



ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

No. 44 AUGUST 2012



In this issue From our new President • Grants and Awards • Research Grant Report • Dates for your Diary • RAI Annual Conference 2012 • Meetings Notes • Lectures

Although some colour has been used in previous newsletters, this is the first edition to appear since it has been redesigned for colour, by Derek Brown of Oblong. The most striking change is to the front page, for which we wish to have a full-page image with the title and contents. The challenge for me is to find suitable images, for most of those of you who kindly provide them for the newsletter compose your pictures landscape; please bear this in mind when attending meetings or submitting contributions and take some composed in portrait style. I have usually avoided requesting feedback, but on this occasion, I should be very pleased to learn how members find the new look.

'Operation Nightingale' (www.dmasuk.org) is the codename for an innovative project designed to use the technical and social aspects of field archaeology in the rehabilitation of soldiers injured in the conflict in Afghanistan. Richard Osgood, Senior Historic Adviser with the Ministry of Defence is co-director with archaeology-PhD, Sergeant Diarmaid Walshe of the 1st Battalion, The Rifles. There is a considerable overlap in the skills required by the modern soldier and those of the archaeologist: surveying, geophysics, scrupulous observation of the ground, site and team management, mapping, navigation and the physical fitness to cope with hard manual work in uncomfortable conditions. The project has been supported by English Heritage, Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Wessex Archaeology and the Army's survey unit, 135 Geographical Squadron.

'A key conclusion', said Richard Osgood, 'is that soldiers make excellent archaeologists! Archaeologists are often asked "what is archaeology for?" Twenty-five injured soldiers from 1 Rifles would now be able to provide a very positive answer.' Several of the participants have gone on to undertake work placements with Wessex Archaeology, Canterbury Archaeology Trust, English Heritage and the Army's own archaeological team, and some have started archaeology degrees at Leicester University.



Excavations at Barrow Clump (© Wessex Archaeology 2012)

In 2011, the project members took part in excavations at East Chisenbury, recording and analysing material exposed by badgers burrowing into the Late Bronze Age midden, in the midst of the MoD's estate on Salisbury Plain. The season in 2012 at Barrow Clump aims to identify the extent of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery and to excavate all the burials.

This positive and inspiring example of the value of archaeology has recently been recognised at the British Archaeological Awards with a special award for 'Project of special merit'.

You will find two advertising flyers in this mailing. Please consider making a gift of membership to a friend or relative for birthday, Christmas or graduation. Details of subscription rates appear in the notices towards the end of this *Newsletter*.

FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT David A. Hinton

Professor David Hinton starts his three-year term as our President in October, when Professor David Breeze steps down.

To follow David Breeze into the RAI presidency is daunting; his easy manner, command of business and ability to find the right word at the right time are qualities that all members who have attended lectures, seminars and visits, or been on Council and committees, will have admired. Our affairs have been in very safe hands during a difficult three years. In the last newsletter, David thanked the various people who have helped him in that period, and I am glad to have such a strong team to support me in turn. There will be another major change in officers; Patrick Ottaway has reached the end of his term of editorship, and has just seen his final volume, 168, of the *Archaeological Journal* through the press; he has brought in a steady stream of articles that have kept it in the forefront of research publication. Assistant Editor Howard Williams is taking over from Patrick, and Kate Waddington, a prehistorian from Bangor University, will be following Howard as Assistant Editor, with the expectation that in due course she will succeed him as Editor.

David's years as president have taken us through (though not beyond) a period of recession, which in British archaeology has been a depression, with contract work drying up and grants becoming harder to obtain. The RAI is not exposed to all the difficulties faced by many other archaeological bodies, and has reserves that are substantial enough to see us through any foreseeable crisis; we have limited employment responsibilities, no premises to maintain, and very little other property. Income from investments has not fallen by as much as might have been expected, the portfolio is well balanced. Consequently it has not been necessary to curtail activities, or substantially to reduce the research grants that we distribute and the awards that we make. Subscriptions have risen, and although some loss of membership has followed, the income from them more or less maintains the running of the society, with revenue from investments used to finance the grants and some other long-term ventures, such as digitising the back numbers of the *Archaeological Journal*. Council's view is that this is the right policy to pursue.

The situation that we are in does not necessitate drastic action by the RAI, but problems that we can foresee include the long-term future. We do not ask members' ages, but I suspect that many are like me, and retired. Despite the student dissertation prizes and the Cheney bursaries that we award, and the sponsorship scheme that Maureen Amory suggested and which several members have supported (and many thanks to them for it), the RAI is not

well-known to the younger generation. How do I know? Solely on the basis of a straw poll that I took of a group of Southampton third-year students, none of whom admitted to having heard of the Institute. When I asked about the *Archaeological Journal*, however, most of them nodded (of course they should all have done, but I bet other universities would do no better).

Nor are we well represented in the professional archaeological units. That is partly because archaeologists' salaries are low, and they cannot take time to come to lectures or use the Society of Antiquaries' library, but also because membership of multi-period, multi-interest societies like ours is not part of their discourse. They are taught to be prehistorians, Romanists, medievalists, post-medievalists, or to be specialists in faunal remains, ceramics or the like, and will join single-period societies or interest groups before they consider joining us. They also need to join the Institute for Archaeologists, and many aspire to be Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries.

