



ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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In this issue Our President • Grants and Awards • Dates for your Diary •
RAI Annual Conference 2016 • Meetings Notes • Lecture Programme • Miscellany

Since the referendum, there have been many statements by representative bodies, and discussions among people who share our interests, about the potential impact of Brexit on archaeological fieldwork, research and scholarship. Much depends on uncertain legal outcomes, because so many policies relevant to our spheres of activity depend on EU legislation, treaties and conventions that the UK has signed and ratified. Here are some links:

RESCUE affirm that they ‘will continue to hold the Government to account in matters of heritage protection, and will work to ensure that [Brexit] isn’t a covert opportunity to dissolve or downgrade the hard-earned positive maintenance and enhancement principles that exist to protect our precious heritage resources’: rescue-archaeology.org.uk/2016/06/29/brexit/

At the end of the special edition of *Salon*, the Antiquaries’ newsletter, are links to statements by the Archaeology Forum and the Heritage Alliance.

us6.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5557bc147d34993782f185bde&id=c23c32dfe1

The Queen’s Speech (18 May) announced Government proposals in the Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill to ‘ensure that pre-commencement planning conditions are only imposed by local planning authorities where they are absolutely necessary’. Although not named, archaeologists felt they were being made scapegoats. RESCUE rejected ‘the idea that pre-commencement archaeological conditions are a major cause of delay in housing developments. ... Conditions are only applied when regarded as necessary by the professional archaeologist advising the local planning authority. One English county estimates that less than 1% of applications are subject to an archaeological condition. The suggestion that this may be a misuse of planning conditions is immensely damaging and could move us rapidly back to the days when developers regarded archaeology as an unquantifiable risk that should be destroyed before anyone noticed it.’ Richard Hebditch (National Trust) said ‘Concerns about wildlife, archaeology, landscape and impact on communities will always have to be considered ... that is what we have a planning system for. The best place to do this is as part of a planning application, rather than through using conditions. Government should be clear that if developers cannot address concerns about impacts on nature, heritage and green spaces, councils will be able to refuse applications. We’re worried that planning is becoming a service for developers rather than a balanced, independent process.’

Within days, an online petition to the Government to ‘Stop Destruction of British Archaeology, Neighbourhood and Infrastructure Bill’ had been started; it soon gained the 10,000 signatures required for the government to respond. Until 19 November you can sign at petition.parliament.uk/petitions/130783 and read the full response, which, notably, includes this re-statement from the National Planning Policy Framework, requiring developers ‘to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.’

Meanwhile, Duncan Wilson (Historic England) said there weren’t enough archaeologists to meet demand. Over 40 major infrastructure projects are planned before 2033, at a cost of £465 billion; most are to be completed within five years. Their survey puts the under-provision for fieldwork near 70% and for analysis (surely an essential consequence of fieldwork) at 56%. More archaeology field schools, apprenticeships and vocational training opportunities are needed.

Hook, Bob, 2016, *National Infrastructure Development and Historic Environment Skills and Capacity 2015–33: An Assessment*, Historic England

OUR PRESIDENT

Professor Timothy Champion, who was elected President of the Institute at the 2015 AGM, is Emeritus Professor of Archaeology at the University of Southampton. He is a specialist in the later prehistory of Europe, with a particular focus on the Iron Age of Britain and Ireland. He previously taught at the National University of Ireland, Galway where he gained a wide knowledge of Irish archaeology of all periods. Tim has also held Visiting Professorships at the Universities of Michigan and Zimbabwe.

Tim is a former editor of the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* and served as Vice-President and then President of the Prehistoric Society. He has also been a member of various committees for English Heritage (now Historic England), including its main Advisory Committee.

He is author, co-author or editor of numerous books and academic papers, mostly on later prehistoric Britain, especially Kent. These include a section on Prehistoric Kent in *The Archaeology of Kent*, (ed. Williams), and as a co-author of *On Track*, the final publication of the archaeology of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (now HS1). His other research interests include the history and social context of archaeology, and he has written on the history of ancient monuments legislation in Britain and the relationship of archaeology to nationalist and imperialist ideologies.

Tim has kindly agreed to be interviewed by Angela Wardle for the *Newsletter*.

What drew you to Archaeology and in particular to the study of the Iron Age?

At school, in the 1960s, I heard an inspiring talk on the archaeological excavations at Winchester. This sparked my interest in the subject and I started digging there in the holidays. At the time I thought of archaeology as an interesting hobby, with no idea that it could be a career. I read classics at the University of Oxford and started to think about archaeology in my final year, staying on to do a post-graduate qualification and eventually a doctorate on the Iron Age of South East England, with an emphasis on Kent. As a student of Roman Britain I became fascinated by the problems of interpreting the relatively neglected Iron Age and the challenge of working out what went on before the Romans.

What are your primary research interests?

My major research interest is in the archaeology of the later Bronze Age from about 1500 BC until the Late Iron Age, roughly the final 1500 years of prehistory in Britain.

I also have an interest in the history and social context of archaeological thought, how contemporary events have influenced archaeological interpretation, particularly earlier concepts of the Iron Age. Some of my earlier work was on the historical fascination with Egyptian civilisation and how this influenced interpretations of British prehistory. The study of how the perception of historical events or periods can penetrate popular culture leads to some fascinating byways in archaeology.

What developments have you seen in archaeology during your time at Southampton and what are your hopes for the future?

My university career has afforded the opportunity of working with other areas of the archaeological profession, from English Heritage's committees to commercial companies, thus bridging the gap between the university and commercial sectors. Since 1990 there has been a massive growth of professional archaeological organisations outside university and government organisations, resulting in the recovery of a vast quantity of high quality information,

which has the potential to transform our interpretation of many aspects of British prehistory. There are now great opportunities for collaborative research, led by the academic sector, to exploit this material, which requires analysis and synthesis, in order to rewrite the story of prehistoric Britain.

How do you hope to see the Institute develop over the next years?

I have a great interest in the history of the Institute. Although its origins are well known, little has been written on the later years of the nineteenth century and how the Institute changed over time as the archaeological profession developed. This is well illustrated by looking at the changing role of the President, and indeed the identities of presidents, through time.

For the future, the *Archaeological Journal* has now been brought into the modern era and it is essential that we continue to promote this, inviting a wide range of authors and a variety of papers to make this the journal of first choice for British and Irish archaeology. The publishing world will continue to change and we will change with it.

We should try to expand our membership, and should continue to make efforts to encourage younger members. Conferences and meetings held in collaboration with other national or local groups would publicise our activities to a wider audience and might well attract new members.

Lastly, we should continue to manage our finances effectively, with rigorous housekeeping and cost-effective administration, to ensure that members receive good value for their subscriptions and to enable us to maximise our charitable activities through the Research Fund.

Booth, P., Champion, T., Foreman, S., Garwood, P., Glass, H., Munby, J., Reynolds, A. 2011, *On track: the archaeology of High Speed 1 Section 1 in Kent*. Oxford: Oxford Wessex Archaeology.

Champion, T. C. 2007, 'Prehistoric Kent', in J. H. Williams (ed.) *The Archaeology of Kent to AD 800*, 67–132. Woodbridge: Boydell.



Our President, Tim Champion, inside a conjectural reconstruction of a hut at Stonehenge (CvP)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

British Archaeological Awards 2016

This year's awards were announced by Julian Richards and Bettany Hughes at the British Museum on July 9, once again as the opening

event of the CBA's Festival of British Archaeology. Some videos about entrants' projects can be seen at <http://www.archaeologicalawards.com/2016-winners>

Awards were made for:

Best Archaeological Project: Westgate Oxford, Oxford Archaeology South

Community Engagement: 'Battles, Bricks and Bridges', Cleenish Community Association and Killesher Community Development Association

Archaeological Book: *Welsh Slate: Archaeology and History of an Industry* by David Gwyn. Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

Public Presentation: Under London, National Geographic

Innovation: Postglacial Project: A unique engraved shale pendant from the site of Star Carr, Internet Archaeology 40, University of York

and for a discovery which advances understanding and stimulates public imagination of the past: Must Farm Project.

The award for **Outstanding Achievement** went to Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe.

The next awards will be made in 2018.

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 : 11 December 2016. Awards announced in April 2017.

RAI Dissertation Prizes

The RAI awards prizes for dissertations on a subject concerned with the archaeology or architectural history of Britain, Ireland and adjacent areas of Europe. In odd-numbered years, the competition is for the best dissertation submitted by a Master's student. In even-numbered years, the Tony Baggs Award is given to the best dissertation submitted by an undergraduate in full-time education. Nominations are made by University

and College Departments. The winner will receive £500 and the opportunity for a paper based on the dissertation to be published in the *Archaeological Journal*. The chief criteria considered are (a) quality of work and (b) appropriateness to the interests of the RAI as reflected in the journal.

