

NEWS LETTER

Issue 24, Late Summer 2013

Record breaking success for Festival of Archaeology

Cover picture: Enthusiasts approach the summit of Pendinas hillfort, in an event run by RCAHMW.

© Crown copyright: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

03 Have your say on the future of county societies



02 CBA wins funding to support local advocacy



05 Michael Wood to give Beatrice De Cardi lecture



Reduced funding for English Heritage puts vulnerable heritage at risk

As part of the Government's Spending Review announcement in late June, we heard that "the Government will work with English Heritage to consult on establishing a charity to care for the historic properties in the National Heritage Collection on a self-financing basis, supported by Government investment of £80 million."

Full details are awaited, but the plan was put forward by English Heritage themselves to provide a sustainable basis for the future conservation and management of the National Heritage Collection (the sites that they look after in guardianship), see www.english-heritage.org.uk/about/news/80million-boost-heritage

A new National Heritage Protection Service 'quango' will undertake the other

current EH statutory functions, though there is concern that the 10% revenue cut to the EH budget announced for 2015-16 will particularly impact on the capacity of this body.

The CBA's Director, Mike Heyworth, had an early chance to discuss the implications with English Heritage's Chief Executive, Dr Simon Thurley, when they were both guests on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme the day after the announcement. You can listen again online at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b02ykzh5 (skip to just after 2hr 50mins in).

An initial CBA statement on the proposal was widely quoted in the following days. The CBA drew attention to concerns about the ongoing cost of conservation work on the National Heritage Collection and how this will be funded, as well as concerns about the vulnerability of the proposed Protection Service 'quango' to future cuts.

Stonehenge road closure

The CBA has pressed for better presentation of the Stonehenge World Heritage Site for many years.

We were delighted that as part of English Heritage's project to transform the setting and visitor experience of Stonehenge, a section of the A344 road running right past the monument, almost touching the Heel Stone, was permanently closed from Monday 24 June. We look forward to the opening of the new Stonehenge visitor centre in December.



ENGAGING WITH LOCAL HERITAGE

The CBA has been awarded £146,767 over four years from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for a new project to encourage local groups to become advocates for the protection of the historic environment.

The grant will cover the costs of a new post in the CBA secretariat to work with community groups and local societies across the UK. This will be particularly crucial in the years to come with increasing pressure on the budgets of local authorities and the likelihood of further cuts to already hard-pressed archaeology and conservation services which provide crucial advice to the planning system. We rely on the planning system to protect key heritage sites and ensure appropriate investigation and recording in advance of development so the continuation of these expert advice services is vital.

Details of the new CBA post based in our York office are available at www.new.archaeologyuk.org/job-vacancies (applications can be submitted until 18 August 2013).



Have your say on the future of county societies

We asked David Dawson, Director of the Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Society (WANHS) and Wiltshire Heritage Museum, to reflect on the outcomes of the CBA Forum on the future of societies and to share his views on some of the external issues affecting county archaeological and historical societies.



"The CBA Conference on Local Societies in the 21st Century was both inspiring and worrying.

The inspiring part was hearing about the great things being achieved in different parts of the country, and ways in which community archaeology groups were helping to get people engaged and involved in their communities.

But - and you could tell that there was a 'but' coming - there is a danger that there are 'too many groups'. Community archaeology groups, commercial units, traditional county societies, universities and regional CBA Groups are all competing for members and offering similar opportunities to get involved in field work, lectures, conferences and training events. Fragmentation is a barrier to effective advocacy, making it harder to raise the profile of the sector as a whole.

The localism agenda, cuts to universities and local authorities alike will increasingly lead to the development of new models. The voluntary sector will soon be running local authority

archaeology services decimated by spending cuts and offering validated taught courses as university departments continue to disappear. The distinction between professional and volunteer is becoming increasingly irrelevant as the voluntary sector operates to more professional standards.

As the Director of a county archaeological society, I am rather biased, but traditional county societies face particular problems. We struggle to sustain academic publications, as well as a range of library and museum functions.

County societies were the bedrock of archaeology in the 19th and most of the 20th centuries, but their failure to adapt to the increasing professionalism of archaeology has led some to stagnate. They have failed to take real advantage of the public enthusiasm generated by Meet the Ancestors or Time Team.

Where is the 'national offer' that has got people involved? Where is the equivalent of campaigning and engagement bodies like the RSPB? Our memberships grow increasingly 'grey' and we have not retained the engagement of successive generations of Young Archaeologists' Club members.

In stark contrast, societies who attended the Forum heard about some fantastic examples of projects that have engaged local audiences, helping them learn about the past and generating real research outcomes. But how is that enthusiasm going to be sustained and developed once the project has ended?

