a plebeian demand: consoling confirmation, as we wended home clutching our £12.66 salamanders, that the desire for bling can always be satisfied, no matter how shallow our pockets.

For this object lesson and for many others, we are very grateful to our President, David Hinton, to Hazel Forsyth and to John Clark. They generously shared their research with us, providing solid ground from which to appreciate the wonders of the Hoard and its predecessors and creating for us a remarkable day.

See more at: http://collections.museumoflondon.org.uk/Online/group.aspx?g=group-20978


JAMES STEVENS CURL

Six members of the Mausolea and Monuments Trust joined with RAI members, and, blessed with glorious weather, the tour started at the remains of the mediaeval Charnel east of St Mary’s Parish Church, Bury St Edmunds, where Julian Litten, leader and planner of the meeting, spoke eloquently about the building’s fragments and its attached memorials. Those commemorated include Sarah Lloyd, hanged in 1800 for admitting her lover into her mistress’s house for purposes of robbery: having fallen ‘by the allurements of Vice and the treacherous snares of Seduction, she suffered a Just but Ignominious Death’. The stone records her supposedly last contrite words: ‘may my example be a warning to Thousands’. A tablet commemorates Henry Cockton (1807–1853), whose fame rests on his novel, *Valentine Vox the Ventriloquist*, serialised 1839–40, but largely forgotten today, as is his *Sylvester Sound the Somnambulist*, though both titles remained in print until the 1920s. His memorial was erected in 1884.

Another on the south wall of the Charnel commemorates Mary Haselton (1776–89), a young Roman Catholic, who, while in the Act of Prayer, was instantaneously killed by a flash of lightning, and on the west wall is a tablet to Martha Gosnold (d.1598), daughter of Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, the explorer and one of the founders of Jamestown, Virginia. Martha’s Vineyard was named after her.

Although the remaining parts of the Charnel are not easy to read (Dr Litten appositely observed that it looked ‘terribly tired’), it probably had a crypt where bones were stacked, over which was a chapel for Masses said for the repose of the souls of those below. It may have been designed and built (c.1279–1301) by John of Northwold. Inside the walls is the Markham vault, a simple brick structure.

Appetised by this visit, the party repaired to the Athenaeum for supper where Roger Bowdler, of English Heritage, gave a stimulating, amusing,
fluent, erudite, post-prandial lecture on ‘Post-Reformation British Mausolea’, piquantly illustrated with numerous fascinating images.

On Saturday the proposed visit to the ruined eighteenth-century Reynolds Mausoleum at Felsham was abandoned after recent rain, as it stands in the middle of a field. However, the FitzGerald Mausoleum in St Michael’s churchyard, Boulge (1861) compensated for this. In the Gothic style, of knapped flint with limestone dressings, it was designed by William Gilbee Habershon and Edward Habershon, and has a pyramidal roof, of stone cut to resemble slates. It contains the bodies of members of the family of John Purcell FitzGerald (1775–1852), but possibly because of the family’s attitude to his homosexuality, the cadaver of Edward FitzGerald (formerly Purcell—1809–83), the curmudgeonly poet and translator of the *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*, lies beside the mausoleum beneath a fine pink-granite ledger. The church itself was extended to designs by the Habershons in the 1850s, and in 1867 was further enlarged to designs by Habershon & A. R. Pite (1832–1911). The FitzGerals are commemorated by several Gothic-Revival memorials, and there is some excellent stained-glass by Charles Eamer Kempe (1837–1907).

Next came St Andrew’s Church, Little Glenham, where the mausoleum of the North family projects from the north side of the building. There appears, according to the monument (by William Holland) to Catherine North (d. 1715) in the chancel, to have been a mausoleum (or perhaps only a burial-vault) on the site at least as early as the beginning of the eighteenth century. The structure above ground is a brick box with a Greek Doric interior and segmental vaulted ceiling, given its present appearance in c. 1810 when Dudley Long North (1748–1829) caused it to be erected to designs perhaps by John Harvey to function as a family pew above the vault itself. Unfortunately, the entire mausoleum/family pew was under restoration during the visit, so the statue (1833) of North by John Gibson (1790–1866) could not be seen, nor could the 1829 north window by Margaret Edith Rope (1891–1988), and even the exterior was shrouded in scaffolding and coverings. There are several fine funerary monuments in the church.