RAI Cheney Bursaries

As a result of a bequest left by Frank Cheney, the Institute has a small fund of money to enable students to attend conferences or RAI meetings.

An allocation is available annually from which individuals can apply for a maximum sum of £200. Please check with the Administrator that money remains in the yearly fund before you apply. Students who wish to apply for a bursary should e-mail admin@royalarchinst.org.uk or write to the Administrator, RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BE, at least six weeks before the event they wish to attend, stating: the institution in which they study,

the event they wish to attend, the sum of money requested, a breakdown of how the money would be spent and a summary (up to 250 words) of why they would like to attend the event and in what way this would be useful to them. Successful applicants may be asked to produce a brief report of the event for the Institute. In 2015, two students received sums to support their attendance at the Annual Conference.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2016

Autumn Day Meeting 1 October, Knole House and Park, led by Nathalie Cohen (details in this mailing)

Annual Conference 2016 'The Neolithic of Northern England', 21–23 October, to be held at Carlisle (see below, and details in this mailing)

Forthcoming in 2017

Please check our website for news and early details, at www.royalarchinst.org/events

Spring Meeting Thursday 11 – Sunday 14 May at Whitby, led by Pete Wilson, Steven Sherlock, Blaise Vynner and Julian Litten (details to be confirmed)

Summer Meeting 1–8 July to Cork and environs, led by Hedley Swain (details to be confirmed)

As soon as they are confirmed, full details and booking forms for Meetings will be made available on the Meetings Programme webpage <http://www.royalarchinst.org/meetings>. Places are limited, so please book promptly. If you would like further details of any of these meetings sent to you, please send your e-mail or postal details to the Administrator, RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE or admin@royalarchinst.org or to Caroline Raison, RAI Assistant Meetings Secretary, The Firs, 2 Main Street, Houghton on the Hill, Leics. LE7 9GD, or csraison@gmail.com.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

The Neolithic of Northern England

21–23 October, Tullie House Museum, Carlisle

This conference has been organised by the Institute, in association with the Prehistoric Society and the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeology Society. The opening keynote lecture, 'Axes and Images', will be given by Professor Richard Bradley. The programme

includes lectures by leading professionals in the field as well as short presentations by postgraduate students and early-career archaeologists. N.b. This is a non-residential conference (details in this mailing).

MEETINGS NOTES

Spring Meeting to South Glamorgan, 13–15 May 2016

ALISON RUSSELL

One of the many reasons I enjoy RAI meetings so much is the opportunity to be delighted, astonished, informed or challenged by visits to sites and areas that are quite new to me. The Vale of Glamorgan was such a place, and we saw the Vale in sunshine, in full leaf and with lots of blossom.

We met on Friday afternoon at Newport station, and the coach drove us forty minutes north, with Jeremy Knight our guide. Blaenavon is an outstanding and remarkably complete example of a nineteenth-century industrial landscape, of about 7 square miles, with blast furnaces, coal and ore mines, quarries, railways and the houses of workers, from a time when South Wales was the world's largest producer of coal and iron. Our visit began in the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, based in two former industrial schools. Then just down the hill to St Peter's Church, 1805, where we heard more about the connection with the west Midlands and the stories of the men involved in setting up the Iron works, home of the 'Basic' Bessemer steel-making process. The church has iron columns and an elegant iron font with a baluster stem.

Outside, in the churchyard which swept around from south to west, wild and totally unkempt, full of graves and mature trees, we saw a number of cast iron grave-covers made in the works in the West Midlands tradition. We went then to the Ironworks proper, and we walked all over the site, exploring the blast furnaces, the casting houses, the calcining kilns and the impressive water balance tower, used to lift finished products up to the railways and off to canals and further afield.

The workers' cottages in Stack Square, only a matter of yards from the roar and turmoil of the processes, had featured in the TV programme 'Coal House'. An evocative *Son et Lumière* put on in one of the furnaces gave us an inkling of the noise of the dreadful working conditions. This is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and yet, surprisingly, we were almost the only people visiting at the time.

Saturday began at Llantwit Major, walking through the lovely town to reach the biggest parish

church in Glamorgan, St Illtud's, where a large group of friendly, informed and be-ribboned local church volunteers were ready to greet us and make us welcome, and give us a brief introduction. Sian Rees was our guide in this remarkable site. In about 500 AD, St Illtud founded what is thought to be the oldest seat of learning in Britain, with perhaps 1000 pupils at the monastic school. From here missionaries travelled throughout the Celtic world spreading Christianity. Constructed in the eleventh century, the current building was described by John Wesley as 'the most beautiful church in Wales'. There is a thirteenth-century Jesse niche, a great treasure.

In the West Church, the Galilee Chapel, a ruin for 400 years, was recently reconstructed with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund to form a visitor centre, which explores the origins of Celtic Christianity and houses the most important collection of Celtic crosses in the UK. A very successful rebuild, the sense of 'ruin' is retained and much natural light afforded the stones.

We drove north-west to Ewenny Priory, the most complete and impressive Norman church in South Wales, and one of the finest examples of a fortified church building in Europe. It was completed in 1126; in 1141 it became a Priory of the Benedictine Abbey of St Peter, Gloucester. Now, a modern glazed screen divides the church, with the nave in use as the Parish church, while the eastern or monastic end contains the tombs of the de Londres family, and a medieval altar. This remarkable and sophisticated building caught Turner's eye: a copy of his watercolour of the vast church interior is on the wall. We walked through the stable yard to the front of the House, on the south side of the church, to the sound of screaming peacocks, and statues of griffins on the steps to the drawing room as we gazed onto the Deer Park.

Next to Ogmore Castle, a twelfth-century ruin on the banks of the River Ewenny. We were encouraged to think on the theme of Decorations, and this was not hard, as there were lots of wallflowers in exuberant yellow in the walls of the tower. And sheep in the meadow, thatched



Ewenny Priory: the twelfth- to thirteenth-century North gatehouse (RA)

cottages, and at the ford across the river, visitors of all ages dancing on the stepping stones. And sunshine. Then we had lunch in the upstairs dining room at The Bryn Owain pub, which overlooks the site of the Battle of Stalling Down (1403).

On to Llancarfan, and the Norman church of St Cadoc, built after 1090, with magnificent wall paintings from before 1450. Ann Ballantyne sets the scene; 'By the nineteenth century the church had become so dilapidated that a public appeal for funds was made by the vicar. The restoration of 1877–8 included the removal of 'watercolour wash' from the internal walls, which were 'found to be stencilled with stars'. In 1890 the tower and bells were restored. In 1907 further restoration was needed to weatherproof the building. Towards the end of the twentieth century, a proposal to remove the roof and let the church become a romantic ruin, spurred members of the parish into raising

funds to have the roof repaired. During work to internal timbers in 2007, traces of colour were observed below the wall-plate in the south aisle, which led to the recent discovery of wall paintings.'

Jane Rutherford, conservator, who had spoken to the RAI in March 2014, showed us the latest discoveries in the 'Corporeal Works of Mercy' and the 'Seven Deadly Sins' on the south-west walls of the church. This was the last area to be painted, others having better light. Well, what exuberance! What colour! What speed of execution! What fashion detail! The huge figure of St George, on a white steed, against a wall 'stencilled with stars', literally bursts out of the space available, with the horse's tail being painted right into the angles of the door frame.

We arrived at the atmospheric Castel Coch via a slow winding climb in the bus from the tree-lined village at the bottom of the hill, with lots of wild



Caerwent: looking south-west across the late Roman temple (RA)

garlic all around. Earl Gilbert de Clare built the original in the thirteenth century; now, the castle is a Late Victorian Fantasy, with High Gothic insertions, built as a summer retreat by the Third Marquess of Bute and his architect William Burges. Amazing, and so gloriously over the top.

The end of the afternoon saw us striding out across the fields, as the RAI do so well, (some of our party taking the opportunity to use the kissing gates in the appropriate manner) to explore two Neolithic long cairns. Tinkinswood, a chambered burial tomb from about 4000 BC, has the largest capstone in Britain, at 7.4 m by 4.5 m, and a weight of around 40 tons. It is estimated that 200 people would have been required to move it. The second tomb, St Lythans, stands alone in the middle of an otherwise empty field, and legend has it that on Midsummer's Eve the stones can go bathing in the river.

On Saturday night our hotel, on Barry Island, was very busy and we had to wait our turn for supper. Caroline's generous and assiduous handling of the wine situation meant that few felt any pain in the waiting. On Sunday morning we were still able to enjoy a brief tour of the Old and New Harbour, beach huts and pagodas, and a glimpse of the 1920s Leaping Horse design on the panels of the Barry Island Pleasure Park, before being swept off for our Roman Day. Mark Lewis, Senior Curator, National Roman Legion Museum, Caerleon, was our guide for the morning.

