



ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

No. 58 AUGUST 2019



In this issue Grants and Awards • Dates for your Diary • RAI Annual Conference •
Spring Meeting, Peterborough • RAI Lecture Programme • BAA Meetings • Miscellany •
Winifred Phillips 1922–2019

Council of our Institute has placed the calendar below on our website; it is reproduced here, slightly shortened, for those of you who don't use the internet. **Please ask any officer for further information about how to take part in the running of the Institute.**

RAI CALENDAR OF BUSINESS

October	Council Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trustee' governance• Outline of the year's projected business/initial discussion Autumn Meeting (field trip) Solicit submissions for Master's Dissertation Prize (biennial)
November	Meetings Committee Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outline Programme for next three years developed and confirmed RAI Conference
December	Editorial Committee Meeting Next year Research Grant applications and Current year Research Grant accounts and reports due Preparation of Annual Accounts and Report
January	Research Committee Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review publicity from projects funded in previous year• Review success of grants programme in supporting RAI objectives• Assess applications and determine support to be offered Annual Report draft to Accountants Membership list to Council for considered nominee suggestions
February	Audit and Investment Committee Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drafting of Budget, revised Risk Assessment, Report as submitted to Accountants and Accounts Nominations to Council with supporting information to be received
March	Council Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drafts of Budget, Revised Risk Assessment, and Finalised Accounts submitted to Council• Propose Auditor for following year for AGM confirmation• Lecture suggestions from Council• Council nominations voted for at Council• Review Committee membership
April	Meetings Committee Meeting (only if substantive business in prospect) Editorial Committee Meeting (only if substantive business in prospect) Spring Mailing
May	Council Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Processes and Procedures in light of Audit and Investment comments and the year's business• Propose value of gifts/donations for following year Annual General Meeting Spring Meeting (field trip)
June	Solicit submissions for Undergraduate Dissertation Prize (biennial)
July	Summer Meeting (field trip) Programme Card and Lecture Abstracts finalised
August	Autumn Mailing documents and recipients' information to printer
September	Autumn Mailing

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Current Archaeology Awards

The winners of the eleventh annual awards were announced on Friday 8 March, at Senate House, University of London, during *Current Archaeology Live!* 2019. Voted for entirely by the public – there are no panels of judges – the awards celebrate the projects and publications that made the pages of the magazine over the past year, and the people judged to have made outstanding contributions to archaeology.

The winners were:

Archaeologist of the Year: Richard Osgood

Research Project of the Year: Prehistoric pop culture: deciphering the DNA of the Bell Beaker Complex by Iñigo Olalde and colleagues.

Rescue Project of the Year: A landscape revealed: exploring 6,000 years of Cambridgeshire's past along the A14 by MOLA Headland Infrastructure

Book of the Year: *The Old Stones: a field guide to the megalithic sites of Britain and Ireland* by Andy Burnham

Current Archaeology Live! 2020 will be held at Senate House on 28–29 February.

The CBA will now administer the British Archaeological Awards programme.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE RESEARCH GRANTS

The Institute awards the following grants annually:

Tony Clark Fund Up to £500 for scientific elements of archaeological projects

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: 10 December 2019. Awards announced in April 2020.

RAI Dissertation Prizes

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

Journal. The chief criteria considered are (a) quality of work and (b) appropriateness to the interests of the RAI as reflected in the journal. The prize will be presented at the Institute's December meeting.

RAI Cheney Bursaries

As a result of a bequest left by Frank Cheney, the Institute has a small fund of money to enable students to attend conferences or RAI meetings. An allocation is available annually from which individuals can apply for a maximum sum of £200. Please check with the Administrator that money remains in the yearly fund before you apply.

Students who wish to apply for a bursary should email 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



RAI Annual Conference 2019: Recording the Aldborough Forum trench 2017 (R. Ferraby)

There are to be no more paper fliers for individual Meetings in the mailings. Once events are confirmed, full details and booking forms will be on the Meetings Programme page <http://www.royalarchinst.org/meetings>. If you would like further details of any 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, 48 Park Avenue, Princes Avenue, Kingston upon Hull, HU5 3ES, or csraison@gmail.com.

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

Places are limited, so please book promptly.

2019

Autumn Day Meeting 12 October, at Reading, led by Hedley Swain (details on our website).

RAI 12th Annual Conference 29 November – 1 December, to be held at Senate House, University of London, *The Romans in North-East England: Recent Research* (see below).

Forthcoming in 2020

Spring Meeting 15–17 May, at Dover, led by Jonathan Coad.

Summer Meeting 11–18 July, at Copenhagen and Malmö, led by Hedley Swain.

n.b. The dates for this meeting have been changed.

For future events, please see the list in this mailing and check our website for news and details, at www.royalarchinst.org/events.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

The Romans in North-East England: Recent Research

29 November – 1 December, Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, Malet Street, University of London.

(n.b. This is a non-residential conference.)

Booking deadline: 18 November 2019.)

Organised by the Royal Archaeological Institute in association with the Roman Society, our tenth annual conference will concentrate on recent work on Roman north-east England, from Yorkshire to Hadrian's Wall. The programme includes lectures by leading academics and unit-based professionals and will cover major sites from Aldborough,

Corbridge, Scotch Corner, and Catterick to Brough-on-Humber, as well as recent work on rural sites. Details of the programme and arrangements are available on the RAI website.

Conference fee: £28 (£26 for Royal Archaeological Institute and Roman Society members), or £22 for full-time students, including tea or coffee, and a wine reception on Saturday evening. Lunch, not provided, is readily available locally.

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

MEETINGS NOTES

REPORT OF THE SPRING MEETING at Peterborough and Environs,
10–12 May 2019 ANN BALLANTYNE, JULIA HAES, RICHARD HAES,
LARISSA COLYER, LORRAINE PARTRIDGE, ANGELA RODEN

'Must Farm catastrophe! Read all about it ... kitchen accident, ritual burning, something sinister?' We began on Friday with a lecture by Iona Robinson Zeki from Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU). The site at Must Farm is unique in its preservation, in what is now an extensive area of archaeology and close to where nine dugout log boats were excavated by CAU further down stream, more of which later at Flag Fen.

