

NEWS LETTER

Issue 23, Summer 2013

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Support the CBA

Our work towards delivering a vision of 'archaeology for all' is more vital and urgent than ever and we need your help to continue to make a difference.

Over the last year we have spoken up for archaeology representing its interests amongst government, policy makers and funders. With the help from a network of local societies and volunteers we have dealt with a case work of almost 4,000 listed building applications in England and Wales. We have helped to deliver ground breaking research, publications and handbooks for professionals and enthusiasts alike and enhanced our range of online resources. Our highly successful Community Archaeology Bursaries Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund's Skills for the Future programme, has helped local grass roots interest and participation in archaeology to flourish and to develop invaluable skills for placement holders. Through our event delivery we organised a record-breaking

22nd Festival of British Archaeology, which drew enthusiastic audiences and encouraged them to discover more about and become involved in archaeology. We also celebrated 40 years of the Young Archaeologists' Club, which has grown to represent a thriving network of branches across the UK.

Despite these successes, sadly, the reduction in our funding remains one of our biggest challenges and we need your support to help us sustain our efforts and continue to tap into the huge enthusiasm for archaeology. Please continue to help us through membership, donation, legacy and active participation. If every member donated £10 each we could secure the organisation's work for another year.

Go online to find out more. Visit...

www.archaeologyUK.org/support



Challenge Funding supported project

TRUSTEE OPENINGS

Members are the lifeblood of any charity and can aid fundraising and campaigning in many ways. Some can also help run the charity by serving as trustees.

The CBA will be holding an annual round of trustee elections in October 2013. In highly challenging economic circumstances we particularly need trustees who have relevant business skills. We need volunteers who will help raise our public profile and secure additional revenue streams. We also seek a new Chair of trustees as Dr Kate Pretty CBE will retire from the post in October.

We welcome the nomination of members to stand in the forthcoming autumn elections – in particular if you have specialised experience and skills in leadership, media, marketing, fundraising, finance and associated business development. If you think that that you have the relevant skills and experience, or you know of someone who may be suitable, please contact Peter Olver, Finance Director, CBA email: admin@archaeologyUK.org All candidates will be required to submit an election statement of up to 150 words showing how they will contribute to the strategic goals of the organisation. Our current Strategy is available via: www.archaeologyUK.org/about-us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Get hands on with history!

Festival of Archaeology

13 – 28 July 2013



Last year's Festival organised by the CBA was a resounding hit for organisers and visitors and the list of events for the 23rd Festival of Archaeology promises to deliver another great programme of activities.

You too can get involved with over 1,000 events bringing our archaeology to life across the country between 13 and 28 July.

The Festival is the biggest UK-wide event focusing on archaeology, with almost 200,000 people taking part each year. There is a fantastic range of activities available delivered by over 400 organisations, venues and groups. Highlights include: behind the scenes tours and guided walks, special exhibitions, excavations and workshops, re-enactments, finds identification days, family fun days and many other ways to get hands on with history.

To find out what's on in your area and the rest of the UK during the Festival of Archaeology, 13-28 July, visit the online event listing at www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk



"Every time we walk through a street, across a field, down a country lane or hurtle along a motorway, the ghosts and fragments of the past are all around us. Archaeology is a brilliant way of understanding and appreciating this massively important connection."

"The Festival of Archaeology gets us even closer and celebrates Britain's incredibly rich archaeological inheritance. There are a whole series of events organised across the country for everyone from budding archaeologists, and historians to those who just want to have fun learning more about the world we live in. I'll certainly be coming along to some of the Festival events and bringing my family, so see you there!"



Bettany Hughes, historian and Festival supporter

CONSERVATION NEWS

YAC TRAINING TOGETHER

Forty volunteers representing 20 branches of the Young Archaeologists' Club recently took part in a highly successful training weekend.

Participants travelled from as far afield as Kendal, Glamorgan and Norwich to join in the event, which was put together by Young Archaeologists' Club staff in partnership with researchers from the University of York and staff at Fishbourne Roman Palace.

The weekend aimed to give volunteers a sense of community, a chance to meet and share ideas, and to provide inspiration and activities for sessions they could run with their branches. Saturday's sessions were provided by staff from Fishbourne Roman Palace, who delivered a fascinating tour of the site's famous mosaics, as well as hands-on activities including lamp-making, felting, spinning and Roman



cooking. In the evening we were joined by the wonderful Trouvère, who provided Medieval performance and interactive music making.