[Image: Discussing details of doors at the FitzGerald mausoleum, Boulge (Ann Ballantyne)]

After an agreeable luncheon at the Lion, Little Glenham, a welcome break in glorious sunshine, the party was off to the Church of All Saints, Hacheston. Inside is a Gothic wall-monument by Gaffin of London to Walter Arcdeckne (pronounced ‘archdeacon’), and it was with this family that the visit was concerned. With connections in Ireland and Jamaica, some Arcdecknes were of mixed race, yet this does not seem to have done them much harm, and one member of the family is commemorated in a fine window by Kempe. In the churchyard stands the mausoleum erected by Chaloner Arcdeckne (1743–1809), whose mother was Elizabeth Kersey (d. c. 1743), of African extraction. Of white Suffolk bricks, the side elevations have blind semicircular-headed arcades, and the end elevations have recessed segmental arches of gauged brickwork. A delightful little building, it appears to have been designed by John White (1747–1813), who worked on Glevering Hall (1792–94) for Chaloner Arcdeckne.

Then came an enchanting surprise, set, not in a churchyard, but in the front garden of a house in Framlingham. The was the tiny mausoleum of Thomas Mills (1623–1703), a Dissenter, who settled
in Framlingham as a wheelwright’s assistant, later inheriting the business, and, through a fortunate marriage to a wealthy widow, consolidated his fortune which continues to this day to benefit others. Not wishing to be interred in the Anglican burial-ground, he chose to be deposited in a tomb-house (it looks more like a Gothic garden-building than a funereal structure) on the site of the wheelwright’s shop where he had first been employed. He lies under an altar-tomb on which is a stone slab inscribed with very fine lettering recording Mills’s benevolence in founding the almshouses near by as well as gifts to six other towns. Also commemorated is the name of Mills’s servant, William Mayhew, also interred there without any ‘office or form’, his body wrapped in linen, in 1713. The footprint of the building (and possibly at least some of the brick walls) would seem to be of eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century date, but as the structure is hidden under stucco, and the style of the mouldings and so on entirely early nineteenth-century Gothic, the building was probably largely rebuilt on its original foundations in the first decade of the nineteenth century, perhaps on the centenary of Mills’s or Mayhew’s death? The style of the lettering on the slab is certainly of very early eighteenth-century date, but the lettering on the external inscription-panel would seem to point to the early 1800s. As it was a very warm day, the coach stopped in the main square of Framlingham to permit the purchase of ice-creams, a windfall of considerable magnitude for the startled proprietor of an ice-cream emporium, whose products were of excellent quality.

Another garden-mausoleum was visited, this time that of Absalom Feavveryear (c.1788–1852), Carpenter, at Wingfield. A simple rectangular brick building, considerably distressed by tree-roots, rabbit-burrows, and other problems, it resembles nothing more than a garden-outhouse, with fewer architectural pretensions than Mills’s charming Gothic confection, but the structure needs urgent restoration, probably a rebuild. There is a sculpture in low relief showing Feavveryear working with an axe, his house in the background with one single-storey wing having an open door. Feavveryear’s headstone is in the centre of one wall opposite the door, and is flanked by two others: one for his son (also Absalom) and the other for Thirza, the son’s wife (also his cousin) from 1840, neither of whom is entombed within, for they are interred in the local Anglican churchyard. The
elder Feaveryear appears to have had a quarrel with the incumbent of the parish (possibly over payment of tithes), hence his deposit on his own land, independent of any church. References on the headstone to ‘conflict’ with the ‘world, the flesh, and the devil’ suggest some sort of problem, as does the oblique nod to the dens of thieves, moneylenders, and merchants in the Temple, pointing, perhaps, to dislike of the incumbent almost certainly prompted by financial matters. After this very curious building, an extra stop was made to visit St Andrew’s Church, Wingfield, to see the exceptionally fine and lavishly decorated south chapel of St Margaret, as well as the funerary monuments of the de la Pole and Wingfield families. Although definitely NOT post-Reformation, these wonderful mediaeval artefacts in an architectural setting of considerable splendour were greatly appreciated by the group.