First, to Caerwent, the Roman Town, 7 miles east of Newport. This was once the largest centre

of civilian population in Roman Wales, but now is a quiet village bypassed by the A48. We walked around the Forum-Basilica, and the Romano-Celtic temple, and along Pound Lane to see the excavated shops and courtyard house. Then we walked down to, and along, the southern defensive wall; in places, this is still intact to a height of 5 metres.

Then on to our last stop, Caerleon, close to the River Usk. This Roman Fortress and Baths, in an enclosed, defended area of about 50 acres, was the headquarters of the Second Augustan Legion, and can lay just claim to being one of the largest and most important Roman military sites in Europe. We parked the coach beside the Amphitheatre, and (most of us) walked directly to the Fortress Baths, where now the remains of the swimming pool (formerly outdoors) and part of the cold bath suite reside beneath a modern protective cover. Here, we enjoyed the lighting effects and soundtrack of water and of swimmers, which reminded me of La Piscine, near Lille (visited by the RAI in 2008). In 1979 excavation of the Fortress drains revealed 88 engraved gemstones of the first to early third centuries. But in exploring here, sadly we had no time for the Museum, or the Barracks, or the Amphitheatre, before leaving for Newport and home.

What riches were packed into this short weekend visit. Our grateful thanks go, as ever, to Caroline Raison, to our leaders Sian Rees and Ann Ballantyne, and to all those who worked to make this another memorable Meeting.

162nd Summer Meeting 3–10 July 2016: Wiltshire

R. ARNOPP, K. BARCLAY, M. EFSTATHIOU, L. PARTRIDGE, A. SCOTT,
K. STUBBS, I. THOMPSON, R. TULLOCH, P. WILSON

Sunday

In Salisbury, most of us stayed at Sarum College in The Close. The front and oldest part, built in 1677, is attributed to Sir Christopher Wren; it faces directly down Bishop's Walk to the Bishop's Palace, now the Cathedral School. In 1860 it became a theological college, which now runs training courses for ministry and houses the Royal School of Church Music's administration.

Our first walk was led by Tim Tatton-Brown who described the building of the cathedral from the late twelfth century and summarised recent unpublished dendrochronological research including an 'earliest felling date' of 1222. After a brief look at other parts of the Close, David Hinton led us out of the fortified North Gate, along High Street and into the town. We visualised open channels for water management; traces remain, especially in the lie of the land. A tall tale was told of John Halle (d.1479), alderman, constable, mayor, member of parliament, who quarreled with the bishop and

was imprisoned for a while in London. Though the corporation was ordered to elect a new mayor, they refused. The hall of a house Halle built still remains, restored by Pugin in 1834. Now it forms the entrance to the cinema, whose auditorium Gaumont 'sensitively' designed with a Tudor theme. Before dinner, John Hare gave us an illustrated introduction to Wiltshire's history, geography, and economy.

Monday

First to Old Sarum. David Hinton had hoped that before our visit geophysical survey would have tested Langlands's theory that the late Saxon borough lay on its south-western slopes. But weather having frustrated the survey, we concentrated on the Norman Castle with its royal and episcopal residences, and from the ramparts, discussed the cathedral and its precinct with Bishop Jocelin's palace — a lively discussion, Tim Tatton-Brown being unafraid of controversy.



Old Sarum overlooks converging routes and valleys and the sites of Clarendon Palace, hillforts at the nodes of linear earthwork systems, and the twentieth-century Boscombe Down and Old Sarum Airfields and Porton Down. We drove to Amesbury past some of these landmarks and walked through its park to Amesbury Abbey, a grand Palladian replacement, started in 1834, of an earlier Palladian mansion on the site of a Fontevraltine priory. Now an up-market care home, it hospitably plied us with coffee near a fine display of flints from nearby Mesolithic Blick Mead, with some, from the Avon, dyed bright pink by *Hildebrandia rivularis* algae.

Tim led us outside where he believed, by analogy with chantries at Salisbury Cathedral, was the site of the lost tomb of Eleanor of Provence, Queen of Henry III. Thence through the (largely Bridgeman) gardens to the handsome bridge over the Avon. We dragged ourselves away from Pooh Sticks to seek a view of the ‘Vespasian’s Camp’ Iron Age hillfort. Frustrated by fence and boskage, we returned via Amesbury’s parish church (sometimes confusingly called Amesbury Abbey), of St Mary and St Melor, with Romanesque traces, early Purbeck marble font, a very early clock and two late Saxon cross heads.

Next, Tim Darvill graphically talked us through enigmatic Durrington Walls, for which it is hard to get a feel without walking the whole site. But why an occupation site should be surrounded by a substantial earth bank on its abandonment is incomprehensible without access to the belief systems of those who did it. At nearby Woodhenge, the concrete markers in the six rings of

post-holes are colour coded to assist interpretation. Whether the posts were roof supports or free-standing totem poles is still unclear. The isolated sarsen, Cuckoo Stone, seems to be where it was found by our ancestors. Clearly at various periods they invested it with cult significance.

The track of a dismantled artillery-supply railway took us to a view down the Stonehenge Cursus. Again, it was not immediately evident from eye level. Five and a half thousand years of erosion and the plough had pretty well levelled it. This crest of one of the undulations of Salisbury Plain, like others overlooking Stonehenge, was lined with tumuli. Having passed several variants of the round barrow, we stood on a long barrow, much reduced by ploughing. There were more tumuli along the ridge but the row called New King Barrows, protected by being in a wood, most nearly approached their original condition.

The Stonehenge Avenue — again undetectable at ground level — took us into low ground, then turned onto the solstitial axis, gradually bringing the stones into view. Outside the fence but without the distraction of the now-diverted road, we viewed the familiar stones before taking the shuttle bus to the Visitor Centre and its museum. There we rejoined those who had separated after Woodhenge to see Larkhill First World War monuments and another part of the Cursus. Tim Darvill’s excellent summary had brought us up to date with the current thinking on Stonehenge and its enigmatic landscape setting but, for me, no amount of speculation satisfactorily elucidates what was in the minds of those who invested gargantuan efforts in their construction.



New King Barrows (ME)

Susan Greaney described the development of the Visitor Centre and the management of visitors to the Stones. The replica huts had been built, using 'Neolithic techniques', by volunteers (including Richard Haes, one of our number).

That evening, Tim Tatton-Brown expatiated on the system of artificial flooding to encourage early growth of grass in Harnham water meadows. We walked to the handsome Tudor Old Mill Hotel at Harnham, built, according to Tim, as one of England's first paper mills. Whatever it had been built for, we used it to refresh ourselves.

Tuesday

At Salisbury Museum, David Hinton described the building and we passed through the fine fifteenth-century porch. Director Adrian Green talked briefly on his museum's history; it was founded in the 1860s. An extended medieval building was not ideal. A joint bid had been made to HLF with Devizes Museum and English Heritage (for Stonehenge), for funds to reinterpret displays of Wiltshire's archaeology. The Wessex Gallery, showing the archaeology of South Wiltshire, opened in 2014; it begins with Old Sarum and covers 500,000 years. Wall displays explain the history of the archaeology, while central displays focus on interpretation. We moved from Old Sarum to the Amesbury Archer, one of the highlights. The richest Beaker burial yet, with five beakers where there is usually one, it contains the earliest gold objects found in Britain. Adrian thought them probably hair braids, rather than gold earrings as usually identified. Despite his flint arrowheads and stone wrist guards, he was unlikely to have been an archer, as his skeleton shows no sign of archery stresses. He was probably a travelling metal worker; isotope analysis suggests from near the Alps, and they are trying to extract his DNA for further insights.

Our next stop was through a fire door at the back of the museum! Tim Tatton-Brown introduced us to the medieval hall, built for Master Robert of Wykehampton, Dean in 1258. He left it to the Cathedral as the Deanery, which it remained until 1922. To have been demolished in 1959, it was 'saved' by the Royal Commission and restored, with reconstruction of the front, the gables on the back, and unblocking of the fifteenth-century windows. The largely original cruck-beam roof

dates from the thirteenth century. Although the screens passage has now disappeared, doors to buttery and pantry remain. John Waddington, who runs the Hall as a concert venue, bought it twenty years ago. It is proving difficult to sell, and it may have to be turned back into a house.

Then off to Clarendon Palace and its hunting park. Mary South was to guide us in a crocodile through waist-high barley, then up a steep uneven track and through woods. Mary warned us about the llamas which are harmless, but inquisitive; they keep the weeds down.