Partly to raise our Institute's profile amongst those starting to become practising archaeologists, we are going to have two presentations in the coming year, in addition to our programme of lectures: on 14 November, by three post-graduates, and on 10 April, by three people at the start of their careers. The note *Presentations by new archaeologists* in the 'Lectures' section below gives more details. When the suggestion for holding them was announced at our AGM, the response was enthusiastic, and we feel sure that both presenters and members will enjoy the sessions.

One consideration about the Institute's presentations and lectures is that many members cannot easily get to London regularly to attend them. That is why the Conference takes place outside the capital and in a different region each year, to make it more possible for members who live in that area to take part. We are trialling a new service, videoing the lectures and linking them to our website, so that Ordinary Members can see them on their computers, at a time that suits them. The Society of Antiquaries, whose premises we use, has already started using a system which is not restricted to their Fellows (it can be viewed at www.sal.org.uk, News and Events), and we will be using the same technology. The note *Access to lectures online* in the 'Lectures' section below gives more details.

Council decided that the RAI lectures should be for members only, at least in the first instance. We can revisit that decision if members feel that opening them to everyone should be seen as part of the RAI's charitable purpose to foster research generally.

Also in the spirit of promoting research for the public well-being, Council decided that the digitised back numbers of the *Archaeological Journal* should be made open to all, and the first 120 volumes will be on the Archaeology Data Service web-site very soon; the next forty will follow them. After that, a rolling programme will start, so that the most recent ten volumes are available free only to members (non-members can buy individual papers, or whole issues, at a price which we hope will be low enough to attract revenue but high enough not to impinge on members' privileges). This is already in operation; if you do not already have access to the digitised versions, contact Sharon Gerber-Parfitt on admin@royalarchinst.org.uk (you can change the password she sends you to something more memorable).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

British Archaeological Awards 2012 JOHN SCHOFIELD

I represented the Institute at this year's British Archaeological Awards, which were presented with due pomp and ceremony at the British Museum on 9 July. In the two hour event (followed by a drinks reception) awards were presented to deserving winners from across the archaeological

spectrum. Each category this year featured a 5–10 minute film presenting the nominees, though thankfully there were no opportunities for tearful acceptance speeches. In front of a full house, Mike Heyworth MBE (Chairman of BAA), the UK Tourism and Heritage Minister John Penrose MP, and Lloyd Grossman (Chair of the Heritage Alliance) presented the following six regular awards:

Best archaeological project and Best archaeological discovery: Must Farm Excavations 2011

Best community archaeology project: Thames Discovery Programme

Best archaeological book: *Gathering Time: Dating the Early Neolithic Enclosures of Southern Britain and Ireland* by Alasdair Whittle, Frances Healy and Alex Bayliss (Oxbow Books)

Best archaeological innovation: The Grey Literature Library

Best representation of archaeology in the media: Time Team (for 'Reservoir Rituals')

A further two 'surprise' awards were presented:

Lifetime Achievement Award: Professor Mick Aston

Project of special merit: Operation Nightingale www.dmasuk.org

Mike Heyworth commented: 'All the winners and other highly commended nominations are to be congratulated. Individually and collectively they demonstrate the diverse and flourishing nature of archaeology across the UK. It is a discipline which

not only advances our understanding of humanity, but also engages everyone and has the potential to make a significant contribution to our individual well-being and sense of community.'

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: 2nd Wednesday of January 2013. Awards announced in April 2013.

Dissertation Prizes

The RAI holds two competitions for dissertations on a subject concerned with the archaeology or architectural history of Britain, Ireland and

adjacent areas of Europe. In even-numbered years, the competition is for the best dissertation submitted by an undergraduate in full-time education. In odd-numbered years, the competition is for the best dissertation submitted by a Master's student.

In 2012 the RAI award will be for the best undergraduate dissertation on a subject concerned with the archaeology or architectural history of Britain, Ireland or adjacent areas of Europe. Nominations are made by University and College Departments. The winner will receive a prize of £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 award will be presented at the meeting of the Institute on 12 December 2012.

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. In 2012, six students received awards to help them to attend the 'Legacies of Northumbria' conference to be held 28–30 September at Newcastle upon Tyne.

Research Report

The Stones of Stonehenge — the Preseli connection Grantholder, Mike Parker Pearson

Geologists Richard Bevins and Rob Ixer have identified a rhyolite bluestone source north of the Preseli hills in the Pont Saeson district, an area including specifically the impressive crag of Craig Rhosyfelin. They have found a precise match between this 'rhyolite with fabric' from Stonehenge

and the northwest side of the outcrop of Craig Rhosyfelin.

A trial excavation on the spot pinpointed by the geological analysis revealed remains of a prehistoric quarry. The quarry's ground surface was buried beneath colluvium that has sealed archaeological layers. The excavation trench revealed a stone surface covered by a buried soil. Within this, four blocks appear to have been set on edge on a northwest–southeast axis, probably to form three sets of 'rails' for a 4 m-long rhyolite monolith that lay on their north end, propped on a large slab. The monolith's size, composition and shape indicate that it is too large to have derived from the adjacent rock face; it was most likely detached from the outcrop about 15 m to the south (in the direction indicated by the axis of the stone rails). Other archaeological finds included hammerstones, a flint flake, quartz flakes and many knapped rhyolite flakes. Geophysical survey has identified a possible second monolith and the line of a possible track exiting the quarry.

Extensive sampling of the buried soil for carbonised plant remains produced charred round wood, wild plant seeds, rhizome material, hazel nutshell and a hulled barley grain. The bramble, raspberry and possible wild strawberry seeds as well as hazelnut shells form a suite of collected wild food resources.