Five Bronze Age roundhouses were built in about 980 BC, on piles in a river (now a palaeo-channel) and discovered owing to brick clay quarrying. They were encompassed at least on three sides by a palisade fence with a walkway made of ash stakes so that, significantly, water around the houses was almost static and materials did not get washed away. Within probably twelve months of construction they were all destroyed in a flaming inferno one August when the thatch would have been dry. The heat was so intense that stone and flint querns shattered when they hit the water.

The burning houses and their contents collapsed into the water and became sealed in the wet silt, for some 3000 years, capturing for us a moment in time; contents were perfectly preserved with items settling as if 'in place'. Furthermore, the short period of occupation created a less complex single-horizon pattern – construction/use/collapse. By adding this evidence to the contents of the middens by each dwelling, showing what was used and discarded in the course of daily living, including food remains, potsherds and general waste from each household, archaeologists have an unusual opportunity to compare social groups and differences between houses and contents, as well as life and work in each house.

Architecturally these houses were different, and construction appears to have been completed in one episode. The floors were made of springy, light hurdle panels with some clay lining (fire protection?) supported by stakes and, most unusually, on several long willow poles bowed under the floors with each end stuck into the river bed. The rooves

were probably a combination of thatch and turf also with some clay lining (perhaps a form of proto-chimney?).

A vast array of artefacts has been recovered, many heavily charred. Bones show a varied diet somewhat surprisingly drawn largely from farmed terrestrial sources including cattle, sheep and goats though with wild species too of red deer and wild boar, and fish bones particularly pike. The articulated remains of two 6-month-old lambs which must have been tethered in the houses, support the August time of fire. Barley, wheat and flax were present implying farming or trade. Potsherd residue analysis has revealed fats from pork, dairying and bees wax.

Many different fibres were being used in every stage of production of masses of varied textiles, some showing astonishing fineness even by today's standards. Bats for separating fibres and loom weights, spindle whorls and wooden bobbins, and rhizomes of flag iris usable for black dye, demonstrate the level of their sophistication.

Two items must be mentioned; wooden wheels made from three boards braced, and an oak axle, were indoors – were they prized possessions? Also recovered were the largest number of Late Bronze Age glass beads yet found in Britain, together with amber and jet: analysis of the glass suggests the sand used was from Egypt.

Balance of opinion about the cause of the fire leans towards a deliberate act, started simultaneously in all the houses, and no attempt appears to have been made to salvage anything ... for 3000 years. Iona gave us a brilliant insight into the site, its occupants and their life.

On Saturday we started at Longthorp Tower. Longthorp House is an unusual survival, a mid thirteenth-century defensible manor house, with its tower added c. 1310 when Robert de Thorp was appointed steward of Peterborough Abbey. The paintings in the Great Chamber of the tower were probably commissioned by him, or his son also Robert de Thorp (appointed Steward of the Abbey 1330). No comparable scheme of domestic mural decoration of such completeness and of this early date exists in England. Sometimes described as a kind of spiritual encyclopaedia, it was clearly inspired by one of the many 'encyclopaedic' manuscripts of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries,

where Biblical scenes are combined with calendars, lives of the saints, bestiaries and moralities.

The Home Guard was based at the tower from 1939 to 1945. Apparently their dart playing caused lime wash to flake off revealing areas of red paint. After the War, the tenant, Hugh Horrell, exposed some of the paintings while preparing to redecorate. He sought advice and the paintings were uncovered, conserved and recorded by E. Clive Rouse in 1946–7.

Having been pre-warned that a scaffold for conservation occupied the middle of the painted room limiting numbers admitted at any time, Caroline provided everyone with a copy of the diagrammatic drawings of the four elevations made by Rouse, so that the various elements of the paintings could be explained during the drive to Longthorp. The paintings on the vault show musicians playing a variety of instruments, with King David and his harp in the section of vault above the painting of the Nativity. There is a complete series of Apostles, each holding a scroll showing in Latin his sentence from the Apostles Creed, and amongst them is a female figure representing Ecclesia (the Church). There are a number of instructive scenes which are not easy to interpret, of Philosopher teachers and Saints. Of the moralities there are:

The Seven Ages of Man, each labelled in Lombardic Script

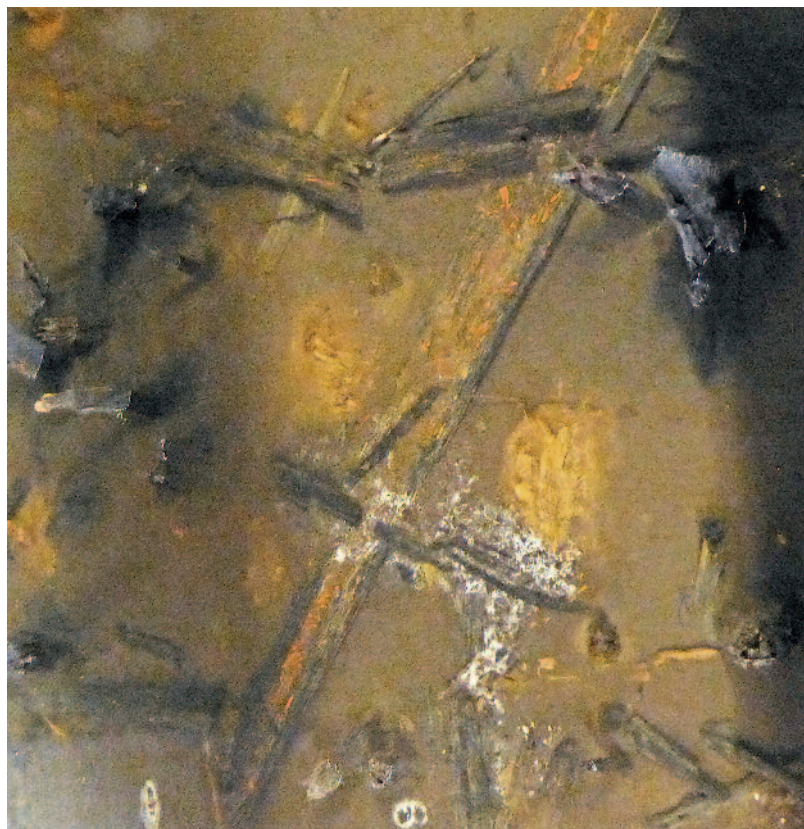
The 12 Labours of the Month, with labels now largely lost