On Sunday, the programme was provided by the University of York's Life in the Mesolithic project team. The team have created a learning resource pack for the Young Archaeologists' Club full of ideas for Mesolithic activities. We spent the morning putting together a timeline created and interpreted footprints inspired by those at Goldcliff in the Severn Estuary, and produced replica tools using microliths.

Feedback from the volunteers at the event was overwhelmingly positive, with everyone saying that they had learned something new and intended to use the ideas back at their branches. Most of all the volunteers valued the opportunity to get together with likeminded people and discuss ideas. As one volunteer said, there is real value in 'knowing that there is a large organisation and that you are not on your own'.



Dig Deep for YAC

The Young Archaeologists' Club needs your support in order to provide this kind of event for our volunteers, who give a huge amount of their time and energy to provide activities for young people aged 8 - 16.

YAC is the only UK-wide club for young people who want to get involved in archaeology.

You can show your support for YAC by making a donation using the CBA's Just Giving page online. Go to www.tinyurl.com/givetoyac. You can also buy YAC membership for a young person by visiting www.yac-uk.org

If you have a training opportunity that you'd like to offer to YAC volunteers, get in touch with our YAC team by emailing elviethompson@archaeologyUK.org or by telephone on 01904 671 417.

Newark and District branch members with their Viking longship replica



Market Forces

Sometimes the CBA lends it support to assist other heritage groups, making the archaeological significance of the building or site in question the focus of its support.

So it has been recently with Smithfield Market, where the CBA has supported SAVE Britain's Heritage, the Victorian Society and our London Agents LAMAS to defend what SAVE have called, 'the grandest parade of market buildings in Europe'. This bold claim is far from unfounded; the Central Markets, the General Market, the Fish Market (known as the Red House) and the Poultry Market form an impressive set-piece of Victorian and C20 architecture which reflect the 800-year old history of meat trading at Smithfield.

Remarkably and indeed, significantly, there are both listed and unlisted structures that make up the market complex. The impressive Central Markets, the work of Tower Bridge architect Horace Jones between 1866-1868 are listed at Grade II, but the slightly later General and Fish Markets, remain unlisted, despite very strong claims to 'national special interest' - the English Heritage benchmark for listing buildings. It is these buildings that are now under threat from a disappointingly destructive scheme from John McAslan and Partners which SAVE are fighting hard to counter. 'Scooping out' the entire interior structure and keeping the facades only seems token in terms of conservation and SAVE has presented a workable and heritage-led alternative.



Inside Smithfield market

The CBA has supported this alternative and have urged the City of London to refuse the application. Archaeologically, what is important about the site, is the associated history and the ability of these buildings to tell the story of Smithfield's working life - this story will be mostly lost if the development goes ahead. We have also emphasised the importance of the time-depth of the Smithfield buildings, focusing on the significance of the mixture of architectural styles from different periods and how together, the fabric of the buildings themselves speak of the changing nature of the industrial and social use of the site. These are fundamental considerations that underline the fact that our collective heritage is not just represented by the best bits of architecture, but also by the places where people live and work, even if they are not designated. These buildings are part of the long history of this site and deserve to be treated better. For more information on SAVE visit their website at www.savebritainsheritage.org

A Grave Success

In the last newsletter, we reported on the Dissenters' Graveyard case in Exeter.

This is a unique site with a huge amount of potential to tell its side of the city's history, but it has languished, unloved and unused for many years. Now, thanks to the goodwill of the owner, the engagement of local people and expertise and encouragement from the CBA, the site looks set to become a public place once more.

At a recent meeting, attended by local interest groups, Exeter City Council and the CBA, it was decided that a local historic buildings group would explore the running of the site, with council assistance and that the CBA would fund some early research into the graveyard through the CBA Challenge Fund. There is a long way to go and the local group will need the support of other groups and individuals if they are to make it work. However, it is a great start which reverses the fortunes of the site which looked set to be the focus of a planning application to build social housing.

This case underlines what is unique and vital about the CBA as an amenity society. In understanding the wide range of issues and what matters about the graveyard as a local and national heritage asset, we have assisted in empowering local people to change its fortunes for the better. This site has enormous educational and tourist possibilities and we are happy that the first step towards realising that potential has been taken.