The barley grain and a piece of round wood from the buried soil, together with a piece of round wood from the base of the colluvium, were submitted for radiocarbon dating.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2012

Conference 28–30 September at Newcastle upon Tyne, ‘Legacies of Northumbria’ (see below)

Autumn Day Meeting An introduction to London Docklands, Saturday 13 October, led by Hedley Swain. For details, please see the flyer included in this mailing.

Forthcoming in 2013 (details to be confirmed, but please check our website)

Spring Meeting 17–19 May, based at Buxton. Following a dinner and scene-setting presentation on the Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday will be spent travelling across the landscapes of the Peak District and visiting some of the distinctive prehistoric, historic and industrial sites contained within them, exploring the distinctive and significantly different terrain of the White and the Dark Peak, and the range of evidence for the ways in which people have exploited them in the past.

Summer Meeting 6–13 July, Frankfurt, Germany, led by David Breeze and based at Frankfurt for the whole week. The intention is to explore the Roman

frontier, including the famous reconstructed fort at the Saalburg together with an adjacent length of the earthworks, a small fort and reconstructed tower, and the late fort at Boppard on the Rhine. A secondary focus will be the Holy Roman Empire with visits to the Cathedral in Frankfurt, where the emperor was elected, and the Cathedral in Speyer, where several were buried. Prehistoric sites will include the fort at the Dunsberg and the exciting new museum at the Glauberg. Our visit will encompass the Residenz at Würzburg, ‘mad king’ Ludwig of Bavaria’s reconstructed Pompeian villa, and the enormous early 19th-century Prussian fort at Ehrenbreitstein overlooking Koblenz. Several of the places on the programme are World Heritage Sites and all lie within a comfortable travelling distance of Frankfurt. Please send expressions of interest in this meeting by 30 November, to Caroline Raison, RAI, 2 Main Street, Houghton on the Hill, Leics LE7 9GD or csraison@gmail.com.

Annual Conference 2013 Preliminary notice: 11–13 October at the University of Chester, ‘The Impact of Rome on the Countryside’.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

Legacies of Northumbria: Recent thinking on the fifth to fourteenth centuries in Northern Britain

This non-residential conference, sponsored by the RAI and the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, is being held at Newcastle upon Tyne, from 28 September to 1 October at Neville Hall, the Mining Institute, NE1 1SE. There will be an optional coach trip at extra charge on Monday 1 October to the early medieval sites of North Northumberland. Bringing together academic, commercial and local archaeologists, lectures will showcase new research and explore a number of themes including: the legacy of Rome and the prehistoric north during the formation of fifth- and sixth-century chiefdoms, the Golden Age of Northumbria, Northumbria in the Viking Age, and the role of Northumbrian culture in the high medieval

period. The keynote lecture on Friday, by Professor Dame Rosemary Cramp, will be followed by a reception. The conference fee is £80 to include abstracts, tea or coffee and on Saturday 29, lunch. A full speaker listing can be viewed at www.royalarchinst.org.

Please contact admin@royalarchinst.org or christopher.ferguson@arch.ox.ac.uk for bookings and further information.

MEETINGS NOTES

Report of the Spring Meeting at the Cinque Ports, based in Deal,
11–13 May GARRY MARSHALL, WILLIAM HUSBAND AND OTHERS

William Cobbett, passing through Deal in September 1823, noted in his book *Rural Rides* 'Deal is a most villainous place. It is full of filthy-looking people. Great desolation of abomination has been going on here; tremendous barracks, partly pulled down and partly tumbling down, and partly occupied by soldiers. Everything seems upon the perish. I was glad to hurry along through it, and to leave its inns and public-houses to be occupied by the tarred, and trowsered, and blue and buff crew whose very vicinage I always detest.'

We met on Saturday at the landward end of Deal pier for a less eventful walking tour of the town, guided by John Iveson, Curator of Dover Museum, and Stuart Smith, local historian. Proximity to mainland Europe, the concomitant threats of invasion and opportunities for trade, and the need to protect the Downs anchorage have all played a significant part in influencing the settlement pattern here. Castle and navy yard formed the nucleus of the coastal development of Deal from its origins as a small fishing community. It retains much of its late seventeenth-century layout and buildings — we walked along a terraced street where in the past, the town's smugglers with their booty had been able to walk, some twenty feet above us, through the joined roof spaces of the terraced houses. We saw the Time Ball Tower and visited the Georgian Town Hall with its fine collection of regalia and memorabilia of the Cinque Ports. We admired the outside of the former naval hospital and Royal Marine barracks, now redeveloped as luxurious accommodation. Our walk ended at Deal Castle, guided now by Jonathan Coad. Thence to Walmer Castle, since 1708 the official residence of the Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports, where Rowena Willard-Wright, Senior Curator at English Heritage, showed us the finer points within. There was a delightful story about Wellington, hidden away on the label of a drawing of Jones, one of the gardeners. Apparently Jones bore a strong resemblance to the Duke and was often mistaken for him. 'Strange,' said the Duke, 'no-one ever mistakes me for Jones.' The adventurous explored the extensive gardens that,



The Time Ball Tower, Deal (MO'B)



Jonathan Coad explains Deal Castle (AB)

though sadly damaged by the great storms of the late twentieth century, still retain much of the layout created by Lady Hester Stanhope and her uncle, William Pitt the Younger. And at Walmer Castle, even the scones at the tea shop were monumental.