A rare Wheel of the Five Senses with a monkey (taste), a hawk (smell), a spider (touch), a boar (hearing), and a cock (sight)

The Three Living and the Three Dead, reminiscent of the Arundel psalter where in turn the Living say: 'I am afeared', 'Lo what I see', 'me thinks it be devils three'. To which the Dead reply: 'I was well fair', 'Such shalt thou be', 'for God's love be warned by me'.

Some of the lower parts of the walls are decorated with heraldry and lifelike illustrations of Fenland birds, perhaps a bittern and a curlew.

The paintings on the south wall seem purely secular. Two enthroned figures have shields bearing three leopards, probably Edward II or III (before 1340) and Edmund of Woodstock (son of



A close-up of an area (c. 1 m. sq.) of the Flag Fen trackway preserved *in situ* (M. O'Brien)

Edward I, whose shield had a white border); the long French text is illegible. Above the door, part of the image of a mythical Bonnacon survives – a beast whose horns curl in on themselves rendering it unable to defend itself from the front, but when fleeing from hunters it emits a fart that sets light to trees and bushes for 3 acres, and (according to Aristotle), burns off the hair of hunting dogs.

The top floor has a small workshop with a demonstration of conservation work, pleasing views of the neighbourhood and some information about its history.

Next, to Flag Fen. Francis Pryor realised the importance of Flag Fen in 1982; he spotted a worked piece of wood in a drainage dyke, and recognised the 1½" Bronze Age axe marks. Research, survey and excavations have continued intermittently since. Our guide to what is now the 10-acre Archaeology Park admitted to being somewhat daunted by what he had heard defined collectively as an 'Argument of archaeologists'.

Neolithic farmers populated the area from 4000 BC and tree clearance began. By 2500 BC field

systems were laid out with double-ditched and hedged drove-ways providing routes to move animals to new grazing. The park has a nicely matured reconstruction of such a drove-way.

Sea level rise sealed the Neolithic and Bronze Age levels under metres of alluvium. At the centre of the park is the Restoration Hall, preserving *in situ* a section of the Bronze Age post alignment or trackway. The exposed logs are currently kept wet, as was done with the Mary Rose. Tree ring data shows phases of construction from 1365–967 BC. The 1-km long trackway provided a year-round access route between the higher land to east and west of the Fen. The earliest stakes were of alder and ash with wattle interwoven but later oak was used. Some stakes would have stood 3.5 m clear of the surrounding fen. On the hall's walls are artist's impressions of the site at different seasons of the year.

One row of stakes was angled outwards – possibly defensively. Were the rich natural resources of the fen basin being defended from external attack? All along the trackway were thousands of

deliberately broken metal objects including swords, brooches, rings and shale bracelets. These items were often carefully placed under pieces of timber and are all on the inward face of the trackway. Deposition continued through into the Iron Age.

At its centre the track widened to a large oval platform. Ritual significance is almost inevitable – but exploration is being left to future archaeologists and an artificial lake now covers it. However, there is danger through continued drain dredging which is drying out the surrounding fen.

A recreated Bronze Age roundhouse is very popular, and its design has now been broadly confirmed by the Must Farm houses. The first-century AD road known as the Fen Causeway was identified in silt strata above the wooden stakes of the post alignment; its route here has been recreated, alongside a 'Roman' herb garden. A resident flock of Soay sheep, thought to mimic Bronze Age breeds, adds authenticity to the park.

The museum displays include a wicker eel trap, a pair of sprung sheers in a wooden box and a remarkable Bronze Age wooden wheel dated to 1300 BC – the oldest complete wheel known in Britain. The nine log boats found in the paleo-channel of the River Nene near Must Farm are now under conservation here. They span 600 years with the earliest dating back to 1300 BC. None of the boats had its rear removable transom in position, and no propulsion items were found. Had the boats been left submerged to preserve them and then lost? Or had they been deliberately scuttled? The 'Argument of archaeologists' still has much work to do.

Dedicated to St Peter with St Paul and St Andrew, Peterborough Cathedral, where we ended our day out, is perhaps best known as the resting place of Katherine of Aragon, whose tomb, desecrated in 1643 and refurbished in the nineteenth century, lies to the left of the high altar. The building itself has been through so many revisions and reversals of fortune that the present structure would be barely recognisable to its founders. Fragments of masonry from nearby Roman sites are still visible within its fabric, the most striking of which, embedded in the western wall of the south transept, depicts a pair of dancing figures. Medeshamstede Abbey, founded in 653, was the first Christian foundation on the site. The Abbey was