The day ended at the large Church of St Mary the Virgin at Redgrave, set high on an eminence in a capacious churchyard. Inside is an impressive array of hatchments and an important series of monuments, including the tall, outstanding black-and-white marble tomb-chest of indisputably Netherlandish appearance by Bernard Janssen (fl. 1600–27) which supports effigies of Sir Nicholas Bacon, Bart. (c. 1543–1624) and his wife, Anne Butts (d. 1616), made by Nicholas Stone (c. 1587–1647) in 1616. Stone also did the tablet to Dorothy Lady Gawdy (d. 1621), but the visit was primarily to inspect the Bacon/Holt Mausoleum erected in 1626 on the north side of the chancel by order of Sir Edmund Bacon, Bart. (d. 1649) to serve as a family pew/mausoleum, one of several such structures in East Anglia of similar date. The opening to the pew/mausoleum was filled in when the huge Baroque monument to Sir John Holt (1642–1710), Chief Justice of King’s Bench from 1689, was erected. Holt acquired the Redgrave Estate in 1702, and had the coffins of the Bacons transferred to a new vault at the west end of the church. The pew became redundant when the monument (by Thomas Green of Camberwell) was put up (1715–17): this is essentially an architectural composition, with Holt clad in his judicial robes flanked by the allegorical Virtues, Justice and Truth, unconvincingly shown in contrapposto pose, where the sculptor’s skills in anatomical exactitude are shown to be deficient, though the gambolling cherubs above are rather jolly. Access to the vault was through the chancel floor, and
many of the party descended the ladder to view the structure: this was facilitated by the generosity of Tim Holt-Wilson, the surviving descendant, who joined the group for a much appreciated supper in the church.

Sunday began as a scorching morning in the Abbey grounds at Bury, where the party saw the remains of what had been one of the most ambitious monastic establishments in the country, containing the huge and spectacular Shrine of St Edmund, King and Martyr (841–69/70), whose relics are now enshrined within the Basilica of St Sernin, Toulouse. Dr Litten expounded on the other Saints once entombed at Bury, including St Junin or Germinus (d. c. 750), St Botolph (d. 680), St Saba (or Sebert) (d. 616), St Nicasius (d. 407), and ‘child-martyr’, St Robert of Bury St Edmunds, whose murder in 1181 furnished an excuse for a pogrom against innocent Jews (an unpleasantly not infrequent occurrence in the twelfth century, as in, e.g., Lincoln). In the course of the morning Tim Tatton-Brown revealed that despite important archaeological probings carried out some years ago, none of that material had actually been disseminated, and he lamented the fact that the whole site had never been fully investigated, intelligence that shocked the party into an audible ripple of disbelief.

After luncheon, the last mausoleum to be visited was again a brick protrusion, attached to the north side of All Saints, Boxted. This is a beautifully sited church with a delightful churchyard from which stunning views could be had looking eastwards down into the valley: unfortunately, although an appointment had been made to get into the building, it was locked, and all attempts to raise help were in vain, so what could have been the high point of the trip, the Poley monuments and pew, could not be viewed.