The most challenging question asked during the weekend was 'Can we mobilise the huge public support for archaeology?' The answer is clear, we haven't so far..."

Do you agree with David? Join the debate and share other views on the future of societies by reading the CBA's forum discussion paper and completing the response form on our website. The deadline is 27 September. Please let us know if you would like us to post you a copy.

www.archaeologyuk.org/future-of-societies-forum

Your feedback will help us develop new resources and training to support societies, community groups and CBA organisational members.

Happy Birthday Bexley

This summer, the Bexley Branch of the Young Archaeologists' Club celebrated their first birthday. Fran Hills, the Branch Leader, shares her experience of a year in the life of the new Branch.

"A Young Archaeologists' Club had long been the dream of Bexley Archaeological Group. We were really pleased when we got the go ahead and opened our doors in April 2012. We meet at Hall Place, Bexley, during the winter and on our dig site at North Cray through the summer (when we are not out and about!)

We got going in May with 'Roman Arms and Armour'. We made wooden swords and learnt how to lash the handle. We made shields and mosaics, tasted Roman bread, tried on replica armour and examined Roman coins and brooches under a microscope.

In June and July we dug on site, did some metal detecting, finds processing and drawing. In September our Young Archaeologists taught their parents to dig!

October found us on the Thames Foreshore with Mike Webber, an experienced Thames archaeologist. This was one of our most popular sessions. We collected a variety of artefacts and bone, which we sorted and dated outside the old Billingsgate market.

In November we returned to Hall Place to investigate the building, looking for clues to how it changed over time and learning how to record building features. In December we had a Victorian Christmas session, doing various crafts, making cards and presents. We all had a big bag of items to take home!

Our first session in 2013 was all about the Tudors; we used the interactive Tudor room at Hall Place, made 'tuzzy muzzies' to ward off illness, marchpane creations, beeswax candles, and investigated the contents of Tudor pool! (It's a YAC classic).

In March and April we explored the archaeology of war. We had a visit from expert Steve Roberts who brought artefacts and First World War costumes, and went for a walk in Oxleas Woods with



Andy Brockman, who helped us discover Second World War air raid shelters and gun emplacements.

It's been a great year: we started with 10-15 children at each session, and have now become so popular we have to operate a waiting list! We are lucky to have the support of Bexley Archaeological Group; we have nine leaders and lots of experience between us. Having a different activity and time period at each session has worked well as it means we can cater for everyone. We are really looking forward to the coming year and have more great activities planned - if you live in our area why not come and join us?



FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY CELEBRATES RECORD BREAKING SUCCESS

The CBA's Festival of Archaeology, the world's largest event focusing on archaeology was a record breaker.

With over 1,200 events and 200,000 visitors the 23rd Festival has proved that archaeology really is for everyone. This year's festival which ran from 13-28 July, worked with 450 partners including English Heritage and Cadw, as well as community groups, national and local museums and archaeologists to bring together a hugely successful celebration of archaeology. Activities included behind-the-scenes tours, guided walks, special exhibitions, excavations and workshops, re-enactments, finds identification days, family fun days and lots of other ways to get hands-on with history. Binchester Roman Fort celebrated it's festival event with a display of its remarkable new find of a stone head of a Roman God, Wessex Archaeology held an open day to show the public the discovery of a major medieval complex, which attracted 1,400 people and visitors had the chance to see 14,000 year old flint stones uncovered at a Late Palaeolithic site in Nottinghamshire.

Book the dates in your diary for next year's Festival of Archaeology and help us to celebrate the CBA's 70th anniversary between 12-27 July 2014.



Michael Wood to give the Beatrice De Cardi lecture 2013

Join us for our annual lecture on 28 October when acclaimed historian, writer and broadcaster Michael Wood will share his passion for public history and archaeology for all.

Michael will draw on his experiences of working with local communities to explore the everyday lives of the people of England.

Michael will also be presenting the **2013 Marsh Award for Community Archaeology** alongside a representative from the sponsors of the award, the Marsh Christian Trust. This year's Award recognises and promotes innovative and high quality dissemination of the results of research and fieldwork through publication, communication and archiving. The event will also include the CBA's Annual General Meeting; your chance to hear what the CBA has been doing over the last year and to ask questions of the Director and Trustees.

We will be discussing the challenges facing the heritage sector and the key role that volunteers have to play.

The event will take place in the British Academy in London, and will include a drinks reception in the Gallery. Tickets for this very special event are free, but must be booked ahead. To reserve your ticket, you can either call us on 01904 671 417 or visit our website new.archaeologyuk.org/events/beatrice-de-cardi-lecture-2013. The event begins at 4.00pm and finishes at 7.30pm.