plundered in 866 in Viking raids; a sculpted stone shrine, the Hedda Stone, now standing in the apse, is the only survivor from the eighth century. It depicts Christ and eleven other figures – apostles? – beneath a continuous arcade. It may have functioned as part of an altar which would explain why Peter is missing. Its striking features include random holes across its surface, possibly for embedding relics. The Abbey was re-founded in 971 and remained one of the last great Saxon churches left standing, not being rebuilt until fifty years after the Conquest. In 1107, Abbot Ernulf of Canterbury began by prioritising the monastic complex as he had done in Canterbury. The arcades of the thirteenth-century infirmary hall, probably on the site of its twelfth-century predecessor, are still visible, now filled by residences and offices. On August 4, 1116, fire destroyed the existing church and in Spring 1117 building began from East to West and continued for a century. The magnificent West Front with its three arches, loosely based on a triumphal arch, a design already adopted at Lincoln in 1072, was begun in 1195. Within Peterborough's triple porch, sometimes called the galilee, stands the socle, a sculpted drum of Alwalton marble that props the column of the main western door. It depicts the story of Simon Magus falling to Hell, with St Peter triumphant at the top; this particular imagery may be in response to Pope Cestine III's ordering of a crusade against northern European heretics in 1193. The abandoned springing arches for the intended rib vault over the nave are still visible, the design replaced with a polychrome ceiling, the largest in Europe. This mid-thirteenth-century canted ceiling, designed as a series of lozenges depicting the Seven Liberal Arts, Bishops, Archbishops and Kings is today the most striking feature of the Cathedral. Sue Wright, whose book with Jackie Hall (the Cathedral archaeologist) describes in detail the ceiling panels, their construction and restoration, spoke to us about the conservation work that began just before the fire of 2001 (for details of a special offer for their book, see p.17).

On Sunday, Matins was in progress when we arrived at Castor and St Kyneburgha's Church, so we stood outside the church to hear Stephen Upex, who had reviewed the site, explain Castor's Roman connections. We looked south from the hill across the River Nene, over the town of Durobrivae,



Stephen Upex explaining pitched herringbone remains of the Eastern Range of the Praetorium at Castor
(R. Arnopp)

whose substantial suburbs have revealed evidence for the local pottery industry and metal working. Following Boudicca's rebellion, reprisals against the local tribes meant the confiscation of land in the Fens, and around AD 100 a large tower was constructed at March, which may have been the centre of an Imperial estate for tax collection. However, the cooling climate meant that by AD 200 the local agricultural boom finished and the tower was then demolished.

Edmund Artis carried out the first excavations in Castor in the 1820s, following evidence in the village, and found the remains of a substantial building dating from the late third to fourth century, which is known as the Praetorium. Construction of its North Range had begun about AD 230 to 240. It was probably the new Imperial centre, built to replace the Tower, and was possibly the chief residence for a Procurator.

Thus St Kyneburgha's is built upon the terrace of perhaps one of the largest Roman buildings in the UK. To gain an idea of the size and scale we

walked along the roads surrounding the churchyard. Church Hill runs inside the Northern Range of the building and at the site of the Western Range some pitched herringbone survives, with more fragments surviving in the Eastern Range on the other side along Stocks Hill. The foundations suggest the building might have been of three storeys, reaching the height of the present church tower less its spire. On arrival visitors with sufficient status would have progressed through a sequence of rooms to meet the Procurator. All the rooms have mosaics, some dating to the late fourth century. However questions remain about how the building was roofed and lit.

The earliest communion plate found in the Roman Empire is from Durobrivae, so we may surmise that local memory and the remains of the Praetorium determined the founding of a convent in Castor by St Kyneburgha, and her sister, in the seventh century. The church was built by the Saxons and Normans re-using Roman masonry. We were shown around inside by representatives



Capital with birds, a cat mask, and a Green Man, St Kyneburgha's Church, Castor (R. Arnopp)

from the Friends of the church. Displayed are a Roman altar used by the Mercians for the base of a cross, which now hosts a modern sculpture of St Kyneburgha; an eighth-century carving of St Mark, in Peterborough style. On tiptoe, with his legs visible under his robe which is set in the wall, it was possibly part of St Kyneburgha's shrine, and has similarities with the Hedda stone in Peterborough Cathedral. The church tower has fine carvings on the Romanesque capitals, including several of Green Man, and hunting and harvesting scenes. The original altar stone, probably broken during the Civil War, had been rescued from the churchyard. Anne Ballantyne talked about the fourteenth-century wall paintings of St Catherine, uncovered in 1842 and restored in 1986. Our visit was rounded off in style with a delicious lunch prepared and served in the church hall by more Friends.

Our final visit was to the church of St Pega, in Peakirk, the only church dedicated to her in England. Pega was the sister of St Guthlac, and daughter of Penwalh of Mercia. She became an anchoress here, but may have originally lived at Crowland with Guthlac. Summoned to her brother's funeral in 714, she travelled down the River Welland, where she is said to have healed a

blindman from Wisbech. She made a pilgrimage to Rome where she died in c. 719.

The present church consists of a chancel with a north vestry, a north chapel, a nave of three bays with north and south aisles, a south porch, and a triple western bell turret. The north wall and arcade, the west wall and reset south door are Norman. The chancel arch is transitional. The south arcade and aisle were rebuilt and windows inserted in the west wall in the thirteenth century. Other developments are fourteenth and fifteenth century.

The joy of this church, and the reason for our visit, was however the wall painting. Ann Ballantyne once again helped us make sense of the somewhat elusive early C14 images, discovered in 1945.

The whole of the north arcade is occupied by an extensive Passion series, eleven scenes remaining intact or in fragmentary condition. They are in two rows, framed and divided horizontally by a chevron motif. The set is interrupted by a huge painting of St Christopher, contemporary with it. The cycle includes a large The Last Supper, Christ washing the Disciples' feet, The Betrayal, and next, though destroyed now, it is likely to have been Christ before Pilate, The Mocking and Buffeting, possibly The Scourging and next Christ Carrying

The Cross, The Crucifixion, The Deposition, The Entombment, The Resurrection, and a large Christ's Appearance to Mary Magdalene.

Christ washing the Disciples' feet is represented in only one in ten passion cycles, so rare, and, although fragmentary here, there is enough evidence to give some certainty. The Mocking and Buffeting also appears in only half of Passion cycles. With twelve scenes it is a reasonably extensive set. Artistically, the work is not of high order, though the sense of decoration is admirable; it has naive directness. The Crucifixion, for example, is a moving, dramatic story with the miracle of Longinus. The artist has contrived to include four moments in one image: The piercing of Christ's side, Longinus' blindness (one eye closed), the restoration of sight (one eye open and finger pointing), and his kneeling attitude acknowledging the miracle.

