

NEWS LETTER

Issue 25, Early Autumn 2013

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CBA MEMBERS VISIT PEMBROKESHIRE

In mid September a group of CBA members travelled down to South West Wales for a packed weekend of archaeology in Pembrokeshire.

On the first day, based in St David's, the group had a guided tour of the local cathedral, and saw images of Pembrokeshire's archaeology from the air in a fascinating talk given by Toby Driver from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. This was the perfect introduction to the next two days when the group visited a whole variety of sites of different periods, guided by experts in the local archaeology.



Above: Mike Parker-Pearson on site in the Preseli hills
Below: The neolithic tomb at Pentre Ifan

Prof Harold Mytum was on hand to explore the Iron Age hill fort at Castell Henllys, which was excavated over a 27 year period, before the group moved on to see Nevern Castle and the local church. After lunch it was only a short journey to one of the most iconic Welsh archaeological monuments: Pentre Ifan, a photogenic Neolithic tomb, before we moved on to meet up with Prof Mike Parker-Pearson who was undertaking fieldwork in the area to look for the source of the blue-stones which were transported to Stonehenge. This was a fantastic opportunity for CBA members to hear from one of the world's leading archaeologists about his cutting edge research. In the evening, over dinner, the group heard from James Meek about recent excavations at a newly discovered Roman fort excavated by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

The final day gave CBA members the chance to walk around Carew Castle under the guidance of Phil Bennett before coming together to have an

exciting tour of the industrial archaeology of Porthgain led by Pete Crane. The attractive harbour had been used to export slate from local quarries in the 19th century, with later industrial activity linked with brickmaking and roadstone production from local dolerite.

CBA members came away from the weekend with an extensive knowledge of the local archaeology, from early prehistory through the industrial revolution, as well as having had the opportunity to talk with local

archaeologists (including those from the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park) and CBA staff, and experience in full the delights of the local area. See our gallery at: new.archaeologyuk.org/cba-members-weekend-2013-gallery

In recent years CBA members have had guided weekend visits to many different parts of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Next year we hope to visit Scotland so please let us know if there are any places you would like to visit. How about the World Heritage Sites of Orkney?

DIG DEEP FOR YAC

We estimate that leaders of our Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) branches each volunteer for at least 70 hours a year.

The rewards are of course many: it's a joy to help young people fulfil their dreams of taking part in archaeology as well as to go 'behind the scenes' at heritage organisations; to watch the young archaeologists develop their understanding of the world around them through studying the past; and to help them learn practical skills outside of the classroom and curriculum.

But the branches can only operate with the support of YAC HQ at the Council for British Archaeology. Importantly, this includes the provision of safeguarding checks, insurance, and first aid training. Owing to funding cuts we're running the **DIG DEEP FOR YAC** campaign and as part of this a team of six staff members of the CBA - aka 'The New YAC Dolls' - are running the Yorkshire Marathon in relay this October.

Every penny of the money raised will help support the YAC network:

- **£10 allows us to recruit a new volunteer leader**
- **£20 pays for a Child Protection course**
- **£50 provides an annual grant to a Branch**
- **£100 puts a volunteer through first aid training**

Please show your support by sponsoring the team at: www.justgiving.com/newYACdolls or telephone: 01904 671417

Community Archaeology Framework for Wales

At a Festival of Archaeology event at Castell Coch, near Cardiff, in July, Welsh Culture Minister John Griffiths AM took part in a mock excavation alongside local young people as he launched the new Cadw Community Archaeology Framework for Wales.

Supported by the CBA, the Framework sets out a range of opportunities which Cadw and its partners hope to develop in the coming years to engage a wide range of people and community groups with archaeology. The regional Welsh archaeological trusts are well placed to work with Cadw, the CBA and other

partners, such as the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, to deliver archaeological outreach projects across Wales and develop sustainable projects involving local people and are already responding to demand.

A key area of the Framework directly linking to the CBA is the desire to expand support for the Young Archaeologists' Club in Wales. A new branch is just opening in the Brecon Beacons National Park and YAC would love to hear from anyone who can support the branches. If you are interested in getting involved then please contact the YAC team in the CBA office at: yac@yac-uk.org



Welsh Culture Minister digging alongside children at Castell Coch

Photo courtesy of Equinox Communications.

THE MICK ASTON ARCHAEOLOGY FUND

The CBA has long supported voluntary research into the historic environment; the Mick Aston Archaeology Fund will help to continue that tradition.

Mick Aston's passion for involving people in archaeology was reflected in his life's work: through teaching, C4's Time Team and advocating community projects. His work encouraged the younger generation and made archaeology publicly accessible. Now the Mick Aston Archaeology Fund will support voluntary groups, societies and individuals to carry out original research into their historic environment and will continue to make archaeology accessible for all.