All in all, it was a hugely enjoyable weekend, packed with good fellowship and intriguing and beautiful things. Hearty thanks were given to Dr Litten and others for organising the weekend. See the full text at http://www.mmtrust.org.uk/articles.
For the 2014 Annual Student Archaeology Conference (ASA2), the RAI provided funding toward a site visit by delegates to Calleva, the Roman town of Silchester, which has been excavated for over 100 years and most recently by the University of Reading. The site visit was led by students of the university (Philip Smither, Will Attard and James Billson), providing a history of the town as well the excavations in Insula IX and III, currently in their eighteenth and final season. The tour encompassed the walls walk, gates, amphitheatre and ‘town life’ excavations which gave an overview of the scale of the excavations that have been made since the nineteenth century. As well as this, a visit was paid to the twelfth- to thirteenth-century church of St Mary the Virgin which is situated within the walls of Calleva. Around thirty people took up the opportunity to visit the site, including delegates from abroad, which provided a lively atmosphere and interesting discussion about the Roman town. Thanks to the support from the RAI, students of archaeology from home and abroad were able to visit one of the best preserved Roman sites in Britain and end ASA2 on a high.

LECTURES

Access to Lectures Online

The process for viewing the Institute’s lectures is the same as for reading our journal 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.

Some of the Society of Antiquaries’ lectures are available to all and can be viewed at www.sal.org.uk, under News and Events.
An elaborate C6 cruciform brooch from Durelt, Northants (length 162 mm, drawn by T.F. Martin)

Presentations by New Archaeologists

In the 2014–15 season, in addition to our usual programme of lectures there will again be presentations by archaeologists starting their careers. The first set, on 12 November 2014, will be given by postgraduates and post-doctoral fellows from the Department of Archaeology, University of Oxford. Provisionally, these will be:

‘Life in the Royal Navy at the time of Nelson — an osteological study of the skeletons of seamen from three Royal Hospitals in Britain’ by Ceridwen Boston (Post-doctoral researcher, Research Lab. for Archaeology and the History of Art)

‘Modelling the rise and collapse of an early medieval village population’ by Andreas Duering (AHRC-funded D.Phil. student, Institute of Archaeology)

‘Migration Period brooches in Europe: materialising a network of power?’ by Toby Martin (British Academy Post-doctoral Fellow)

On 8 April 2015, the second set of presentations will be given by archaeologists early in their careers in units or museums:

‘A Year with WallQuest: Engaging Local Communities with the Archaeology of Hadrian’s Wall’ by David Astbury, IFA Assistant Archaeologist Trainee, Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums. This talk assesses success in attracting groups who do not usually take part in heritage activities.

In ‘Illuminating Commercial Archaeology: A Review of New Archaeological Discoveries from

WallQuest at the newly-discovered Roman fort baths at Wallsend (Courtesy of Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums)
Solar Farm Developments’, Nathan Blick, Senior Heritage Consultant, Cotswold Archaeology, will be looking at research from sites of commercial solar development, and how these works contribute to regional research aims and to understanding the local historic landscape.

‘Archaeological Frontiers: Facing the Challenge of Research in Commercial Infrastructure Projects’ by David Fell, Project Officer, Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd, looks at previously unknown sites identified during construction of projects such as the A1 Motorway upgrade in North Yorkshire.

Royal Archaeological Institute Lecture Programme and Abstracts:
2014/15

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month from October to May at 5.00 pm in the Rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J OBE. In November and April, the lecture will be preceded at 3 pm by a presentation by new archaeologists (see above). Tea will be served at 4.30 pm. Non-members are welcome but should make themselves known to the Secretary and sign the visitors’ book.

2014

8 October

Places of Power and the Conversion of Anglo-Saxon Kent: New Archaeological Perspectives from Lyminge, Kent
Dr Gabor Thomas

This presentation will review the results of a six-year programme of archaeological research by the University of Reading unearthing Anglo-Saxon settlement archaeology which has lain dormant under the village of Lyminge in south-east Kent. These results will be used to chart Lyminge’s evolution as an Anglo-Saxon central place from its origins as pagan tribal centre in the later fifth century, through successive stages of royal appropriation, commencing with the construction of a Yeavering-style ‘great hall complex’, and culminating in its Christianisation as a royal double monastery.