The interruption of the cycle by the large St Christopher (over 9' x 5') seems not to have troubled the mediaeval mind, perhaps because it puts the saint in his accustomed place opposite the

south door where he would be readily seen by those who wished for his protection when setting out on a journey.

In the north aisle is a fine rendering of the Morality of The Three Living and the Three Dead (originally measuring 11' x 6'). The Living Kings are sumptuously clad and, unusually, shown as different ages to reinforce the grim warning that death may overtake one at any time despite one's status. The Warning to Gossips, also in the north aisle, is very clearly stated, with two women, heads touching, enjoying an exchange, with a hairy devil standing behind them pressing their heads together. A suitable warning to us all.

There is evidence of other painting, fragmentary and some too difficult to identify with certainty, but the whole interior forms a very good example of a typical mediaeval scheme of decorative teaching.

We went our separate ways greatly informed, and grateful to Stephen Sherlock and Caroline Raison for all their organisational efforts.

In Defence of E. Clive Rouse ANN BALLANTYNE

On the occasion of the Institute's visit to Longthorp Tower, access to the painted room was restricted by the scaffold used by conservators from the Courtauld Institute during their removal of the wax 'preservative' and conservation of the wall paintings. Inevitably the question was raised – 'Why had Dr E. Clive Rouse applied wax to the paintings?'.

The Longthorp wall paintings were uncovered in 1946, when unfortunately, the method of conservation being recommended by the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) and the Central Council for the Care of Churches (CCCC) was to preserve wall paintings by the application of wax. A lack of research facilities and a misinterpretation of original techniques had led to the choice of wax as a preservative. For instance, in his report of 1900 of work on the wall paintings in Hardham Church, P. M. Johnston completely missed the fact that they are true fresco and described the paintings as 'colour very thick and tough ... a combination of tempera and oil ...

The whole glazed over with oil or oil varnish'. He described them as resembling eleventh- and twelfth-century paintings in France (in 1900, the frescoes in Breze la Ville were thought to be glue size paintings with wax glazes). Johnson then applied two coats of size and two coats of a hard varnish. Before long the varnish cracked and the surface began to flake, so a more 'flexible preservative' consisting of a mixture of wax and resin was applied. Over the following couple of decades a variety of recipes were recommended using either apothecary, ceresine, elemi or bees wax, with copal or mastic resin and oil of lavender, orange peel, spike or turpentine, to be applied hot to a warmed wall. By the 1930s Rouse's mentor, E. W. Tristram, had simplified this to pure beeswax and turpentine.

When after WW2 Rouse returned to wall paintings, he began to question the use of wax coatings, because he strongly suspected that in some cases they were causing damage. He asked Harold Plenderleith, then Deputy Keeper of the British Museum Research Laboratory, if he would



Conservation work in the Great Chamber,
Longthorp Tower (left) King David (above)
(R. Arnopp)

carry out tests to ascertain if the wax was contributing to the decay of wall paintings; the results of Plenderleith's research were inconclusive. When Eve and Robert Baker began working on wall paintings they often consulted Rouse on iconographic and historical details; during these meetings Rouse raised his anxiety about the use of wax and Robert Baker agreed to carry out further tests. As a result, CCCC and SPAB formed an international working party,

which issued a warning (The Times, 21 February, 1953) against the use of wax or any other surface coating which might impede the free evaporation of any moisture behind the paintings, within the ancient walls. After that wax ceased to be used (Ballantyne 2002).

Ballantyne, A., 2002, 'Dr E. Clive Rouse and his contribution to English Wall-Painting Conservation' in A. Oddy and Sandra Smith (eds), *Past Practice – Future Prospects*, British Museum Occasional Paper 145, 1–4.

LECTURES

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.

Presentations by Early Career Archaeologists and Community Groups

As well as our usual programme of lectures there will again be short presentations by archaeologists starting their careers, this year on 13 November 2019, by Dr Emily Banfield and Heather Keeble (University of Leicester) and Dr Karen Dempsey (University College Galway).

The second set of presentations will be about work by the Roman Roads Research Association and will be given on 8 April 2020.

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

Royal Archaeological Institute Lecture Programme and Abstracts: 2019/20

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

2019

9 October

Re-discovering Ava: the Achavanich beaker burial project

Maya Hoole

Discovered in 1987, the beaker burial cist from Craig-na-feich, Achavanich, Caithness was mostly forgotten about for nearly 30 years until its chance re-discovery in 2014. Over the following few years, a wide range of research was undertaken to understand better the individual interred in the burial, including ancient DNA analysis, radiocarbon dating, bone histology, stable isotope analysis, pollen residue analysis, as well as pottery and osteological reports and a facial reconstruction. The results have revealed remarkable detail about Copper Age/Early Bronze Age Caithness and have been successfully disseminated to engage people across the globe.

13 November

3.00 pm: Post-graduate and post-doctoral research presentations

Dr Emily Banfield: Fantastic Beasts and a Bovine Resurrection

Cattle were important in Early Neolithic Britain. Their remains form a ubiquitous presence in monumental structures of this date, and their treatment therein is markedly different from that of all other animals. Recently completed research into the role and meaning of faunal remains from Wiltshire long barrows has revealed a wealth of human-animal relations 'presenced' in the archaeological material, and confirms the central

significance of the human-cattle relationship. This paper will present some of the findings of this research, from the creation in the Neolithic of human-cattle composites, the 'fantastic beasts' of the title (with apologies to J. K. Rowling), neither one species nor the other but something else, with potential to make a difference in the world, to a bovine individual who died twice.

Dr Karen Dempsey: Material Culture and Castle Studies: is there a methodological problem?