Digging DEEP for YAC

Big thanks are due to the North Wiltshire Young Archaeologists' Club Branch, who have raised more than £1,000 for YAC with their '6k6k' challenge! They explored 6,000 years in 6,000 metres with a sponsored walk in the Knap Hill area. We hear that a great day was had by all, with good weather and great archaeology.

Next on the YAC fundraising calendar is the York Marathon, which a team from the CBA offices are running in relay. The team, calling themselves The New YAC Dolls, are: Rachel, the YAC Volunteer Co-ordinator and brains behind the venture; Nicky, the editor of *Young Archaeologist* magazine; Claire, the Office Administrator; Siona, Head of Marketing and Communications; Tara, Training Co-ordinator; and Sophie, Events Officer. Most of the team are first-time marathon runners, so we wish them all the best in their challenge! They have set themselves a fundraising target of £2,000, and if you'd like to help them achieve it, you can make a donation online at www.justgiving.com/newYACdolls

VOLUNTEERVIEW

Esther Robinson Wild, a volunteer Assistant Caseworker and Casework Panel Minute-Taker.



Esther Robinson Wild, volunteer Assistant Caseworker and Casework Panel Minute-Taker, tells us about the transition from a below to above ground archaeologist and how her work at the CBA is contributing to the process.

"I gained my undergraduate degree in Egyptian Archaeology and I am currently undertaking an MA in the Archaeology of Buildings. The move from predominantly below ground archaeology to above ground has been interesting and I am learning a whole new set of skills associated with the archaeological interrogation of buildings. Volunteering at the CBA is a great opportunity to broaden my buildings archaeology experience in the 'real world' context, whilst working for an organisation that champions and supports both below and above ground archaeology.

Recent cases that have come before the Casework Panel highlight the diversity of buildings and sites, change proposals and outcomes. Unfortunately, not all of the CBA's recommendations are taken on board, for example, the Marconi Factory complex in Chelmsford. The site of the world's first commercial radio broadcast, the CBA along with special interest and local community groups argued for the retention of several historically and architecturally significant buildings on the site without success. Although disappointing, the balancing act of enabling sustainable development and mitigating damage to heritage assets is not easy and each case is assessed on its individual merits.

From the developers' perspective the consideration of built heritage assets from an archaeological perspective must be slightly challenging. The process of dealing with archaeological remains has been clearly defined in planning legislation. However, comprehending the significance of built heritage and the potentially costly incorporation of their adaptive re-use into management plans cannot be easy. It is vital that the CBA communicates its view clearly and in an educational manner, which I believe it does successfully.

Minute-taking at Casework Panel meetings highlights these challenges and demonstrates how the CBA can influence decisions that are made on nationally important heritage assets, such as Smithfield Market and Convoy Wharf at Deptford's historic dockyard. In both cases the sites are located in areas targeted for regeneration and subject to proposals that in their current form have

the potential to be destructive to both standing buildings and below ground archaeology. Some form of development is required at these sites - however, of a type that is more sympathetic to the heritage assets. These are complex cases this needs to be of on-going concern to the CBA.

We don't always operate in a world of developer versus heritage bodies. The Dissenters' Burial Ground in Exeter is an excellent example of how collaborative working amongst key parties and the developer can deliver a positive outcome. In this case the developer gifted the site to the local authority and in doing so, secured its future.

In the majority of the cases that come before the panel there is community engagement and it is part of the CBA's remit to support this where opinions on an application are shared. A good example of this approach is the Nuclear Dawn Mural in Brixton. The London Mural Preservation Trust and the local community are attempting to save this late 20th century mural and the CBA are supporting the request for its formal listing.

I've touched upon a few panel cases chosen to illustrate the diverse nature of the day-to-day work undertaken at the CBA. I hope that being a part of this will help me forge a career in buildings archaeology that will benefit the historic built environment."

More information about the CBA's casework can be found at new.archaeologyuk.org/cba-and-listed-buildings

Casework – Courtaulds Air Raid Shelters

Since the beginning of the year, the CBA has been engaged in an interesting, underground case in Essex. Local campaigner, Helen Wolf, tells us more.

"Near the centre of the small town of Halstead, Essex in an area of woodland and wetland lie 16 air raid shelters. The shelters were built by Courtaulds, a major British company which dominated the international textile industry for many years and whose founding family were local residents. Commissioned before World War Two broke out to protect their Halstead workforce, two offset lines of shelters were constructed close to the factory, in and behind the gardens of housing for Courtaulds employees.

Fifteen of the shelters are of a sunken type, built from preformed arched concrete segments, probably manufactured by Costain or British Reinforced Concrete. Designed to hold up to 50 people, each one had a blastproof door, chemical toilets in separate marked 'Male' and 'Female' cubicles, an electricity supply and an escape hatch with ladder.