While Henry VIII's castles at Deal and Walmer were undoubtedly the star attractions among these buildings, there were also memorable houses in all of these places. The first to be drawn to our attention appeared to be a traditional sea-front building at Deal (now the Clarendon Hotel). As it turned out, though, in its cellar it contains the remains of a fougasse, a rather alarming war-time system which was intended to prevent attack from the sea by pouring flammable liquid on the waves and then setting fire to it. The system had been installed extensively along the east coast of Kent. Thank goodness it was never used, or there might not have been much of pre-war Deal left for us to see. Fougasse was the nom-de-plume adopted by C. K. Bird, the Punch cartoonist who also drew the figures in the 'Careless talk costs lives' series. He saw himself as an unstable squib, likely to go off.

In Sandwich, on Sunday, Anthony Quiney took us to see Wealden hall houses, and talked of them in such a way as to take us back to their medieval heyday. These are, according to the textbooks, medieval timber-framed houses built by well-to-do yeomen, first in Kent and subsequently elsewhere in southeast England. Those in Sandwich were said in the literature to be small. In fact, they were not small at all, and they had been re-faced so that their timber framing was no longer visible, making Anthony's achievement in carrying us back all the more remarkable. It brought to mind his doing the same thing in front of medieval town houses (*maisons polyvalentes*) in Burgundy more than a decade ago.

To see inside a Wealden hall house, timber frame and all, make a trip to the Weald and Downland Museum; their successors can be seen, complete with their frames, in Buckinghamshire. (In 2010, at the Spring Meeting based at Aylesbury we narrowly missed several of them. But then, you can't see all there is to see in Buckinghamshire in one weekend.)



Remains of wall paintings at Walmer Old Church (AB)

Back in Sandwich, there are older houses built in stone. We were standing outside the ruins of one of them, in Three Kings Yard at the corner of Strand Street, bringing blank stone walls to life, when, amazingly, we were all invited to squeeze in to what is now the courtyard garden of a later timber-framed property. With her washing flapping around her, the owner showed off the remains of the house and gave us further scope for imagining ourselves at the end of the thirteenth century. The house was for sale, by the way.

The previous day, in Walmer, we had seen an even earlier stone house. Next to Walmer Old Church, it was built by the d'Auberville family, who had come over with William the Conqueror, and had constructed it not much later.

Our visit to Sandwich coincided with the 250th anniversary of the invention of the sandwich. So it was no real surprise when our walkabout, which as well as the houses described above, included the town defences and the churches of St Peter, St Mary and St Clement, was interrupted briefly by a procession of dignitaries. On their way to a re-enactment, they included the Mayor and the present Earl of Sandwich with his family, escorted by a small troop of mock eighteenth-century soldiers of the First Foot Brigade. Many of us benefited at lunch from the exotic wares available at the food fair, while the worthies of Sandwich celebrated in style in the square.

Our last visit was to Richborough, guided by our President, David Breeze. Though Caesar's two



Three Kings Yard, The Chanter's House (AB)

expeditions of 55 and 54 BC are believed to have landed further round the coast in the Deal area, the successful Claudian landings led to the establishment of Richborough as an important Roman port and supply base. There is a passage in Cassius Dio (LX, 19,1) relating to the landing at Richborough. The invasion force, he says, sailed in three divisions. It was first of all driven back on its course, presumably by the weather, and 'on the strength of the reports they received the Britons had concluded that they were not coming and had not assembled to meet them'. This is more or less what happened, though with the Germans as defenders, 1901 years later. We walked around the imposing remains of the later third-century Saxon shore fort, and among the ramparts of the late timber fort within, where the baptismal font from an early Christian church is of especial note.

We are, as ever, indebted to Caroline Raison and to Jonathan Coad, our leader on this occasion, for the meticulous planning that makes these essentially learned visits possible and so enjoyable.



Celebratory cake for the Earl's lunch (AIW)

Access to Lectures Online

For the 2012–3 lecture season, we are trialling a new service, videoing the lectures and linking them to our website, so that Ordinary Members can see them on their computers, at a time that suits them. The Society of Antiquaries, whose premises we use, has been developing a system which is not restricted to their Fellows (it can be viewed at www.sal.org.uk, News and Events), and we will be using the same technology.

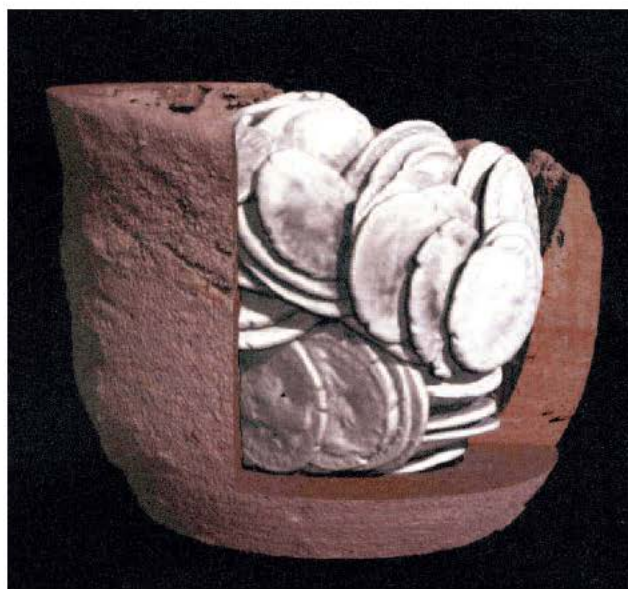
The first three RAI lectures of the coming season will be videoed, with the aim of getting them online as soon as possible afterwards, and available to Ordinary Members only through the RAI website. Associate Members may continue to benefit from attendance at lectures at Burlington House. Look out for further information on the Institute's website or in the next newsletter where the process for logging in and viewing the lectures will be explained.