Studies of medieval castles typically do not include material culture. This is an issue. The things that people made, used, loved and carefully deposited or discarded are a vital part of our investigations into understanding people's everyday lives. But finding a methodological solution to remedy this absence is not straightforward. There are problems faced when trying to incorporate material culture more firmly into castle studies.

This paper will explore some of the challenges to re-entangle material culture and castles, showcase findings of what a characteristic material assemblage of castle sites constitutes, and lastly investigate how things at medieval castles are revealing the identities of people living and working there. It is in daily life and practices that social values are constructed, enacted and reflected.

Heather Keeble: 'On Monday last, a curious relic was discovered': archaeology in the nineteenth-century provincial press

The paradox of archaeology in the nineteenth century was that the parties interested in the past were largely middle and upper class, whilst the people who made most of the discoveries were labourers. The most likely place to find out about these chance finds is in contemporary accounts from local newspapers. The labourer's decision-making process, of whether to report a find and to whom, had a huge impact on the survival of archaeological material and on the dissemination of archaeological knowledge. This paper focuses on two case studies with a Roman past, York and Ilkley, tracking the flow of archaeological information from

the point of discovery through to the press and crossing over into the 'professional' sphere of journals. It reveals the bias of the information that is later claimed as 'fact' and which guided the development of archaeology in its formative years.

5.00 pm lecture: Hydraulic Borders? The ebb and flow of Wat's Dyke and Offa's Dyke

Professor Howard Williams

This talk presents new thinking and observations on the archaeology of Britain's largest early medieval monuments – Offa's Dyke and Wat's Dyke – to show how these linear earth-works interacted with water on multiple scales and in contrasting fashions. From their placement in relation to watersheds, streams and rivers, to their landscape contexts of wetlands, estuaries and seas, the monuments have much in common, but also significant hydraulic differences in their design and placement. In understanding the military, territorial, economic and ideological functions and significance of these middle Anglo-Saxon (late eighth- to early ninth-century) 'Mercian frontier works', we must approach them with 'fluid', not land-locked, perspectives.

11 December

The Boxgrove Horse Butchery Site: solving a puzzle from the deep past

Dr Matt Pope

The internationally important Palaeolithic site of Boxgrove is an incredible, high-resolution record of human behaviour dating to almost half-a-million years ago. A series of activity areas, concentrations of stone tools, sometimes accompanied by faunal remains, are preserved in sediments left behind during the silting up and eventual burial of a large embayment now located in West Sussex. This lecture focuses on one such locality, named the Horse Butchery Site, where evidence for the dismemberment of a horse was perfectly preserved in the silts and clays of intertidal mudflats. Extensive programmes of refitting have since been undertaken to piece back together the hundreds of flint artefacts to establish what activities were taking place at the site. The results show a vivid

picture of an early human group working over a period of just a few hours to make the tools necessary to butcher a large horse. We consider what short, intense periods of activity mean both in the evolution of human social behaviour and in landscape use.

2020

8 January

From the Romans to the Saxons: results from the archaeological fieldwork at the site of St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square

Alison Telfer

Excavations at the site in 2006–7 produced evidence for a fascinating sequence of activity from the time of the Roman Conquest to the nineteenth century, which included sarcophagi, Saxons and seventeenth-century shops. The burial succession, in particular, is impressive in its apparent continuity, one rarely seen elsewhere, and makes a case for Saxon Lundenwic having Roman origins.

12 February

Anglo-Saxon timber buildings: archaeological evidence for the forms and the processes of construction

Dr Mark Gardiner

The methods and practices of erecting later medieval timber-framed buildings are well understood. Our knowledge allows us to interpret the remains of buildings, even if only fragments still remain. However, buildings constructed before 1200 used very different techniques. Instead of depending on a few principal posts to carry the weight of the structure, they used numerous posts to carry the roof and support the infill of the walls. Very few buildings of that earlier tradition still remain upstanding, and they only survive in a very partial form. Instead, the evidence for construction must rely upon the interpretation of excavated remains. From a close study of the evidence, it is possible to suggest how the buildings were laid out and constructed. This suggests that construction of Anglo-Saxon buildings followed a very different approach from later ones/method.

11 March

A Distinctive Neolithic in Devon, Cornwall and Scilly? Recent work on ceramics, axes and other things

Henrietta Quinnell

Numerous ceramic assemblages from two decades of developer-funded excavations now cover all phases of the Neolithic, while research into potential axe sources has provided new perspectives on production in Cornwall. This data will be examined against a background of causewayed enclosures in Devon and tor enclosures in Cornwall for the Early Neolithic, and the apparent (?) scarcity of monuments of later date. Work on Scilly has provided a few chronological surprises. How far can the Neolithic of the area be now regarded as regionally distinctive and how much internal variation can now be perceived?

8 April

3.00 pm: Presentations of work by the Roman Roads Research Association

David Ratledge: Changing the Map: how lidar data is transforming our understanding of the Roman road network in North-West England

Until recently, the network of Roman roads serving the dense concentration of Roman forts in North-Western England was only poorly understood, with long stretches where routes were lost. Traditional research methods, such as field walking and aerial-photography, had just about been exhausted. Fortunately, imagery derived from LiDAR data can often reveal the surviving remains of the agger, terraces, side ditches and cuttings, where they cannot easily be identified through traditional fieldwork.

Using LiDAR, many missing pieces have now been found, along with previously unknown roads and some major surprises. In one instance, the destination of a supposedly well-known major road was shown to be incorrect and in another, a fort believed to be at the end of a cul-de-sac was found to be on two previously unknown routes into Scotland. Clearly, without an understanding of the Roman road network, establishing the roles of forts can be fraught with errors.