Mandy Richardson described the remains: the extensive twelfth- to thirteenth-century Palace would have been impressive from the road to Winchester. The Great Hall was built by Henry II and enlarged by Henry III. A once fine stone threshold led down to Henry II's wine cellar, La Roche, the only surviving example from this date in the UK. The Deer park remained in royal hands until c.1600 and is probably the best preserved medieval example in Europe. It is the only major medieval English palace to remain in its original landscape setting

Tancred Borenius excavated in the 1930s; there is a fragment of the railway line for moving their spoil. In the 1980s the site was further investigated



The remains of Clarendon's wine cellar (AW)

by T. B. James and consolidated. A memorial plaque to the Constitution of Clarendon, where Henry II and Becket clashed, was put up in the nineteenth century linking it with the Reformation!

On to Downton, a new town laid out for the Bishop of Winchester as a rival to Salisbury. The long village street was the site for a market place as big as Salisbury's, however it was unsuccessful. We stopped at Downton Moot, founded around a twelfth-century motte, possibly by Bishop Robert of Blois. In the seventeenth century it became a garden feature for Downton House. The garden was bought and restored by the Moot Trust in the 1980s. The Motte was invisible in the trees, as we walked down a steep path through the garden to the lake. Opposite was grass seating, mistakenly set out on the supposed site of an Anglo-Saxon moot, hence the name. Examination of the seventeenth- or eighteenth-century knucklebone pavement, under the stage, established that they were pebbles, named for the pattern.

John Hare introduced St Laurence's Church which William of Wykeham had given to Winchester College. Of Anglo-Saxon origin, it is mainly fourteenth century.

Evident throughout the day was the importance of volunteers and societies such as the Friends of Clarendon and the Downton Moot Trust, to the maintenance of our heritage.

Wednesday

Inside the Stones

President Obama is the only recent visitor invited inside the Stonehenge circles during opening hours. Out of hours English Heritage allows occasional access, and four of us were barmy enough to take up this worthwhile extra, leaving Salisbury before breakfast. Briefly held in deference to a crew filming a documentary, we were given a special permit to drive along the closed A344; seeing the old speed-derestricted sign, for fun our driver zoomed to the monument. There, a smiling Gurkha ex-soldier (security) read extracts from a 'little red book' of rules, mostly predictable though they didn't include keeping on our clothes. And in beautiful, clear weather we were set free to roam. On Monday's walk there, I had realised that what from afar seemed to be a hedge was a constant stream of people on the path outside the monument. It was intriguing to look at the wider

landscape from within the circles. We enjoyed the peace, with no other visitors and little passing traffic, and of course being among and exploring details of the stones; eighteenth- and nineteenth-century graffiti were far easier to spot than Bronze Age carvings. We were impressed with effects of the changing light. We even made it back in time for breakfast. And as for the mystical, one of us coined the phrase from Vegas, 'What happens in Stonehenge, stays in Stonehenge'.

Vale of Pewsey and Savernake

For those of us who didn't get up early to enjoy 'privileged' access at Stonehenge, the day started with a visit to Ludgersall Castle with John Hare as our guide. Despite John's erudition the site is somewhat difficult to understand on several levels, in part because over half of the site is inaccessible lying within a farmyard and the grounds of a modern house. A more intriguing challenge is the site's low-lying 'non-defensive' location. It has been proposed that the larger southern element of the '8-shaped' earthworks may have originated as an earlier, presumably Iron Age, 'hillfort', although this suggestion is not borne out by any features or finds from the extensive 1964-72 excavations by Peter Addyman. Though the site functioned as a castle during the 'Anarchy' of the mid-twelfth century, John was persuasive in arguing that it represented, in essence, a high-status residence that reached its zenith under Henry III when it was, despite the impressive earthworks, more a royal residence and centre for the enjoyment of the two hunting parks associated with the 'castle'.

Throughout the day we benefitted from David Hinton's intimate knowledge of the area, its archaeology and history, as we travelled through a landscape populated with sites ranging from Cissbury and Chisbury hillforts, and the kilns of the Savernake Roman pottery industry, to Crofton where a steam-driven engine still operates 'in anger', pumping water into the Kennet and Avon canal to maintain its level. The access to Chisbury proved 'a lane too narrow', despite the skill and confidence of Jamie our driver, and our proposed visit to the hillfort, Alfredian burg and thirteenth-century chapel had to be abandoned. Equally frustrating, but this time expected, was the invisibility of Roman Cunetio (Mildenhall), which by the later Roman period was heavily fortified and

may have been a base for the late Roman field army (comitatenses), but today is invisible from ground or coach level.

After a lunchtime at liberty in Marlborough we drove east along the Kennet Valley to Ramsbury. John Hare was our guide to Holy Cross church and the wonderful collection of Anglo-Saxon cross-shafts reflecting Ramsbury's onetime importance as the site of a cathedral from 909–1058. The presence of part of a Ringerike-style grave slab demonstrated the extent of Anglo-Scandinavian influence in the late tenth and early eleventh centuries.

From Ramsbury we went to Littlecote where we were shown around the visible remains of the well-known Roman villa by the excavator Bryn Walters. While the publication of the excavations is still to be achieved, progress is being made with the post-excavation programme and Bryn was able to give us an insightful and fascinating account of the excavations that he led from 1978–91. He covered not only the core of the villa complex and the famous Orpheus mosaic, but also was able to summarise the important later deposits associated with the deserted medieval village and post-medieval hunting lodge that overlay the Roman site. Time prevented any detailed discussion of the

more contentious aspects of the interpretation offered for later Roman phases of the site as part of a 'Bacchic-collegium'. Despite that, Bryn was able to demonstrate the visible evidence for the architectural embellishment that occurred through the fourth century, such as the insertion of a twin-towered gatehouse and, around AD 360, of the triconch (three-lobed) chamber containing the Orpheus mosaic. The site tour was followed by a most welcome opportunity for tea and cake in the public rooms of what is now Littlecote House Hotel, where we were also able to explore those rooms of the fine Jacobean mansion that are open to the public.

Thursday

Another day of contrasts, 'on the move' between Salisbury and Marlborough and from the Neolithic to the eighteenth century. It brought us to the Vale of Pewsey, and this season's excavations by the University of Reading at Marden henge. Despite the enormous Hatfield Barrow surviving here until the early nineteenth century, within the largest henge in the country, Marden's relevance to the great monuments on the chalk downs is only now being explored. The Avon has a similar relationship to Marden as to Durrington Walls, but being on fertile greensand, this land between Avebury and Stonehenge has always been ploughed and upstanding earthworks are few. The sequence here is still uncertain but it may be that as at Durrington the henge itself came last. An inner henge explored by William Cunnington is being reinvestigated. The most informative area has been the site's south-east entrance, where Grooved Ware pottery has been found in postholes and pits. One pit yielded tools of fine translucent flint which may have come from Grimes Graves. Interestingly, periglacial stripes here produce the same bizarre effect in vegetation as they do at Grimes Graves. Neolithic chalk floors have been found here and beneath the bank of the inner henge, and analysis of samples may yield information on their function. Martin Bell is also systematically auguring along the riverbank. Finds last year included the missing long tail of the distinctly non-functional arrowhead found in 2010. This year was not being so productive, but our visit was auspicious: a barbed and tanged arrowhead was found while we were there.



Ninth- or tenth-century coped grave cover;
Ramsbury (CvP)



Marden Henge: Jim Leary explaining the south-east entrance (CvP)

Stopping in Devizes (with its curious town plan) for lunch, we then walked past St John's church with its twelfth-century tower, to the Wiltshire Museum. David Hinton thinks St John's must always have been a parish church like St Mary's, not a chapel attached to the castle. The Devizes museum is the third member of the funding partnership with Salisbury Museum and the Stonehenge Visitor Centre, and its new archaeology gallery is designed to complement that at Salisbury, presenting material from the period when Stonehenge was in use. The best and largest Bronze Age collection in the country, much of it is from William Cunnington's excavations, and includes objects of gold, amber, shale, and bronze from the long period of barrow burial; and the regalia of the Upton Lovell 'shaman', festooned with animal tusks and Neolithic axeheads (already 1,500 years old when he wore them) which must have clanked when he walked.

A detour to a picnic spot between Devizes and Calne allowed a pleasant walk along a hollow way on the course of the Roman road to Bath, with fine

views to the north. At Morgan's Hill Nature Reserve (thick with pyramid orchids) the road passes the western end of East Wansdyke, well preserved on the hillside.

We then travelled north-east to Beckhampton Cross, meeting the same Roman road as it passes Silbury Hill, and into Marlborough for three nights at Marlborough College. In the middle of the school buildings is Marlborough Castle, the motte which coring has shown to be Neolithic in origin and contemporary with Silbury Hill. Silbury is larger, but Marlborough appears bigger as it is so out of scale with its surroundings, looming vastly through the dining-hall windows. We were given special permission to climb it, at our own risk — who could resist? In the early eighteenth century it became a gigantic prospect mound within formal gardens, with a shell grotto at the base, and a spiral path up to a pavilion on the top; only the pavilion has gone.