Presentations by New Archaeologists

In addition to our usual programme of lectures, there will be two presentations. The first, on

14 November, will be by three post-graduates from the University of Southampton's Archaeological Computing Research Group, involved in innovative research. One will be showing us a new X-ray technique which allows coins to be identified in a hoard — without the need to take them out of the pot that they were buried in. Another will be demonstrating a new method of illustration, Polynomial Texture Mapping, which gives the effect of rotating an object under a microscope, changing angles and light levels. The third is exploring how visualisation and scanning, both now fairly standard techniques, can be much more sophisticated than television usually shows, and in conjunction with 3-dimensional printing may offer new horizons for presentation in museums and exhibitions.

The second set of presentations will be on 10 April. Paul Bidwell, a member of Council, has kindly agreed to arrange for three people at the start of their careers in archaeological units, museums and the like to speak about work that they are doing or projects that they are involved in. Further details on both presentations will be posted on the web-site.



CT scan of a Roman pot with coin hoard from near Selby, Yorkshire
(J. Miles, ACRG, University of Southampton)

Royal Archaeological Institute Lecture Programme and Abstracts: 2012/13

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month from October to May at 5.00 pm in the Rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BE. In November and April, the lecture will be preceded at 3 pm by a presentation (see above). Tea will be served before each meeting at 4.30 pm. Non-members are welcome but should make themselves known to the Secretary and sign the visitor's book.

2012

10 October

Royal Windsor: the castle reassessed

Dr Steven Brindle and Brian Kerr

Over the course of the last two decades, archaeological work at the Round Tower and the Fire Restoration site, as well as the results of other investigative works, have shed new light on the form and use of Windsor from the medieval period to the nineteenth century. In this presentation, we will discuss the medieval architectural evidence and the timber structures, and evidence of food preparation and diet, small finds and daily life at that time. We will also examine the nineteenth-century structural evidence.

A new multi-authored history of the castle, to sit alongside *Windsor Revealed*, is now in preparation, covering its social and cultural as well as its architectural history. It will be published by the Royal Collection. This paper therefore comes at an opportune moment, setting out our current understanding of the potential of the project as part of the Institute's celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of our Patron.

14 November

3.00 pm presentation:

New techniques in archaeological visualisation

Archaeological Computing Research Group, University of Southampton

5 pm lecture:

The Origins of the kingdom of Wessex: the archaeology of the Gewisse

Professor Helena Hamerow

Wessex was ultimately the most successful of all the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. It is popularly assumed to have originated around its later capital, Winchester, but in fact its origins lie in the Upper Thames Valley, with the emergence of a people referred to by Bede as the Gewisse; it was they who, by the late seventh century, had come to be known as the West Saxons. This region, so important in the early history of England, also contains an unsurpassed density and diversity of archaeological sites dating from the fifth to seventh centuries. This lecture will present the results of a recently completed six-month pilot project to explore the potential of these sites to shed light on the origins and development of the first post-Roman polity in the region.

12 December

The Oldest Irish Tradition: Tara and Sacral Kingship

Conor Newman

This paper focuses on the Irish experience of sacral kingship as manifested in royal landscapes like Tara. One of the oldest and most enduring institutions worldwide, sacral kings embodied the nexus between this world and the cosmos and its deities. The royal demesnes associated with sacral kings were envisaged cosmographically and invoked in mythology, in placenames and in the juxtaposition of monuments and natural features. The sacral landscape of Tara, which is the principal concern of this paper, is remarkably intact and has been the subject of intense archaeological and historical analysis since the launch of the Discovery Programme's Tara Survey in 1992. Twenty years on, a veritable quantum leap forward in our understanding of the Irish evidence has occurred.

2013

9 January

Kenilworth Castle

Dr Anna Keay

Queen Elizabeth I had granted Kenilworth Castle to her favourite, Robert Dudley, in 1563 and he spent a fortune transforming it into a luxurious palace fit to receive his queen and her court. This included the creation of the magnificent Elizabethan Garden, re-opened in 2009 after being lost for more than 400 years, and the construction of sumptuous apartments; a whole chamber was dedicated to one of the queen's great passions, dancing. The queen visited on several occasions and was entertained by lavish festivities in which the outdoor spaces and surrounding landscape formed as much a part of the magnificence as the dazzling interiors.

13 February: The RAI debate

The limits of Imperial power: the function of military frontier walls

Professor David Breeze will debate with Dr Eberhard Sauer

Were ancient military barriers, like Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall in Britain or the Persian Gorgan Wall in northern Iran control lines like the Berlin Wall or were they designed to be defensible military barriers? Did they carry walkways or didn't they? Were they instrumental to the safety and security of their hinterland and its economic prosperity or would it have made little difference had there been a string of forts only?

The speakers hold diametrically opposed views on some of these questions. Each will present his case, followed by a debate with an opportunity for audience participation.