10 December

Building the great dolmens: monumental construction in the early Neolithic of Britain and Ireland
Dr Vicki Cummings

Dolmens are a distinctive form of Neolithic monument found in discrete clusters in Britain and Ireland. These monuments utilise massive stones up to 150 tonnes in weight and would have been extraordinary feats of engineering. A new research project is investigating the construction processes involved in building these great monuments through both survey and excavation. Results of on-going fieldwork will be presented alongside a consideration of the broader role of dolmens in the creation of early Neolithic society.
14 January

Urbanism in the land of the Iceni: Recent research at Venta Icenorum
Professor Will Bowden

The Caistor Roman Town project is focused on the Roman town of Venta Icenorum (Norfolk), the only major town in the territory of the Iceni, and a rare example of a civitas capital that does not lie beneath a modern settlement. The town is traditionally thought to have been established in the aftermath of the Boudican revolt of AD 60–61 and its small size and limited public architecture is often thought to indicate impoverishment of the territory after the revolt and the Iceni's lack of interest in Roman civic life. However, new research suggests that the town's archaeology needs to be examined outside this 'Boudican' framework and that the formal layout of the town didn't take place until the second century. Excavations have demonstrated a remarkable late Roman revival in the town, when occupation reached its greatest extent, and have also identified extensive Anglo-Saxon occupation, suggesting that the town remained a focus of political power until the rise of Norwich in the ninth century.

11 February

The Viking Great Army at York
Professor Julian Richards and Professor Dawn Hadley

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records that in AD 872–3 the Viking Great Army overwintered at York in Lincolnshire. Until recently, however, the precise location of the Viking camp was unknown. Finds recovered by metal detector users have now allowed the site of the camp to be identified, and a new archaeological project is examining its nature and extent, and is transforming our understanding of Viking activity in late 9th-century England. Our talk will discuss the latest archaeological findings for the camp, and we will also examine the impact of the Scandinavian activity on the subsequent development of the Late Saxon burial, and the Torksey pottery industry.

11 March

The domestic buildings of St George's College, Windsor — history, archaeological recording, and new discoveries
Dr John Crook, Archaeological Consultant to St George’s Windsor

The Deanery and the Canons’ Houses at St George’s College, Windsor, together with their two cloisters, are undergoing major refurbishment. This has provided a unique opportunity to investigate the evolution of this important group of buildings, much of whose architecture dates from the 1350s. More primary fabric survives than was originally thought, together with interesting features from later periods.

8 April

3.00 pm: Presentations by archaeologists at the start of their careers (see above, p. 18)

5.00 pm lecture: Excavations at Bloomberg London; New discoveries along the Walbrook
Dr Sadie Watson

Excavations by MOLA in the centre of Roman London have revealed new evidence of the town, with the deep waterlogged deposits of the Walbrook stream preserving artefacts and structures to an unparalleled degree. Early military activity, extensive post-Boudican development and industrial structures located on the banks of the stream contribute to the picture of a town teeming with activity. Later Roman occupation on the site includes the construction of the Temple of Mithras in 240 AD, and this lecture will include news of the proposals for the reconstruction of the Temple fabric in a purpose-built display space in its original location on the site.

13 May: the President’s lecture

Britons and Saxons in East Dorset and West Hampshire
Professor David Hinton

The discovery of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Breamore, Hampshire, led to a dramatic 'Time Team' investigation, with exceptional results that will be summarised in this lecture, with an overall review of post-Roman cultural changes west of the New Forest. The inscribed stones at Wareham, Dorset, have now been joined by burial and other
evidence to show how British society in Purbeck adapted to new conditions, before incorporation in the kingdom of Wessex. This area will be visited in the Institute’s Spring Meeting, soon after the lecture.