Friday

The attractive town of Bradford-on-Avon is focused on its river. A compact sequence of

houses, of local honey coloured limestone, climb the steep hill above the river and invite exploration. Our visit started at Barton Farm, a well-preserved survival of a monastic grange of Shaftesbury Abbey, close to the river and one of the town's two bridges. It was a good introduction to the history of the town and the main sources of its prosperity; wool, agriculture and the stone industry.

The farm house is now two separate dwellings, divided in the nineteenth century. We were pleased to meet and be shown round by one of the residents who answered our questions and let us take photographs. The houses each have a large living room on the ground and first floors, these were originally part of an open hall, which was altered following the Dissolution. We were able to see the earliest part, the north wing which had been part of a solar, with a cruck roof, and the pigeon loft, now part of a bathroom.

The spectacular Great Barn is larger than many churches; one side of the courtyard, it dominates the farm complex. A magnificent cruck roof, dendro-dated 1334–1379 has an harmonious appearance which with careful study we could see was made of three patterns to make maximum use of different lengths of timber.

In the late nineteenth century the Great Barn was dilapidated. Saved from demolition, it was repaired by the architect Harold Brakspear and is one of three barns managed by the Bradford-on-Avon Preservation Trust. After welcome refreshments and the opportunity to buy books in the restored West Barn, we visited the town.

The Saxon minster is thought to be beneath Holy Trinity Church and any evidence may have been lost in church construction. Our visit coincided with excavations being carried out by Wessex Archaeology. Bruce Easton explained the archaeological findings, including a sequence of burials, some of which pre-date the nave; some follow a different alignment. We could have only a brief glimpse in the church due to the work being carried out, but were able to see the recording of human remains taking place before reburial in the churchyard.

Opposite is the Anglo-Saxon Chapel of St Laurence. The nave is high in relation to its width, emphasised by a steeply pitched roof giving the building a striking appearance, emphasised by



Barton Farmhouse: the roof of the smaller wing (ME)

its hillside position. Once used as a schoolhouse, its appearance owes much to restoration and removal of surrounding buildings. Excavation by David Hinton has helped understand its history, and building recording has led to differing theories of its construction, for whom and why. Inside, we admired a pair of carved stone angels, high on the chancel arch, which had been part of a crucifixion scene. We then had time to explore; some followed the Town Trail.

As often with Institute visits a reluctance to leave one place is mixed with anticipation of the next. We were amply rewarded by arrival at Great Chalfield, a medieval moated manor house and church.

The owner, Robert Floyd is the third generation to live here and he explained how his grandfather had restored the dilapidated house aided by



A squint at Great Chalfield Manor (ME)

Harold Brakspear. They sometimes differed on the approach to take — resulting in an intermingling of medieval restoration and a comfortable Edwardian country house. The medieval hall has a rebuilt minstrel's gallery and unusual squint windows — masks including a bishop and devil, with open mouths and eyes — who would wish to spy unseen? The Great Chamber was recently seen by viewers of *Wolf Hall* — occupied by the actor Mark Rylance — and also featured in the film *Tess* of the D'Urbervilles. A more modern touch is the adjacent room with its Edwardian bathroom fittings. The Elizabethan plaster ceiling of the dining room survives, as does a wall painting of a prosperous man — perhaps the first owner, Thomas Tropenall.

Following dinner, David Hinton guided the energetic around Marlborough. The town has two centres linked by a wide main street. At the opposite end to the College is St Mary's Church, on the site of a Norman and possibly Saxon church. We admired the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century houses facing The Green — one once occupied by William Golding — before returning through the water meadows.

Saturday Avebury

As usual with this diverse group, activities started well before our departure from our lodgings. Such a grey, overcast day invited a Neolithic-type of breakfast — porridge! Getting ourselves into the prehistoric swing of things led some to consider when cheese was originally discovered. Unfortunately on the day there was no answer to whether salt was required . . .

Before our coach had even driven away a small gang of bemused scaffolders was given absolutely no option to refuse a gift of packets of crisps and slightly out-of-date sandwiches by Caroline. She declared that they were 'delighted' and apparently had admitted to being 'human dustbins'. The storage area of the coach had been tidied up, so win-win all round.

Our short journey took us past the Ridgeway and the Sanctuary to a National Trust car park satisfyingly empty of vehicles, and we walked the short distance into Avebury to meet our guide Josh Pollard outside the Red Lion.



Avebury museum: how to erect a monolith (ME)

As we gathered in the southern part of the henge, Josh asked us to consider the broader setting of the monument. It is likely that the source of the River Kennet and the intersection of two major ancient route-ways afforded the area an obvious significance. We were encouraged to look around the landscape and to try to orient ourselves within it. Our walk along a large part of the bank gave us fantastic views of the stones, the outlying avenues and the entrances to the Avebury monument. Sadly some of our party were less than impressed by the presence of a modern 'worshipper' sat under a tree by one of the entrances playing a hypnotic medley on a steel drum!

Josh shared his extensive knowledge, not just of the archaeology of the monument and his own current research, but also of the 'history of investigation' led by antiquarians like Stukely and Aubrey. All in all it was an absolutely fascinating walk led by a really engaging guide. (Our walk was measured by my app as 4.30 miles, being approximately 9100 steps. Isn't technology wonderful?)

Malmesbury

The fair weather held for our visit to Malmesbury on Saturday afternoon. It was the surviving fragments of Romanesque arcading at the Abbey's truncated west end and the miraculous tympanum and sculpture in the south porch that first captured the Institute's attention. However, we also learned of Maeldubh the Celtic saint who gave Malmesbury its name; of its early abbot Aldhelm; of Athelstan, king from 925 but memorialised by a fourteenth-century effigy; and of twelfth-century chronicler, William of Malmesbury.

In the graveyard Members were deeply affected (with unseemly mirth!) by the unfortunately doggerel epitaph on the tombstone of Hannah Twynnoy, who died in 1703 at the paws of an escaped tiger. Half the group were then themselves 'snatched from hence' by an urgent desire to see Abbey House Gardens, its copious blooms and ingenious layout unalarmed by any glimpse of naked gardener.

The remainder, led by David Hinton with Ed McSloy of Cotswold Archaeology, made a brief perambulation of the town, taking in its fifteenth-century market cross, the spire of St Paul's bell tower and — with just a hint of trespass — a peek at the impressive arch-braced roof of a fifteenth-

century house, swallowed by a Victorian workhouse with a rather odd tower. This group then visited the compact but attractively laid out Museum on Cross Hayes, with welcoming staff on reception and much about that c.1010 aviator, Brother Eilmer. Another local boy, Thomas Hobbes (born 1588), is also celebrated.

After comment from David, Malmesbury's old claim to be the most ancient borough in England collapsed faster than a hang-gliding monk, but investigations by Cotswold Archaeology have now shown that the site of the upper town was an Iron Age fort. From a terrace just behind Cross Hayes, Ed McSloy showed us the dramatic fall of land down to the water meadows: a real hill fort.

On Saturday evening, as an unscheduled treat, the lofty and sumptuously fitted Marlborough College Chapel (Bodley and Garner, 1886) was opened up for us. The Chapel is celebrated in John Betjeman's *Summoned by Bells* (John Murray London, 1960), and its story told in chapter 18 of Michael Hall's *George Frederick Bodley and the Later Gothic Revival in Britain and America* (Yale University Press, 2014). We were very taken by the sweet Pre-Raphaelite murals by Spencer Stanhope and the panels to distinguished Old Boys (with even a few archaeologists). But alas, Betjeman's generic Old Marlburian bishop was not on hand to thunder 'Do nothing that would make your mother blush!'

Sunday

En route to the Salisbury Plain training area, we saw terraced lynchets; were they Iron Age, Roman, or perhaps a product of later land hunger? Owing to its military use from about 1900, the area was agriculturally undeveloped, and rarely ploughed. Apart from having more woodland in later prehistory, the landscape had probably changed little in millennia.

David Field, our guide, said that Salisbury Plain is the largest expanse of chalk grassland in Europe, of archaeological significance, and a valuable conservation habitat. There was excellent survival of earthworks. Military activities had, on balance, been far less damaging than modern agriculture would have been.

We walked around Chisenbury Warren a linear settlement of about twenty houses, one of a dozen Romano-British settlements in the survey area.

Superficially, the surviving earthworks resemble deserted mediaeval villages. Morphologically, the settlements were varied, some nucleated, some linear. One had over 200 houses with larger ones on the outskirts and row houses in the centre, and differing distributions of pottery types.