13 March

Kings of the Iron Age

Professor Tim Champion

Classical authors from Caesar onwards refer to 'kings' in Britain before the Roman conquest; though the title 'rex' appeared on some of their coins, other archaeological evidence for their existence has proved problematic. This lecture will consider what we now know of the nature of politics and authority in the Late Iron Age of Britain, and in particular how we might seek to explain the

perhaps very sudden emergence of inherited social inequality and centralised political power in the form of the royal dynasties known from history and the coinage. It will also consider their later representation in myth and history.

10 April

3.00 pm: Presentation by New Archaeologists

5 pm lecture: The Coronation Chair and Stone of Destiny re-examined

Professor Warwick Rodwell and Marie Louise Sauerberg

Despite its outstanding significance, the Coronation Chair has never before been subjected to an in-depth archaeological study, to establish how it was made in 1296–1300. The Chair was constructed expressly to house the Scottish Stone of Destiny. A major conservation programme in 2010–11 provided the opportunity for such a study, revealing much new evidence concerning the Chair's original construction, ornate gilt decoration and physical history: coronations and other events have all left their marks on it. Since 1996, the Stone has been on display in Edinburgh Castle, but it will return to the Abbey for future coronations.

The recent work established that originally there was probably no seat over the compartment which contained the Stone: the monarch appears to have sat directly upon the Stone. A detailed reconsideration of this battered block of Perthshire sandstone, and of the various physical interventions it displays, suggests a markedly different history from that which has hitherto been supposed.

8 May: the President's lecture

Royal regalia, royal gifts and royal occasions in medieval England

Professor David A. Hinton

Debate continues about whether kingship can be recognised at Sutton Hoo and in the Staffordshire Hoard, and whether the Alfred Jewel was made for King Alfred the Great. The Bayeux Tapestry provides an image of a coronation, and the symbolic objects used to express royal control are also shown on some coin types. Display continued to matter to Norman and later kings, whose expenditure on gems and jewellery often matched that on their castles and conflicts.

British Archaeological Association Meetings 2012–13

RAI members are invited to attend the meetings of the British Archaeological Association by reciprocal arrangement

2012

3 October: The Scottish parish churches project by Professor Richard Fawcett

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

7 November: 'The most lethal catastrophe in recorded history': an archaeology and history of the Black Death in London 1348–9 by Barney Sloane

5 December: The construction, deconstruction and reconstruction of an Anglo-Saxon church: the work of the Brixworth Archaeological Research Committee 1972–2012 by Dr David Parsons

2013

2 January: 20th-century England: writing an aerial history by Professor Richard Morris

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

6 February: The George Zarnecki Memorial lecture and reception: From Judgement to Atonement: sculpture at Strasbourg, Lincoln and Naumburg by Professor Paul Crossley

6 March: Recent excavations at the Abbey of St Denis by Michael Wyss, *Unité d'archéologie de la ville de Saint-Denis*

3 April: Commemoration and the development of the English Parish Church by Professor Nigel Saul

1 May: The Dignity of Friends: from the catacombs of Rome to the Ashmolean Museum Oxford by Professor Susan Walker

The lecture will be followed by the President's Reception

Meetings are held in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. Tea will be served before each meeting at 4.30 p.m. and the Chair is taken at 5.00 p.m. Non-members are welcome to attend occasional lectures but are asked to make themselves known to the Hon. Director on arrival and to sign the visitors' book.

MISCELLANY

Timber Castles twenty years on

JEREMY CUNNINGTON

Conference To mark the twentieth anniversary of Higham and Barker's seminal work on timber castles the Castle Studies Group is holding a day conference on Saturday 13 October 2012 at UCL, London. The cost for the day is £75, including lunch and morning refreshments, with reductions for members of the Castle Studies Group and for students. For further information see <http://www.castlestudiesgroup.org.uk/page26.html> or contact Jeremy Cunnington on 07950 926154.

Special Offer *Timber Castles* by Robert Higham and Philip Barker, published by University of Exeter Press, has just been reissued in paperback (in August 2012, with a new ISBN, 978-0-85989-

881-2), priced at £38.00. There is a new preface by Robert Higham to mark twenty years since the book's original publication. RAI members can order a copy at a special price of £28.50, post free in the UK, by writing to Helen Gannon, Sales & Marketing Manager, University of Exeter Press, Reed Hall, Exeter, EX4 4QR, quoting 'RAI' or on 01392 263081. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Exeter Press Ltd'. P&P charges will apply outside the UK — please ask the publisher for details. This offer is only available direct from UEP, and is valid until 30 November 2012.

Castle Studies Trust to be launched The Castle Studies Trust is to be launched in October 2012, with the aim of funding further research on castles both in the UK and internationally. It has strong support of those working in castle studies. Edward

Impey and John Goodall have agreed to be patrons, while others will help the trust by acting as assessors of grant applications, notably Jeremy Ashbee, Stuart Prior and John Kenyon.

The trust's grants will complement and supplement the work done by heritage organisations and academic institutions. Grants will focus on new work on castles such as architectural or geophysical surveys or scientific tests such as radio-carbon dating, and will initially be awarded up to the sum of £5,000.

For further information about the trust and how you might help, please contact the chair of the trustees, Jeremy Cunnington on jeremy.cunnington@btopenworld.com, at Flat 3, 46 Ferme Park Road, London N4 4ED, or on 07950 926154.