The end of the Royal Commissions?

In 1908 Royal Commissions were established by Royal Warrant in England, Scotland and Wales with responsibility for recording, interpreting and collecting information about the built and historic environment.

One of the most visible roles of the Royal Commissions in recent years has been their National Monuments Records and associated archives, now increasingly available online.

In England, the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME) was absorbed into English Heritage in 1999. The National Monuments Record is now the English Heritage Archive with over 12 million items. A consultation on the proposals and the draft strategy runs until July. The consultation is available online at www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/05/1373

In Scotland, the staff of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland are now in dialogue with staff at Historic Scotland about the creation of a new lead body for the historic environment sector in Scotland. In May the Scottish Government announced that the new body would be established as an independent charity charged with delivering a new historic environment strategy for Scotland. A consultation on the proposals and the draft strategy runs until July.

In Wales, similar moves are afoot. In May 2012, the Welsh Government announced that it wished to "create a process whereby the core functions of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales could be merged with other organisations, including Cadw. An announcement is expected shortly and proposals for the changes are likely to be included in a Welsh Heritage Bill which is scheduled to be presented to the Welsh Assembly in 2014-15.

Inevitably there have been concerns raised during discussions with other heritage organisations and users of the services currently provided by the Royal Commissions in Scotland and Wales that these proposals could lead to loss of key services as part of cost-cutting measures. In Wales, a committee of the Welsh Assembly set up to look into the proposal for the merger found that there was "overwhelming opposition".

The CBA, working with partners Archaeology Scotland and CBA Cymru, has been active in the stakeholder consultations relating to the proposals in both Scotland and Wales. The need for fundamental review of current arrangements is accepted at a time of financial stringency, but this must be taken in the context of a clear understanding about the long-term stewardship of the archive material in the National Monuments Records, with reassurances about key functions currently carried out by the Royal Commissions under any new arrangements.



Members' Online Survey

Tell us what you think about the CBA, our activities and the benefits of membership by completing our online survey at archaeologyUK.org/member-survey

We have three copies each of our CBA publications *Star Carr* and *Historic Landscape Analysis* to give away through our automatic free draw. If you are unable to access an online version of the survey please email us at marketing@archaeologyUK.org and we will ensure a paper copy with freepost response envelope is sent to you. The Survey closes on 1 August 2013.



FOCUS ON: the CBA Network

The CBA works with national and regional partners across the UK and in England with a network of regional groups to bring together archaeology interests, provide information and guidance and encourage participation through an active programme of events.

Run by a committee of volunteers from across the archaeology spectrum, each Group is passionate about getting people involved in the archaeology of their area.

"The wide range of activities on offer reflects the amazing diversity that exists in archaeology at the community level", explains Louise Ennis, Head of Strategic Development at the CBA. Volunteers play a key role in creating opportunities for everyone who cares about their historic environment to participate."

Group activities include symposiums showcasing the latest research such as CBA London's annual Archaeology Forum, and site visits with local experts, such as CBA South East's hillfort walks. This year, CBA Wessex have linked up with CBA South West to offer members a weekend exploring the archaeology of West Penwith in Cornwall.

At the recent annual forum of the network, lively discussion focused around how the CBA Groups could further develop their roles to meet the needs of audiences wanting to engage in archaeology.

"It was really inspiring to see how some Groups have developed a valuable umbrella role in their area, bringing archaeology interests together across the professional and voluntary sector to

provide a hub of knowledge and resources", comments CBA Director, Mike Heyworth.

"With ongoing cuts to local authority conservation services, CBA Groups can take a lead on working with local partners, and CBA members, to spread the message that archaeology matters. There's a lot that local interest groups, and individuals can do to monitor potential threats to their local heritage, and influence elected officials. The CBA Groups can provide a focus for campaigning and advocacy."

Increasingly, Groups are looking to plug gaps created by funding cuts to provide archaeology training for non-professionals. Chris Elmer of CBA Wessex enthuses, "There is an ongoing demand for practical basic training and hands-on experience in our region. We have responded to this and developed a programme of self-funded study sessions and day schools open to everyone."

CBA North has recently introduced free student membership to support those studying archaeology full-time.

CBA Groups are keen to attract wider audiences to archaeology. CBA West Midlands is working with the Worcestershire branch of the Young Archaeologists' Club to pilot an allotment test pitting and flax planting project for the Festival of Archaeology, while CBA South Midlands is hoping to involve whole families by trialling community test pitting. Groups such as CBA East Midlands also award grants to encourage community initiatives.