A small terrace scooped from the hillside was a roughly rectangular house platform, one of perhaps twenty similar sites along a roadway roughly parallel to the valley bottom. The original houses — perhaps of late Iron Age date — fell into disuse. Replacement structures in larger visible scoops seemed to respect existing boundaries, which appeared horticultural. The later, Roman-era structures mostly had un-mortared walls and sandstone slates. One house had window glass, but overall the settlement was not very high status. We saw one of the best preserved houses, with some probably earlier, ancillary buildings.

The settlement was one of twelve identified. Only one showed continuity into the Anglo-Saxon period; why was not altogether clear, though economic factors for more intensive occupation of marginal land may no longer have applied. David Field said that, based on residual finds presumably derived from manuring, the lynchetts on the far hill had been produced by Roman ploughing but in a landscape which had been laid out much earlier.

Before artesian wells, Salisbury Plain lacked surface water. The valley below may have been dammed, or ponds constructed for seasonal rain-water. So why were there Roman-era settlements here at all? David Field said that agricultural production in Britain had been greatly expanded during the Roman period, with grain being exported on a significant scale. He replied to David Hinton that grain dryers had been found locally. And that the picture revealed by archaeology was of mixed farming with lots of animal bone found in the Salisbury Plain settlements. Who was controlling the local agricultural economy? Had Salisbury Plain been an imperial estate? There were certainly no villas in the immediate area, but there were potential estate centres in the valleys.

There was a mediaeval warren up the slope, with an enclosure bank but no evidence of pillow mounds. Leading us eastwards, he pointed out that the earthworks were less regular and more amorphous, and probably earlier. Some evidence of industrial activity had been found. In the valley

bottom, undulations might be from past quarrying for clay.

There was discussion of woodland cover on Salisbury Plain over time. Tim Champion said that paleo-environmental evidence suggested the landscape had been much more open, for longer, than once believed. Woodland management from the fourth millennium BC suggested there had never been an unlimited supply of usable wood.

The East Chisenbury midden, surviving to some 3 m height, with a diameter of 200 m. is more than 2.5 ha in area. Its northern side has been truncated by a later field system and ploughing has scarred the entire area. It partly overlay the bank and ditch of an earlier enclosure noted by Colt-Hoare.

It was discovered by a resident of the nearby village, who reported Iron Age pottery eroding from a lynchet and in a short time David Field had collected more than a bin bag full. Recognising that the pottery was from a man-made mound, he put in a trench and cores. These produced a range of human residue, 2.5 m in depth, including pottery, spindle-whorls, cattle and sheep bone, as well as animal and human coprolite. Dating suggests use for some 50–100 years, between 800 and 600 BC.

Its structure includes a number of apparently chalk platforms interleaved with layers of debris. They were not large enough for living sites, but might be elements of superstructure built to get material from the outside of the midden into its centre.

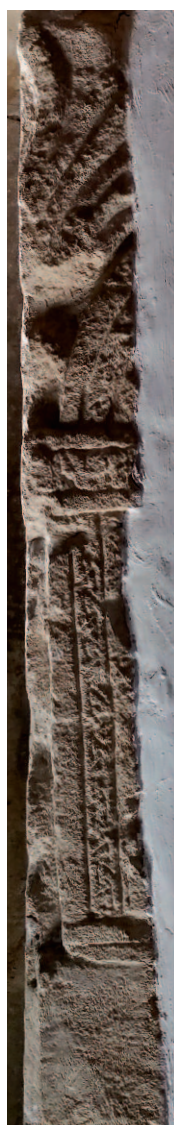
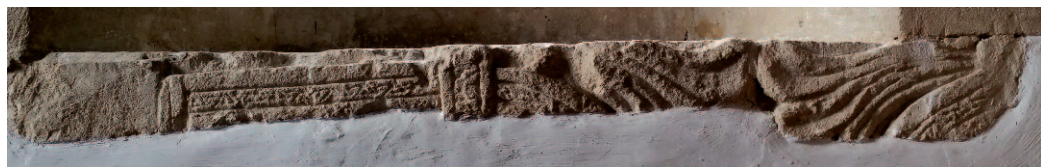
Assuming the composition of the entire midden was consistent with the areas which had been surveyed, it could include the remains of some 250,000 sheep and 20,000 cattle. A scatter of human remains had also been discovered, which if extrapolated similarly, could potentially account for thousands of people. How and where the dead were disposed of then is an enduring mystery, so this is an intriguing discovery. There was discussion of the purpose of such ‘midden monuments’. Did they mark the presence of a ‘central area’ other than a defended enclosure? Were they feasting sites? This midden was on a ridge and would have been visible for a long distance, inter-visible with other prehistoric sites. Several linear ditches approached the area.

Tim Champion said that more than twenty such structures had now been identified in the region.

with similar characteristics, and dating from around the same period of no more than 150 years. They had not been much investigated. He observed that in parts of Africa people actively collected midden material, as the size of a household's midden indicated status. Similar, though smaller,

midden monuments were sometimes observed on late Bronze Age sites.

This was an exceptional site at which to end the Summer Meeting. Our thanks go to David Hinton and Caroline Raison for their excellent organization.



A Sculpture in All Saints Church, Great Chalfield, Wiltshire

DAVID A. HINTON

The Institute's Summer Meeting this year included a visit to Great Chalfield, a wonderful moated manor site with the parish church just inside the grounds. Difficult to see behind the pulpit is a carved slab, serving as a window-sill; although usually thought Norman, it might be earlier.

The slab is in two pieces, so the leaf pattern on the right is separate from its longer neighbour. Set at 90°, the larger piece appears to be a column, with the beginnings of an arch, and a leaf sprouting above. The smaller piece can then be seen as a fragment of the opposite side, with a similar leaf and a segment of arch.

Arches and columns in medieval art often enclose figures, such as King David in an eighth-century manuscript painted in Canterbury. That picture also has the running key pattern that in the sculpture seems to be in the arch and central field of the column. The leaf looks a bit later, perhaps ninth century.

Great Chalfield is close to Bradford-on-Avon, where members saw the late seventh- to eighth-century screen in the chapel. It needs a geologist to say whether they are of the same stone, but the sculpture deserves further consideration.

(With many thanks for photographs to Richard Arnopp, Mike Efstathiou and especially Chris von Patzelt who returned to the church to take more.)

Access to Lectures Online

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

Some of the Society of Antiquaries' lectures are available to all and can be viewed at www.sal.org.uk, under News and Events.

Presentations by Early Career Archaeologists

Once again, in addition to our usual programme of lectures there will be short presentations by archaeologists starting their careers. For the third year running, in addition to our usual programme of lectures there will again be presentations by archaeologists starting their careers. The first trio, on 9 November 2016, will be given by post-

graduates and post-doctoral fellows from the University of York. The second set of presentations will be given on 12 April 2017, by archaeologists from Archaeology South-East/UCL Centre for Applied Archaeology.

These talks will start at 3.00 pm, to be followed by tea and the main lecture of the day.



Battle Abbey gatehouse: conjectural reconstruction c.1100 (© Phil James)

Royal Archaeological Institute Lecture Programme and Abstracts: 2016/17

Meetings are held from October to May, on the second Wednesday of the month, at 5.00 pm in the Rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BE. In November and April, the lecture will be preceded at 3.00 pm

by a presentation by new archaeologists. Tea will be served at 4.30 pm. Non-members are welcome but should make themselves known to the Secretary and sign the visitors' book.

2016

12 October

Portals to the Past. Controlling risk and maximising benefit on the Crossrail Archaeology Programme

Jay Carver

The Crossrail Archaeology Programme is considered one of the most complex archaeology programmes ever undertaken in the UK. A project spanning over 100 kilometres with more than forty construction sites has the potential to uncover many finds from many periods, right across the London region. This paper will describe some of the key discoveries of the last five years' work, and explore some of the key methods needed to integrate the delicate work of archaeological investigation with an unforgiving construction programme, and the needs and desires of a huge number of stakeholders from the local community to national agencies and the international media. What emerges is a major-project case study that hopefully demonstrates that the historic environment has so much more to offer the construction and development sector than delays and cost overruns.

9 November

3.00 pm: Presentations by early career archaeologists from the University of York

Fabrizio Galeazzi: Web-based 3D visualisation of archaeological excavation data: combining traditional and innovative methods through collaborative platforms

More than thirty years after the introduction of digital technologies to archaeological workflow, we are still looking for shareable methodologies that allow the integration of innovative digital practices for fieldwork data recording, management and dissemination.