Writing a review DAVID BREEZE

Every year a copy of *The Archaeological Journal* arrives. Here is a cornucopia of articles relating to Britain's archaeology, architectural history and history. This is not only a heterogeneous collection but also reflects the different genres in which the contributions are written. The skills required to write an excavation report are different from those of the historian, for example, and the same goes for a review. Over the years, I have written several reviews. Each time, I start remembering the wise counsel of my first boss, Stewart Cruden: always remember in writing a review, he said, it is the reviewer who is on trial not the reviewed. Wise advice indeed: be fair, don't push your own views, be thorough, don't nit-pick. It is possible to find mistakes in every book — we are only human — but detailed lists of typos generally should be avoided and only significant errors noted.

What should be in a book review? A synopsis of the contents and an outline of the author's argument followed by judicious comment on that argument. Simple? Yes, but too many reviewers fail in this basic task. I have always found writing a review a demanding exercise. The review of an excavation report, for example, requires delving into the specialist reports to test the archaeologist's conclusions. The whole exercise requires a denial of self; the focus is on helping others, and that includes not just the readers but the author as well.

As for being on the receiving end of a review, well, that is another story.

Notice of intent to Digitise

The Royal Archaeological Institute (RAI) intends to make available in electronic form past volumes of the *Archaeological Journal*. We intend that these issues will be hosted with the Archaeological Data Service, providing free and open access to all, up to the last ten years of published journals, which will remain accessible only to members, subscribing libraries and through a pay-per-view arrangement.

At present *Archaeological Journal* authors assign copyright (for both print and electronic publication) to the RAI. This does not limit an author's ability to reuse material, but ensures that the RAI can protect the copyright internationally. However papers which we published in the past were not controlled in this way, nor did we seek permission to obtain electronic rights because this form of publishing was not envisaged. The RAI does not have the wherewithal to identify all the authors who contributed to volumes published in the past and obtain permission to republish their work electronically from them or from their estate executor where an author is deceased. Therefore we are publishing this announcement to ask for any *Archaeological Journal* authors who object to the proposed policy, to inform us as soon as possible.

We will make a presumption of permission unless consent is withdrawn, in which instance we will reluctantly remove the relevant article from the digital archive. We feel that this will inescapably alter the balance of the particular journal to a certain extent, but we will respect the decision.

We anticipate that most people involved in the activities of the RAI will read this notice, and we would appreciate it if you could bring this to the attention of anyone you think relevant. We will be hosting the first set of journals (Volumes 1–120, 1864–1964) online imminently, and want to ensure that notice of our intentions is widely circulated.

Volunteers Required — Please Will You Help?

Past Publications The Institute pays a thousand pounds each year to warehouse past publications. These are surplus to members' requirements, but might be regarded as superb advertising material. As well as using them to raise our profile abroad, we might speed their disposal by targeting places referred to in a journal's article or featured in our Summer Meetings reports. For this, help is needed please. If you could spare some time, or if you have some teenagers to share this task, please contact the Treasurer.

Publicity The RAI is setting up a network of volunteer members, who would put up posters and distribute membership leaflets in their place of work, department, staff common room or other suitable location on an occasional basis. Posters and leaflets would be sent by the administrator in a maximum of two packs per year (e.g. a general member's benefit poster with a set of membership leaflets; a conference poster). If you would like to help, please contact the Administrator stating the organisation you would be able to cover, and your postal address.

Tea before lectures We have started a rota of volunteers to serve teas before RAI lectures. Please contact the administrator if you would be willing to help.

Notices

Publication News

The latest volume of the *Archaeological Journal*, vol. 168 for 2011 and the 2011 Summer Meeting Report: *Portugal* are in this mailing.

Online access to journals

A reminder to members that Volumes 161 to 167 for the most recent years of the *Archaeological Journal* are now available online for Ordinary Members to download through our website. Each article is available as a PDF, as well as shorter contributions and reviews. If you would like to access the journals, please contact the administrator with your e-mail address. You will be sent a username and password, which you can use to login to our website using the boxes at the top of its first page. Once logged in, you will be able to

change your password to something more memorable, and to access the journals.

For non-members and associate members, these same seven volumes are now available on a pay-per-view basis through the CBA's ArchLib website (<http://archlib.britarch.net/>).

Back issues of RAI publications Back issues of the *Archaeological Journal*, Indexes, 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, select the Back Issue Order Form from our website at <http://www.royalarchinst.org/documents/backissue.doc> or contact the Administrator for a faxed or posted copy.

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.

Subscriptions to the Institute made using direct debit are collected via the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). When communicating with a member to acknowledge receipt, CAF use the term 'donation'.

Life membership represents good value for both the member and the Institute and it shows a member's commitment to the Institute.

Gift Aid If you are a taxpayer, under the gift aid scheme, the government will refund to the Institute, 25p in the pound of the value of your subscription. Please complete and return a Gift Aid form from the one of the enclosed flyers if you are eligible. (We shall shred it if you are already contributing.)

Requests for research funding exceeded £60,000 this year. The Institute made grants of £13,750. We might have granted many thousands more had there been grants or legacies from members, or through Gift Aid from a greater number of members.

The RAI office

The email for the Administrator is admin@royalarchinst.org, the telephone number is [REDACTED] and the postal address is RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE. The RAI has no office in London, but the Administrator will usually be at this address on the second Wednesday of each month from October to May, between 11 am and 3 pm.

Sponsor a Student/Young Person's Membership of the RAI

Some second- or third-year degree students under 26, nominated by their archaeology department, have been given membership of the Institute, sponsored by volunteer existing members. Thank you to those members who have been sponsors,

and it would be a great help if you'd like to continue. New sponsors are always welcome – £20 pays for a year's membership for one. In 2012, there are seven such members. If you can help us to expand the scheme, either with funds or by proposing more candidates, please contact the Administrator at the address above.