The CBA Groups rely on membership to maintain these services, offering a number of benefits, from newsletters and publications such as CBA Yorkshire's acclaimed journal, *Forum*, to discounted entry to their events.

"Our members are vital", stresses Mike Nevell of CBA North West, "they help us develop our work in education and conservation and raise the profile of archaeology in the minds of decision-makers."

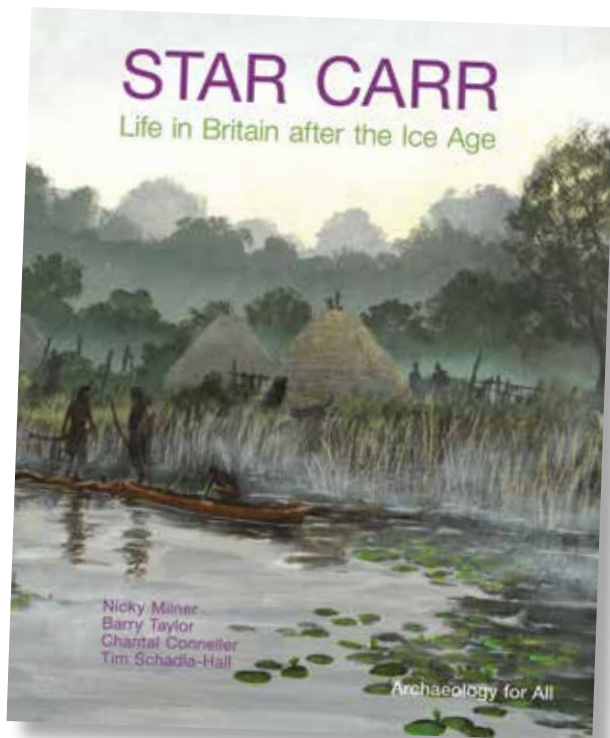
Find out more about joining your local CBA Group at www.archaeologyUK.org/join-a-cba-group

Wessex CBA Group members on an outing



Life in Britain after the Ice Age - Star Carr

Nicky Milner, Barry Taylor, Chantal Conneller
& Tim Schadla-Hall



Star Carr is one of the most famous and important prehistoric sites in Europe. Dating from the early Mesolithic period, over 10,000 years ago, the site has produced a unique range of artefacts and settlement evidence. First excavated in 1949-51 by Professor Grahame Clark of Cambridge University, the site was buried in a deep layer of peat on the edge of prehistoric Lake Flixtion. The peat has preserved an

incredible collection of organic artefacts, including bone, wood and antler, as well as thousands of flint tools. This wealth of evidence has allowed archaeologists to build up a detailed picture of life on the edge of the lake around 9000 BC. New excavations have now revealed the remains of what may be the earliest house ever found in Britain, and have shown that the settlement stretched for several hundred metres along the lake shore.

Essential reading for anyone with an interest in prehistory this highly engaging new book tells the story of the discovery of Star Carr, and

brings us up-to-date with details of the current excavations. It also discusses other important Mesolithic sites in Britain and Europe and how these are transforming our view of life after the Ice Age.

CBA Archaeology for All ISBN:
978-1-902771-99-1 124pp,
53 figs full colour, May 2013 Price £13

Available now at
www.archaeologyUK.org/star-carr

WEEKEND IN PEMBROKESHIRE

13-15 September 2013

Join our team of experts to discover the Archaeological Heritage of Pembrokeshire.

From our base at St Davids, we will tour the Cathedral, explore Nevern Church and one of the oldest Norman stone castles in Wales. We will step back in time at Castell Henllys, a unique Iron Age hill fort with reconstructed roundhouses, granary and a forge and take a trip to Pentre Ifan, the largest and best preserved Neolithic dolmen in Wales, with a guided walk along the dramatic headland of St Davids to see its industrial remains.

Archaeologist Professor Mike Parker Pearson will provide an introduction to the Preseli's where the Stonehenge blue stones are thought to originate. Places are limited.

To book visit

www.archaeologyUK.org/pembrokeshire

**MEMBERS'
WEEKEND**



Pentre Ifan - Photo courtesy of PCNPA
(Sixty Images for Sixty years collection)

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