Starting from experience acquired during the development of the ADS 3D Viewer — a web-based visualisation platform for the analysis and archiving of 3D data — this presentation will discuss the impact that this kind of infrastructure can have on archaeological practice. The use of web-based collaborative platforms that enable 3D exploration of archaeological stratigraphic sequences and associated datasets is proposed as

one possible way to combine *traditional* and *innovative* methods.

Web-based 3D platforms allow those unable to participate in the fieldwork itself to access and conduct post-excavation analysis remotely, hence promoting interdisciplinary and 'at-distance' collaborative workflows in archaeology.

Dr Aimée Little: The making and meaning of things: an integrated approach to the study of hunter-gatherer material culture

Using a combination of technological analysis, experimental archaeology and use-wear studies, alongside laser imaging techniques, it has been possible to gain new insights into the making and meaning of some of the most enigmatic artefacts dating to the Mesolithic period. This paper will discuss this recent research, focusing on two Early Mesolithic sites: Hermitage, a cremation burial (Co. Limerick, Ireland) and the lakeside settlement of Star Carr (Vale of Pickering, Yorkshire, UK).

James Taylor: Making Time for Space at Çatalhöyük: GIS as a tool for exploring intra-site spatiotemporality within complex stratigraphic sequence

This talk explores the inherent temporality of the stratigraphic sequence of the Neolithic tell site of Çatalhöyük, Turkey. Conventional approaches to stratigraphic analysis, particularly phasing, can be perceived as static as a mode of temporal modelling. At Çatalhöyük, with such a complicated sequence of deposition and truncation, and the generally slow transition of its material culture through time, phasing can be even more problematic; many relationships and notions of stratigraphic contemporaneity can be ambiguous. This research seeks to embed a more nuanced temporality within the site's existing spatial dataset, exploiting the capabilities of ArcGIS 10 to generate an intra-site spatiotemporal model. The aim has been both to visualize the stratigraphic sequence in a more dynamic and intuitive way, and to develop a model that is robust enough to support fully integrated spatiotemporal analysis of the excavation data and associated material culture, in order to answer broader questions about the social development of the Neolithic occupants of Çatalhöyük.

5.00 pm lecture: The Trojan Horseman: The Myth and Reality of the Crosby Garrett Helmet

Dr Mike Bishop

In 2010, two men metal-detecting in Cumbria found one of the most interesting, and controversial, Roman helmets from the Roman Empire. It tested English treasure legislation (and arguably found it wanting) and teased specialists with its seemingly unique nature. The find-spot was excavated in an attempt to understand its original context. Hauntingly beautiful, the helmet was restored and auctioned, and bought anonymously for more than £2 million. With wide press coverage and vilificatory postings in the blogosphere, the helmet never ceased to court controversy. This is the story of its discovery, restoration, and eventual public display; a glimpse into the world of the *hippika gymnasia*, a ritualised training undergone by Roman auxiliary cavalry; and an exploration of details of helmet manufacture, decoration, and ownership, recovered under difficult circumstances. Research would show how significant the helmet was, but left more questions unanswered than it addressed and we can only guess at how it came to be buried where it was.

14 December

Dacre, Cumbria — the early medieval monastery described by the Venerable Bede?

Rachel Newman

Dacre is rare in the world of early medieval archaeology in being referenced in a contemporary historical source. In c.731, the Venerable Bede wrote that a miracle had taken place in a monastery by the river *Dacore*; the existence locally of high-quality stone sculpture, dating to the ninth and tenth centuries, adds empirical evidence. In the 1980s, excavations to the west of the churchyard, and in its northern extension, found evidence of early medieval activity, and a cemetery of at least 230 graves was recorded, along with at least two buildings. Whilst almost no human bone survived the aggressively acidic soil conditions, the orientation of the graves, and the lack of finds, indicated a Christian population. Evidence of wooden ‘chests’, with fine iron fittings, suggested a rite peculiar to high-status burials in the Anglian kingdom of Northumbria. Window glass, similar

to that from Jarrow, and an assemblage of metalwork, including a gold ring and a stylus, add weight to Dacre’s importance.

2017

11 January

The rise and fall of the late Iron Age royal site at Stanwick, North Yorkshire

Professor Colin Haselgrove

The earthwork complex at Stanwick west of Darlington enclosing nearly 3 sq km is one of the largest prehistoric fortifications in Europe. The first occupation dates to around 80 BC and the settlement soon developed into a regional centre, characterised by its monumental timber buildings and far-flung contacts. In the mid first century AD, the 7km-long perimeter earthwork was constructed, which together with the unusual Roman imports from this phase, indicates that the complex was probably the seat of Cartimandua, the client ruler of the Brigantes in the period following the Claudian invasion. Stanwick itself was abandoned before the Roman army occupied northern England, but over the last twenty years new discoveries on other Iron Age sites in the environs have begun to provide an unexpected picture of conquest period activity in the area and of the real nature of the extended settlement complex.

8 February

The East Coast War Channels in the First World War

Dr Antony Firth

A fierce battle was fought on the east coast of England throughout the First World War, often within just a few miles of the shore. The battle was conducted principally between German U-boats and Allied merchant ships, supported by minor warships such as requisitioned trawlers. The remains of the battle still stand: there are perhaps a thousand shipwrecks from the First World War surviving on the seabed between the Thames and the border with Scotland. This presentation sets out the results of work by Fjordr Ltd funded by Historic England to investigate this forgotten battle, highlighting new data on the wrecks themselves and outlining some of the insights they

provide into the conduct of the First World War at sea.

8 March

New Routes to the Past: discoveries by road and light rail scheme archaeology in Ireland

Rónán Swan

In the past sixteen years, Ireland has undergone significant and transformative growth with the development of a new motorway network, with the construction and expansion of its motorway and primary road network, and with the construction and development of a new light rail system within Dublin city. More than 2500 archaeological sites have been excavated, relating to all periods since the Mesolithic and from all parts of the country. While some sites excavated were previously known, the vast majority were unknown or forgotten. As a result of this work, not only have new site types been discovered but this work has provided the opportunity to test and explore many hypotheses and models of past settlement and activity. This paper will reflect on how major infrastructural development can contribute to the understanding and appreciation of our archaeological heritage.

12 April

3.00 pm: Presentations by early career archaeologists

Dr Michael Shapland: The origins and symbolism of the Great Gatehouse at Battle Abbey

Recent recording work at the Great Gatehouse of Battle Abbey, East Sussex, represented the first thorough investigation of this famous building. It began in the Norman period as part of a complex of prominent structures marking the main entrance to the abbey precinct, including a gateway-chapel dedicated to St John and a possible courthouse. The original gatehouse was remodelled on a grand scale c.1338, and the present civic courthouse constructed in the late sixteenth century. The gatehouse and its attendant suite of entrance structures to the abbey were interpreted as a complex symbolic of martial power and temporal lordship which doubled as a metaphor for the entrance to heaven.

Dr Elena Baldi: The online catalogue of Ostrogothic coinage

Thanks to their quite sophisticated culture that had been long in contact with the Roman world, the Ostrogoths' monetary system was the most elaborate amongst those introduced by the Germanic kingdoms that settled within the regions left after the collapse of the Roman Empire. Drawing from the British Museum's online work carried out in 2010, this project aspires at creating a Europe-wide database, aiming to record all the coins that are documented within museum collections throughout Europe, but also to include the numerous finds from the archaeological record. The project will create a comprehensive online catalogue that will be available for scholars and public outreach. More importantly, this work will also enable in-depth analysis and interpretation of some specific issues that are not fully understood, in a comprehensive study of the coins of the Kingdom of the Ostrogoths (493–554).

5.00 pm lecture: The lost twelfth-century choir of York Minster reconstructed

Dr Stuart Harrison

For many years the lost twelfth-century choir of York Minster has been seen as a possible key building in the development of the Early Gothic in the north of England. Recently a new study of the evidence from excavations, the standing fabric and detached architectural fragments has enabled a better understanding of this complex building. The plan of the choir has been established for the first time and can be shown to derive from that of the abbey of St Bertin in St Omer. The crypt and main elevations have now been reconstructed and show that the choir incorporated some of the latest Gothic detailing deriving from north-west France and Flanders. Its use of Purbeck Marble for shafts and piers and the design of the high vaulting with quadripartite and sexpartite designs parallels that of Canterbury some twenty years later. It was clearly one of the earliest buildings in England to use Gothic design and detailing.

10 May: the President's lecture

A brief history of RAI Presidents

Professor Timothy Champion

Since its emergence as a separate organisation in 1845, the Institute has had thirty-five Presidents. The changing identity and role of successive Presidents serve as important evidence for the changing nature of archaeology over the past two centuries, as it developed from a fashionable pastime to an academic discipline and an area of professional expertise and practice. For the first eighty years the presidents were all amateurs: all but one were members of the aristocracy, and most

were very active in Tory politics; some were highly knowledgeable about archaeology, others appear to have had little interest or understanding. From the 1920s, Presidents were increasingly drawn from the academic world, though not all would now be recognised as archaeologists. Since the 1940s, Presidents have come from the ranks of professional archaeologists, mostly from the university, museum and government service sectors; but there have been only two female Presidents. The lecture will also explore the changing role of the President over this period.