A sixteenth shelter, larger and built in brick on the surface, had several uses: as a first aid centre, a communications centre and an ARP Warden's post. Many of Courtaulds' Halstead staff

worked directly on war production during World War Two, including weaving parachute silk. There were no air attacks on the factory although the factory's record of time lost to air raids logged 170 warnings.

Local residents were allocated a specific shelter for their own use outside of working hours and some current residents still recall using them after the siren sounded.

Courtaulds' tenants continued to use the shelters after the war in an unwritten agreement. They stored tools to work the nearby allotments or animal feed for the many ducks, hens or pigs kept then. Benches and fittings were removed bit by bit, although most shelters still have the lavatory cubicle doors marked 'Male' and 'Female'.

The 1980s saw the factory's demolition. Courtaulds sold its housing to tenants or property management firms and its land to investors. Garden boundaries started to alter and became legally redefined and ownership of the shelters gradually changed.

The accessible shelters are still in reasonable condition, some have been padlocked for years, some are still used by local residents, but others are full of rubbish; tree roots and flooding threaten them; and brambles and nettles prevent access during the summer months.

Since 2006, three attempts to formally protect them have been refused by local and national authorities. English Heritage have concluded that they are not of sufficient 'national special interest' to warrant listing - that, however, does not mean they are expendable. Current planning guidance is clear about the potential significance of non-designated assets - there should be room in any future planning decision for at least some of these structures - ideally we would want to see them and the landscape they are part of, as a conservation area.

These rather innocuous, hidden, concrete structures are all that remains of a place that was once highly important to the community of Halstead. We have and will continue to argue that a decent planning decision could retain them."

Remains of one of the air raid shelters.



Claimed by the sea -

Stuart Needham, Dave Parham and Catherine J Frieman

The latest in the highly respected CBA research report series explores two remarkable seabed finds of prehistoric bronze metalwork.

First discovered by sport divers in the 1970s the sites became a testing ground for the new discipline of underwater archaeology. The haul of 361 bronzes from Langdon Bay, Kent, represents one of the largest deposits from Bronze Age Europe. Dating to the thirteenth century BC, the collection is diverse in character and originates in various parts of Western Europe and the British Isles. The finds from Salcombe, Devon are of similar date with a unique combination of types and materials.

Mysteriously, neither site yielded any ship's remains. Extensive analysis favours the conclusion that these finds represent material spilled or jettisoned from boats in trouble.

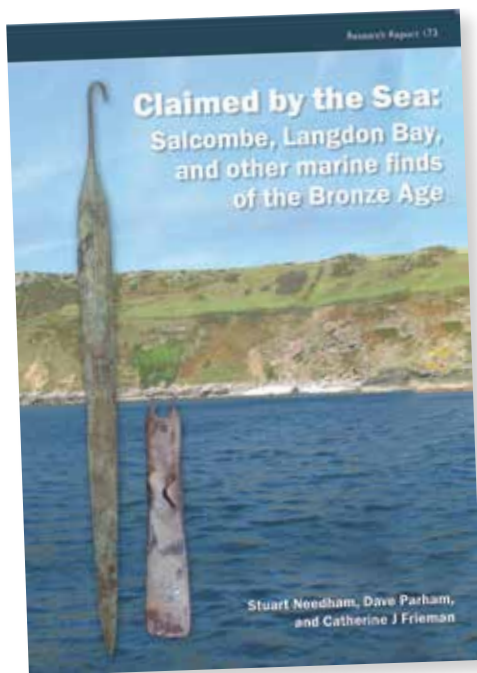
For the first time, maritime archaeologists, period specialists, metallurgists and coastal geomorphologists bring together research on these two exceptional sites.

Further marine finds of Bronze Age metalwork, along with models for seaborne exchange and cultural attitudes to the *terre/mare* interface are all explored.

CBA Research Report No. 173,
ISBN 978-1-902441-95-3
250pp, 95 figs incl colour.

Price £25 GBP

Available now at www.archaeologyUK.org/books-and-publications



WEEKEND IN PEMBROKESHIRE

13-15 September 2013

We still have a few places left to join our team of experts to discover the rich and deep archaeological heritage of Pembrokeshire. For more details check out www.archaeologyUK.org/pembrokeshire



Herb Garden Fort at Castell Henllys.

MEMBERS' SURVEY

It's not too late to complete our Members' online survey at www.archaeologyUK.org/member-survey and to let us know what you think about our activities, resources and the benefits of membership. Survey deadline has been extended to 1 September 2013.



St Mary's House
66 Bootham, York
YO30 7BZ
Tel. 01904 671417
Fax. 01904 671384

Council for
British Archaeology

**ARCHAEOLOGY
FOR ALL**

www.archaeologyUK.org