CAPTION COMPETITION

Please suggest a caption for this picture of Julia Haes' and David Breeze's reaction to the street sign. It was taken by Ann Ballantyne during the walking tour of Sandwich at the 2012 Spring Meeting to the Cinque Ports (for the report of this

meeting, see pages 8–11). Send your suggestions to the Newsletter Editor at the address on the last page, as soon as possible please, so that the winning entry might be published in the next newsletter.



THE DIAMOND JUBILEE



Frieze at Buckingham Palace. King Alfred enacting the Laws

Sculptural Friezes at Buckingham Palace DAVID BREEZE

June saw the President, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor representing the Institute at a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in the Jubilee Year. While exploring the gardens, our eyes lit on the reliefs on the west, garden, front of the Palace. These are placed high on the exterior wall and details are not easy to see, but a little research shows that they are of more than passing interest. A programme of integrated sculptural ornament was an important feature of the original design for Buckingham Palace, and intended to display contemporary artistic talent. John Flaxman, the greatest of English Neo-classical sculptors, was first approached to design the carved decorations. But he died in 1826 after making sketches for the external sculpture, which was later executed by other hands.

Two of the friezes once adorned the east front but were moved when this was modified just before the First World War. They are in Bath stone and depict 'The Seasons' (by D. J. Rossi) and 'Britannia Distributing Rewards to Arts and Sciences' (by E. A. Bailey). The other two, executed by Westmacott in artificial Coade stone, show 'King Alfred enacting the laws' (one of the pair intended to represent the final establishment of the English monarchy), and 'Fame Displaying Britain's Triumph'. These were originally intended for the attic of Marble Arch! So, though originally placed, or intended to be placed, elsewhere, all four ended up adorning the garden front, to be seen until recent years but rarely. Nowadays, the route for visitors taking the tour of the State Rooms concludes with a half-mile walk through the garden.

Diamond Jubilee Web Page

In honour of our Patron, for the year of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, the Institute has created a celebratory web page, to host reports from local societies, marking their proudest archaeological or historical achievements of the past 60 years. Contributions posted so far can be accessed from our website at <http://www.royalarchinst.org/jubilee>.



The Institute's Jubilee congratulatory letter to Her Majesty included the news of this new web page; you may see the letter via the link on p. 20.

Submission information for local societies

Members of the Institute who are also involved with their local societies may like to urge them to send in an entry. Submissions will be judged in early 2013, and the best awarded a prize, which will be presented to the winning society at *Current Archaeology's* 2013 LIVE! Conference.

Please keep your report to a single page of A4 with text in 12-point font. In addition, please supply one jpeg illustration and contact information. Your report's title should summarise the content of your report in order for it to be easily searchable.

Send your articles to the Institute's administrator at admin@royalarchinst.org. Please direct any questions to the Treasurer at andrewwilliams@waitrose.com.

Entries will be kept on our website until early June 2013, the anniversary of Her Majesty's Coronation, but they will be preserved in perpetuity (see next item).

Preservation of our Website

One of the links from the official Diamond Jubilee website is to the preservation by the British Library of a special collection of archived websites to capture the Diamond Jubilee Online. They are working with the Royal Household, the Institute for Historical Research and the Mass Observation project, to make the collection as comprehensive as possible, with a wide range of perspectives on the Jubilee celebrations, and many different types of website. All types of sites are sought, from corporate to personal, local to national. Anyone can nominate a site, using the form at <http://www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/info/nominate>

The UK Web Archive has been collecting examples of UK Websites since 2004. A great deal of the content in the web archive is no longer available on the live web.

Over 10,000 titles have already been archived and are publicly available from the website <http://www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/info>. This makes the archive a tremendous resource for

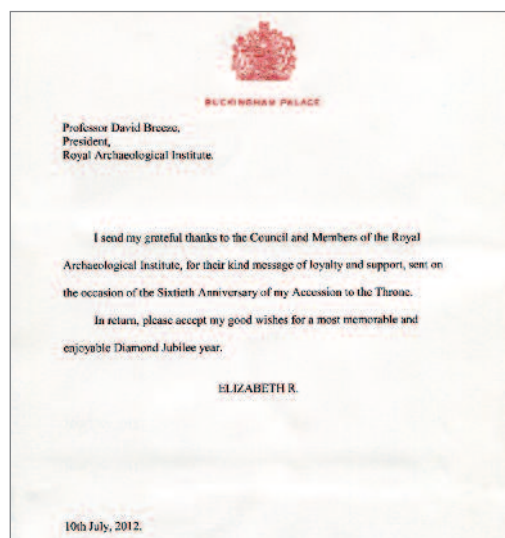
scholars and researchers who wish to consult historical data that was once published online but has since been deleted.

The Diamond Jubilee web collection will be launched at the end of 2012 as a lasting legacy, a unique collection of archived websites that will record the celebrations and varying opinions held around the nation.

The Institute's website has been accepted for the archive.

Royal Letter

On behalf of the Institute, our President sent a congratulatory letter to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee. In response, the Institute has received a letter of thanks from Her Majesty. These letters may be seen on our website by following the links from our special web page at <http://www.royalarchinst.org/jubilee>



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 2012 for publication in April 2013.

THIS ISSUE'S COVER PICTURE: The former Royal Naval Hospital, Deal

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.royalarchinst.org