Rob Entwistle: New light on old roads: Watling Street, Stane Street, and their children

No Roman roads in Britain are better known than Watling Street from Canterbury to London, and Stane Street from London to Chichester. This lecture will explore the evidence for planning lines underpinning their routes, and what those may have to say about Roman strategic intentions in the earliest days of the new province. It will examine, and offer an explanation for, the fabled accuracy of Watling Street in leading to Westminster, and of Stane Street in leading to Chichester East Gate, suggesting that both may be best understood as part of a network. If the analysis is correct it implies strategic planning that, from an unexpectedly early date, gave a role to the future site of London as the gateway to imperial control of Britain.

Mike Haken: Pushing Forwards: new evidence for pre-Flavian Roman penetration into Brigantia

Until recently, it was generally accepted that apart from occasional incursions into the kingdom of the Brigantes to assist Queen Cartimandua, the Romans had no permanent presence in northern Britain, until Brigantia was absorbed into the Empire in approximately AD 71. However, the discovery of a substantial pre-Flavian settlement at Scotch Corner, North Yorkshire, during the recent A1 widening scheme, suggests that Imperial interaction with Brigantia whilst it was still a client kingdom of Rome, might have been more intensive and complex than previously thought.

This lecture will examine on-going research by the Roman Roads Research Association, which includes broad-scale geophysical survey and analysis of both recent aerial photography and LiDAR data. The research has already provided tantalising suggestions of a pre-Flavian Roman military presence within Brigantia, along a corridor stretching from the so-called vexillation fortress at Rossington, near Doncaster, towards the oppidum at Stanwick, north of Richmond.

5.00 pm lecture: **Churches in the Irish Landscape, 400–1100**

Dr Tomás Ó Carragáin

Between the fifth century and the ninth, several thousand churches were founded in Ireland, a higher density than in most other regions of Europe. This period saw fundamental changes in settlement patterns, agriculture, social organisation and beliefs, and churches are an important part of that story. Adopting a landscape archaeology approach, this lecture offers a broad overview of the main trends: the establishment of the earliest churches, often near royal sites, in the period 400–550; the proliferation of major monasteries and lesser churches in the period 550–800; and lastly changes in the period 800–1100 when some lesser churches were abandoned while more substantial community churches began to exert a greater gravitational pull. By considering the placement of churches in relation to pagan ritual sites, royal sites, burial grounds and settlements, and how they fared over the centuries, we can begin to discern the shifting strategies of kings, ecclesiastics and ordinary people. Similarities and contrasts with the situation in parts of Britain will also be highlighted.

13 May: The President's lecture

Built by monks or pirates? A mysterious boundary earthwork on the Dewisland peninsula

Blaise Vwyner

An earthwork boundary crossing the St David's peninsula from sea to sea was first noted as long ago as 1719. It was explored on several occasions in the nineteenth century and attributed to 'the monks'. From late in the century a course for it was shown on maps until, in the 1960s, the Ordnance Survey concluded that it was no more than an amalgamation of old tracks and occasional field boundaries. The boundary no longer appears on maps although references to it can be found in local guides. In archaeological literature the few references to it are hedged around with caveats – echoing nineteenth-century descriptions, the RCHM Wales today refers to it as 'an embanked trackway or dyke'. The field and other evidence is indeed confusing. This brief exploration will consider whether the boundary exists, and if it does, what its course is and when and by whom was it built.

British Archaeological Association Meetings

RAI members are invited to attend the meetings of the British Archaeological Association. 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 p.m. Non-members are asked to make themselves known to the Hon. Director on arrival and to sign the visitors' book.

Videos of previous BAA meetings are available to view online at <https://thebaa.org/videos-of-baa-lectures/>

2019

2 Oct

Imagining Jerusalem in late medieval Scotland

Dr Elizabeth Swarbrick, University of Edinburgh

The lecture will be preceded by the Association's Annual General Meeting

6 Nov

Invention and Reinvention: Trinitarian iconography in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries

Dr Sophie Kelly, Royal Collection Trust

4 Dec

From Masons' Marks to Parish Records: A medieval church in context

Dr Nick Trend, University of East Anglia

2020

6 Jan

Recent work on the monastic buildings at Westminster Abbey

Tim Tatton-Brown, Buildings Archaeologist

The lecture will be followed by the Association's Twelfth-Night Party

5 Feb

Home and Garden in the cities of early medieval Italy

Dr Caroline Goodson, University of Cambridge

4 March

Royal Palisade for Harald Bluetooth: New results from recent excavations in Jelling (Denmark)

Dr Anne Pedersen, National Museum of Denmark

1 April

Plan and Elevation: Twelfth-century drawings of architecture

Dr Karl Kinsella, Lincoln College, Oxford

6 May

Sculpture in Roman Britain and its continental context

Penny Coombes, Wolfson College, Oxford

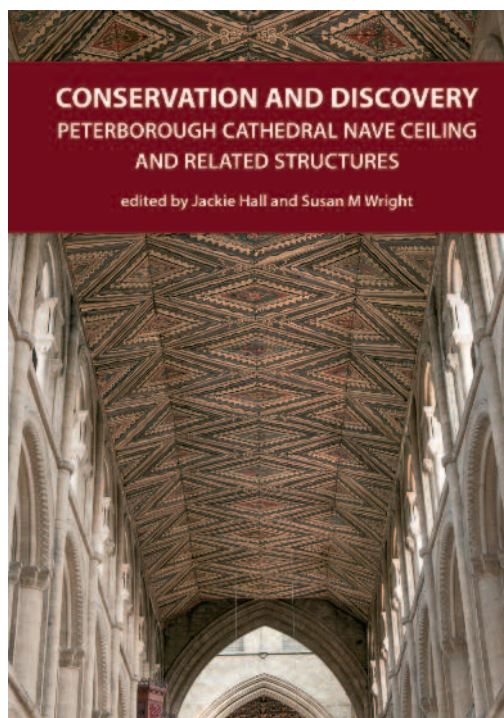
The lecture will be followed by the President's Reception.