British Archaeological Association Meetings 2014

1 October: Friary biographies, urban fabric and the excavation legacy in England and Wales by Deirdre O’Sullivan

5 November: The Function and Iconography of the Minstrels’ Gallery at Exeter Cathedral by Gabriel Byng n.b. Venue: The Linnean Society in Burlington House

3 December: ‘Barbarous rude things.’ Paintings in the collection of the Society of Antiquaries of London: some new observations by Bernard Nurse, Pamela Tudor-Craig, and Jill A Franklin

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, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. Tea will be served before each meeting at 4:30 pm. Non-members are asked to make themselves known to the Hon. Director on arrival and to sign the visitors’ book.

CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH AND THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

Charles Rennie Mackintosh, co-designer of the Glasgow School with his wife and fellow artist Margaret MacDonald, is frequently described as one of the most creative and individual interior designers of the early twentieth century. In July, the Hunterian (University of Glasgow) launched a major new website, ‘Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning’ at www.mackintosh-architecture.gla.ac.uk. The culmination of a four-year research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, it presents the first catalogue raisonné of Mackintosh’s architecture and that of the practice of Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh, and aims to document all of Macintosh’s architectural projects with drawings, images, biographies, a timeline and interactive map, glossary and bibliography.

The Hunterian Museum is celebrating this research with the first substantial exhibition devoted to Mackintosh’s architecture, including specially commissioned films and models together with over 80 architectural drawings, many never previously exhibited, and archival material rarely seen before. The exhibition focuses in particular on Mackintosh’s designs for dwelling houses. It presents the work of the architectural practice of Honeyman, Keppie and Mackintosh in its wider context with information about contractors, suppliers and clients who supported the delivery of the buildings, and outlines the building process, from initial planning permissions to final
inspections. The exhibition, which runs until 4 January 2015, is accompanied by a wide-ranging events programme, including a symposium, talks and tours. It will then be shown in London at the RIBA, from 18 February to 23 May 2015.

Glasgow School of Art Fire: Call for Book Donations

The fire in the Mackintosh Building of the Glasgow School of Art (GSA) on May 23 did not affect the main library and lending collections which remain open for usual hours and service. The Archives and Collections Centre suffered some damage; though the bulk of the holdings are fine, they have been removed from the site for an assessment of their condition and, unfortunately, the Archives and Collections service will be closed for the foreseeable future.

However the fire caused the loss of the Mackintosh Library and much of the precious collections it contained. Duncan Chappell, Academic Liaison Librarian at GSA, said 'we have received many offers of book donations to help us rebuild our lost collections. In response we have released a wants list of specific titles that we are seeking, which you can find at http://lib.gsa.ac.uk/update-on-fire-affected-library-services/ which is kept updated on a weekly basis. If any of you hold these volumes in your collections that you would be willing to donate to us, they would be very gratefully received as we begin the process to rebuild what was lost' which 'will take many years. We intend to pursue a targeted rebuild, tightly aligned to both the illustrious history and future direction of the Glasgow School of Art. Just as the loss of the Mackintosh Library interior allows us to re-imagine the future use of the space, the loss of these collections, though tragic, provides the opportunity to revisit our collecting strategies and to rebuild in a highly strategic and targeted way.'

In the short term they need to replace volumes that were used regularly by students, staff and researchers, in particular, those volumes required by doctoral students. They also seek to replace works that complemented the Archives and Collections, including many treaties and illustrated books written, designed and made by GSA’s past Directors, tutors, and alumni.

MISCELLANY

Members’ e-mail addresses
To help to 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

Grants available
The Castle Studies Trust is a UK based charity, founded in July 2012 with the aim of increasing the understanding of castles both in the UK and abroad. It is offering grants of up to £5,000 to fund new pieces of research. For further information, please contact Jeremy Cunnington, Flat 3, Ferme Park Road, London N4 4ED or admin@castlestudiestrust.org or visit its website www.castlestudiestrust.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. Subscriptions to the Institute made using direct debit are collected via the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). When communicating with a member to acknowledge receipt, CAF use the term ‘donation’.