British Archaeological Association Programme of Meetings 2016/17

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

The first, on **5 October**, will be 'Miraculous ground plans and the liturgy of building sites in late medieval Italy' by Dr Lucy Donkin.

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.

THE ROYAL LABEL FACTORY David Sherlock (Sometime Inspector of ancient monuments, MPBW, DoE and EH)

I felt quite nostalgic on my first ever visit to Clarendon Palace on the Royal Archaeological Institute's summer meeting in Wiltshire. There, just inside the gateway, still in pristine condition, was an old Ministry cast metal sign with the following wording:

ANCIENT MONUMENTS ACTS 1913 AND 1931
ANY PERSON INJURING OR DEFACING
THIS MONUMENT WILL BE LIABLE TO
PROSECUTION ACCORDING TO LAW

MINISTRY OF WORKS

These were the type of signs to be found on ancient monuments when I first joined the Ministry of Public Building and Works, used not only as a warning like this one but also to inform visitors about parts of monuments. They survived in use until about the time of the creation of English Heritage in 1986, when they were gradually replaced by less durable signs made of modern materials, but with more information and considered more visitor-friendly. Today, a keen eye on a guardianship site might still spot an old Ministry

sign such as *dorter* or *frater*, fixed to the wall of the monument, unpainted to blend in with the masonry, but there for the Ministry's visitors to orientate themselves while walking round with a blue guide. The signs were often painted: green lettering on a cream-coloured background in England and Wales, and blue on cream in Scotland. (The sign on the fence around the remains of Fotheringhay Castle, Northants, where Mary Queen of Scots spent her last year imprisoned, also displayed the Scottish colours).

On the Clarendon sign, in the apparently blank area at the bottom, are the words of the manufacturer, Royal Label Factory, just slightly raised so as not to be obvious. Some other cast metal signs have simply RLF. This factory, according to Grace's Guide to British Industrial History on the web, was established in 1874 to make labels for Queen Victoria's gardens at Sandringham. After the passing of the 1913 Ancient Monuments Act the RLF supplied signs to the Ministry of Works and its successors, the Ministry of Public Building

& Works and the Department of the Environment. It was sold off by the government in the 1990s. Some of the firm's equipment was bought by International Road Signs (IRS) of Swaffham, Norfolk. A non-conformist chapel near its factory has or had a cast metal sign advertising times of its services. I like to think someone working for IRS made it for the chapel, having a belief in the permanence of non-conformity. The signs are virtually indestructible, except by a very determined vandal, and certainly do not weather.

I doubt if anyone has ever been prosecuted for damaging the ruins of Clarendon Palace, so it would seem still to be serving its purpose as a deterrent. There is a similar but more Draconian sign on the fence around another scheduled ancient monument of national importance, Bungay Castle, Suffolk. It reads:

ANCIENT MONUMENTS ACTS 1913 AND 1931
ANY PERSON WHO INJURES OR DEFACES
THIS MONUMENT MAY BE FINED AND
ORDERED TO PAY THE COSTS OF REPAIRS
OR BE IMPRISONED

This sign is also unpainted but the numerals are not quite in the same font as Clarendon's and there is no mention of the Ministry of Works. It too, one hopes, is serving its purpose, though attempts have



Bungay Castle: the sign made at the Royal Label Factory (DS)

been made to prize it off its fixing. Which would be the worse punishment — cost of repairs or imprisonment?

I regret the passing of RLF signs. When I worked in English Heritage North Region I persuaded the area superintendent of works to order RLF signs from IRS Swaffham for labelling some of the more remote turrets of Hadrian's Wall, although they were banned by head office. Their classic lettering in Trajan Bold has an air of permanence which seemed to me to be appropriate to an ancient monument of any period. I bet they are still there!

MISCELLANY

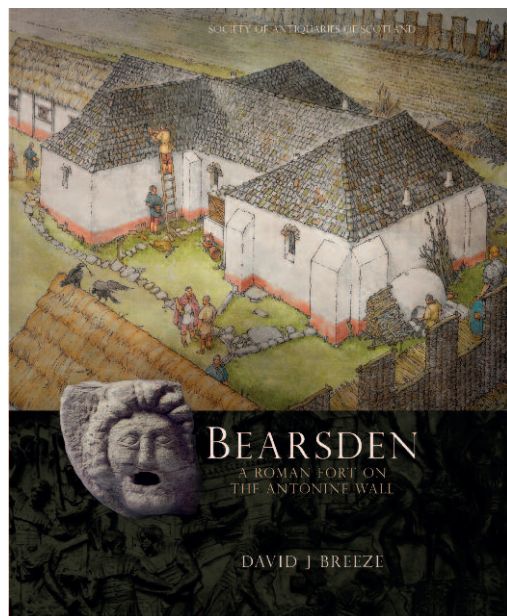
Book News

Bearsden: A Roman Fort on the Antonine Wall by David Breeze (2016)

The report on ten seasons of excavation at the Roman fort at Bearsden has been published by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. 440 pages, 270 illustrations, hardback, ISBN 9781908332080. Price £30 (plus £3.95 P&P), from <http://www.socantscot.org/product/bearsden>

Blaenavon: from Iron Town to World Heritage Site by Jeremy Knight (2016)

This is a history of ironmaking in the Blaenavon area from medieval times onwards. The ironworks is a unique survivor of the developing industry — experiments at Blaenavon created the Basic Bessemer process, opening the way for the bulk steel industries of America and Germany to develop. 208 pages with over 90 illustrations,





Blaesavon: furnaces 4 and 5, with cast house and foundry (JK)

paperback, ISBN 9781910839010. Price £12.95 from Logaston Press.

RAI publications for sale

Some back issues of the *Archaeological Journal*, cumulative indexes to the journal, Summer Meeting Reports, and selected off-prints and monographs are available in limited numbers. To see the list of volumes and to place your order,

contact the Administrator for a faxed or posted copy of the Back Issue Order Form, or find it on our website <http://www.royalarchinst.org> on the Publications page

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. Please see the letter from the Administrator in this mailing.

The RAI office

The direct telephone number for the Administrator is 07847 600756, the e-mail 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, in the afternoon.

OUR PATRON'S LUNCH

On Sunday 12 June 2016, 10,000 guests attended a street party on The Mall to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's patronage of over 600 charities and organisations, on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Four of us were honoured to represent the Institute (Chair of Audit committee, Maureen Amory, former President David Breeze, Council

and committee member Sian Rees and your editor). Like many guests I was delayed by a crane fallen on a railway station, and before I arrived the relentless rain had set in. Luckily as we joined the queue for security, posh ponchos were handed out, for it took nearly two hours to process the plane-load ahead of me. Everyone was, of course, chatty and good-natured — the weather was trumped by



Guests taking their places for the Patron's Lunch © 2016 Getty Images

the British-ness of the occasion. Inside, the scene reminded me of something I couldn't place, until Sian suggested a religious gathering: thousands in matching milky white robes (those ponchos), all fairly orderly and mostly doing much the same thing. As we found our places at one of 1,700 trestle tables crammed into The Mall, we spotted colleagues from related societies nearby. We fetched hot drinks and collected our posh picnics, including a tin of Pimm's and a teeny chocolate pud topped with a golden crown; we each had our own beautifully appointed hamper (before the afternoon was out, some were being offered on eBay for £200).

There was a spectacular parade which went round twice, the first time with many performers also wearing those ponchos. Colourful signs, to show the scope of the Patron's Organisations, were led by dancers and marching bands. The parade was designed by decade to encapsulate memories, and to recognise 'the unrelenting support and service our Monarch has given to the community over her 63-year reign'.

Just before the Royal party set out from Buck House, the sun returned, and ponchos were removed to reveal an imaginative array of patriotic attire, especially headgear. Many members of the Royal Family including the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry, chatted with guests as they walked the length of The Mall to the stage; Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh drove sedately along in their pope-mobile for speeches and the birthday song.

We had a very good position, near the stage and big screen and got the essence of the day which we



Sian in full fig, after the sun came out (MA)

all enjoyed immensely. Involving many volunteers, many from businesses with a royal warrant, it was a true feat of logistics.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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NEXT ISSUE Copy for the next issue must reach the editor by the end of January 2017 for publication in April 2017.

THIS ISSUE'S COVER PICTURE: Fifteenth-century buildings in St John's Alley, Devizes, taken during the Wiltshire summer meeting (ME)