MISCELLANY

Book Offers

Conservation and Discovery: Peterborough Cathedral nave ceiling and related structures, Jackie Hall and Susan Wright (eds). A major conservation programme took place between 1998 and 2003 on one of Europe's greatest medieval painted wooden ceilings, in the former Benedictine abbey church of Peterborough. Knowledge gained and discoveries made are documented and fully illustrated here. Not just the marvellous nave ceiling, but the medieval roof structure that supported it and the transept wooden ceilings that preceded it, feature in a story which spans from the mid-twelfth century into the twenty-first and saw many significant post-medieval interventions. Documentary history and iconography are freshly examined; structural and scientific studies (tree-ring dating, paint analysis and environmental monitoring) afford new understanding of both the original works and later repairs.

pp xvi + 193, 202 illus (chiefly colour), Museum of London Archaeology, 2015. ISBN 9781907586392 (hbk). Until December 2019, save 40% off the usual price of £25, using PBORO19 at the online checkout on the MOLA website.



EUROPEAN ARCHAEOLOGY AS ANTHROPOLOGY

Essays in Memory of Bernard Wailes

EDITED BY

PAM J. CRABTREE AND PETER BOGUCKI



European Archaeology as Anthropology: Essays in Memory of Bernard Wailes, Pam J. Crabtree and Peter Bogucki (eds). The essays in this volume celebrate the legacy of Bernard Wailes by highlighting the contribution of the European archaeological record to our understanding of the emergence of social complexity. They provide case studies in how ancient Europe can inform anthropological archaeology. Not only do they illuminate key research topics, they also invite archaeologists working in other parts of the world to consider comparisons with ancient Europe as they construct models for cultural development for their regions.

288 pp., 45 illus. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017, ISBN 9781934536896 (hbk). Until 16.07.20, Save30% off the usual price of £47 by using code CSN719RAI at the online checkout on the Combined Academic/CAP website.

Free public lecture

The Third Annual Pitt Rivers Lecture 'Fire: Friend or Fiend in Human History', will be given by Professor Ruth Tringham (University of California at Berkeley, USA) on 29 October 2019 at

Bournemouth University at 7:00 pm. There will be displays and a welcome reception from 6:30 p.m. Further information and how to book your place can be found at <https://pittriverslecture2019.eventbrite.co.uk>

The RAI office

The telephone number for the Administrator is 07847 600756, 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 11.00 am and 3.00 pm.

Members' e-mail addresses

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

Online lectures

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

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



Winifred Phillips, 1922–2019 (A. Stevens)

Miss Winifred Phillips 1922–2019

Winifred Phillips, our former Assistant Secretary, died on 20 March 2019, after a fall at her home in St John's Wood where she had lived for more than 50 years. She became a Life member of the Royal Archaeological Institute in 1965.

Winifred had studied English before starting work at the BBC where she grappled with recalcitrant interviewees like Dylan Thomas. Winifred took the Diploma in Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, London, studying under many famous professionals, including Sir Mortimer Wheeler. She herself went on to teach archaeology at evening classes, and played an active part in current work, including for example, research and field survey with the Leatherhead Institute in advance of excavations for the M25.

Honorary Vice-President, Dr Jonathan Coad, writes: In 1972 Winifred was appointed as Assistant Secretary to the Institute, and rapidly made it her life and home. She knew most of

the members by name, and the history and traditions of the Institute, and was an assiduous attender at all the lectures, seminars, and Spring, Summer and Autumn meetings. When I was asked to be Honorary Secretary in 1982, Winifred was there to help, advise, take the minutes and generally guide me. We very soon became friends and I soon found she had a delightful sense of humour. She certainly made my life as Honorary Secretary very much easier and more enjoyable than it would otherwise have been. Winifred could rise to the occasion. When the Institute was approaching its 150th anniversary, it was suggested that we asked our patron to the celebration. Nobody expected The Queen to accept, but She did, which caused a certain amount of trepidation on my part. Winifred was completely unfazed – ‘I know just the right person in the Royal Household’ – and seemingly effortlessly arranged almost everything, from the use of part of St James’ Palace, to the food, drink, guest list and invitations for the party. We couldn’t have done it without her. And it turned out to be great fun. Winifred was the ‘go to’ contact for most of the Institute’s members and took a keen interest in everyone, remaining in post until 2002/2003. It was no surprise to me that soon after she retired as Assistant Secretary she was to be found working as a volunteer once or twice a week in the Society of Antiquaries, where she was adding their historical minutes to the digital archive, and had reached the set for 1863.

Her contact at the Institute’s one-time printer remembers: Winifred lived with her mother, who always answered the phone and apologized for Winifred not being immediately available in terms which made her sound like a wayward teenager. Winifred told me that, when she first started working for the RAI, her mother thought she said the IRA and earnestly counseled against it. For many years the burden of the day-to-day running of the Institute fell on the shoulders of Winifred Phillips and Winifred Franklin (the Assistant Treasurer) – known collectively as ‘the Winifreds’. In her role as Assistant Secretary she took a personal interest in every member of the Institute and would issue instructions like, ‘Don’t post their journal if it is raining. Their letterbox is too small and the postman leaves it on the doorstep’ or, ‘Her father is ill. Don’t post the journal until I tell you he is better.’ My overriding recollection is of her sense of humour, which ranged from a dry wit to a delight in the ridiculous.

Winifred lived an independent and busy life. Her knowledge of London was encyclopaedic, and she famously navigated in the car without any satnav. Her interests beyond work overlapped with her work, being principally in art, architecture, and music, and when she died, she had arrangements in place to attend concerts and exhibitions.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR Katherine Barclay, Williamsgate, Governor’s Green, Pembroke Road, Portsmouth, Hants. PO1 2NS. Email: newsletter@royalarchinst.org

NEXT ISSUE Copy for the next issue must reach the editor by the end of January 2020 for publication in April 2020.

THIS ISSUE’S COVER PICTURE: The marble socle for the central column of the fourteenth-century west door of Peterborough Cathedral, taken during the Institute’s 2019 Spring Meeting (M. O’Brien)