The RAI office
The telephone number for the Administrator is [redacted], the email is 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 am and 3 pm.
Student/Young Person’s Sponsored 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 2014, there are fifteen such members. If you can help us to expand the scheme, either with funds or by proposing more candidates, please contact the Administrator whose address is given on p. 22.

Special Offer

Hadrian’s Wall: A History of Archaeological Thought by David J. Breeze

Softback, 172 pp, and 78 B&W illustrations. ISBN 9781873124673 Price: £18.00, or £15.00 (post free) to members ordering from this advertisement.

Interpretations of the function and history of Hadrian’s Wall have been offered for 1,800 years. In this book, David Breeze considers these interpretations in order to understand how our present beliefs have been acquired, and to understand why we interpret Hadrian’s Wall in the way that we do. He undertakes this by examining eleven topics which illuminate our understanding of this great Roman frontier. These include the role of Hadrian in building the Wall, the way in which the relationships between the various elements of the frontier were elucidated, the importance of understanding the sequence of building the Wall and recording all its component parts, the date of the rebuilding of the Turf Wall, how the Wall was manned, the function of the Wall, and the moving end date for the frontier.

Orders to Ian Caruana, 10 Peter Street, Carlisle CA3 8QF. (Tel: 01228 544120) or queries by email to elizabethallnutt@btinternet.com

London History Group

The London History Group (LHG) was launched in 2014 to provide an online educational resource, promoting and raising awareness of sites of historical and archaeological interest within the London and Greater London area. This is a community engagement project, building on local knowledge to publicize lesser known historical sites of London and at the same time tell the story the city in its wider context. They are searching through published site reports and historical references to locate forgotten monuments and archaeological sites. Working with the public, they investigate sites in order to publish a historical guide so that others can learn more about them. The searchable website data includes summary maps by broad historical era. Part of the LHG project involves scouting historical sites for accuracy of research and image content. They would like Londoners to join them and to pass on their local knowledge. To add to their list of sites, or to submit any additional content including images to the website contact the LHG through their website at http://www.londonhistorygroup.com

CAPTION COMPETITION 2014

Readers were asked to provide a caption for this picture taken by Michael O’Brien when we visited the Iron Age site and museum at Glauberg during the Institute’s 2013 Summer Meeting to Frankfurt and environs. It shows our former secretary, Gill Hey, or Glaubix the chieftain, and our tour leader and former President David Breeze, aka Melix the beekeeper. The winner is Anthony Jaggard.

We can’t really be BOARD — not at an RAI Summer Meeting (Michael O’Brien)
The Royal Border Bridge at Berwick-upon-Tweed, seen from the coastline at Spittal, takes me home. It is a railway viaduct built under the supervision of Robert Stephenson in 1847 and the 720-yard span (659 m) with twenty-eight arches swings across the River Tweed into Berwick Station — cutting through the city fortifications. When seen from the train crossing the bridge it is a very elegant structure and pleasing to the eye.

Berwick has three bridges. My mother was at the opening of the Royal Tweed Bridge in 1925 — when built it had the longest concrete span in the country, and we have a small medal struck to commemorate the occasion. The Grade I listed Old Bridge, of sandstone with fifteen arches, which was built 1610–24, is still used by traffic, though now only one way, from east to west.

All these bridges were built to span the Tweed, and six miles upriver near Norham, my mother’s family net fished for salmon. It was some thirty years ago that the net fishing ceased and my uncle retired; fishing is now only by rod, and salmon are scarce owing to net fishing at sea. I was at school in Berwick for a year before moving south. My brother and I spent our summers here until we were teenagers, reconnecting with our cousins, aunts, and great aunts. It is an area that is important to me, but the importance of place lessens with the next generation. This bridge has brought me home for many years and I still look for it on the skyline.