Investigating Winscombe

Ella Nadian provides a community case study

The Challenge Fund, as this grant was formerly known, supported many projects each year. One of these was

Mick's own project: investigations at Winscombe.

Soon after the successful completion of the renowned Shapwick project in central Somerset, Mick set up a project in his home parish of Winscombe to serve as a local comparison. The parish covers a wide area, extending from the North Somerset Levels up to the Mendip Hills.

Mick advised the project as part of the Winscombe and Sandford Local History and Archaeology Society with the help of the Somerset Vernacular Building Research Group and specialist documentary researchers. The project has had a strong sense of community involvement from the start: run by the local societies, with local schoolchildren and volunteers mucking in during fieldwork and excavations, and "surgeries", held in the village community centre to help residents identify artefacts unearthed from their back gardens.



Mick Aston with a group of school children

A multi-disciplinary approach has been undertaken with work focusing on documentary research, map regression analysis, test-pit digging and vernacular building survey.

In January 2013 the project received a £750 grant from the Council for British Archaeology in order to continue their investigation. The funding has been used to purchase project equipment including: a digital camera, sieves and trowels for test pitting, and find bags for processing.

From the data it became apparent that a very different picture of Winscombe was being painted to that of the arable and nucleated settlement of Shapwick. It appeared that medieval Winscombe was of a wood-pasture economy with a varied and dispersed settlement – a new contribution to research on the area.

The Mick Aston Archaeology Fund can provide grants of up to £1000 to help your project. For more information and case studies: www.archaeologyuk.org/speak-up



Children get involved in the Winscombe project

TRAINING NEWS

an update on the CBA's Bursary Scheme

In September a further 13 individuals took up post as Community Archaeology Trainees with host organisations located across the UK.

This is the fifth cohort of the popular scheme of year-long training placements run by the Council for British Archaeology and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund through their Skills for the Future programme.

July and August were busy months for Training Coordinator, Tara-Jane Sutcliffe, who was on the recruitment trail travelling from Truro in south-west England up to Stirling in Scotland and across to Aberystwyth in Wales. Competition was again high with over 600 applications across the suite of 13 placements and it was a pleasure to interview such a strong field of candidates. As in previous years, the programme again attracted a higher ratio of female to male applicants and this is borne out in the composition of appointed post holders. The successful applicants bring to their new roles a diversity of experience in the heritage sector and demonstrate aptitude for community work and a strong commitment to engaging the public in archaeology.

As well as training future community archaeologists, the scheme aims to enhance the capacity of the heritage sector to share best practice as well as

to demonstrate the value of heritage skills to modern life. With this cohort of placements the project is able to extend its geographical reach into south-west England, across Mid Wales and the North of England. The new host organisations and their trainees will be supporting a range of communities, both city-based and in dispersed rural communities, encouraging and enabling more people, especially the young, to participate in archaeology. In addition, the Council for British Archaeology is pleased to support partnership working between Scottish Canals, the Scottish Waterways Trust and Falkirk Community Trust, who are jointly hosting a placement based at the Falkirk Wheel, the meeting place of the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Union Canal.

Later in the month a Graduation ceremony will be held in York for the 2012 intakes of trainees. This will provide an opportunity for the CBA to celebrate the achievements of our former trainees as well as to commend the commitment of supervisors and mentors. Several trainees have already succeeded in obtaining employment for when their placements finish and we look forward to watching them flourish in their careers as they take forward the CBA's vision of archaeology for all!



Bursary trainees lead a volunteer excavation at Church Road, Liverpool.



Experimental archaeology for young people in action

The new Chair of CBA West Midlands, Sheena Payne-Lunn, is also an active leader of the Worcestershire branch of the Young Archaeologists' Club.

Eighteen months ago they acquired an allotment as a space for Young Archaeologists to gain practical skills and add to local knowledge, having lots of fun along the way.

'We selected our site using the Worcester City Historic Environment Record (HER), which identified potential Roman settlement in the area. Working with Environmental Archaeologist Liz Pearson, our young archaeologists used traditional methods to harvest our first crop, a traditional long-strawed wheat, during the Festival of Archaeology. Every YAC member got to have a go with the sickle to cut the wheat crop down. It was then bundled up and left to dry, except for a handful of stems used

to make corn dollies. We were able to practice winnowing away the chaff and then used our rotary quern stone to make flour.

To develop their practical skills, our YAC member also helped to excavate a 1m x 1m test pit. Rob Hedge, CBA Community Archaeology Bursary Placement and WYAC team member, made sure that everyone was well-versed in Pythagoras' theorem as he demonstrated how to set out a trench. Finds, which included Roman iron slag, 18th/19th century clay pipe and the handle of a Tudor cup, will be processed by YAC members and passed to the city HER.

The idea behind the project is to enable these very capable young people to contribute to real research completed to professional standards, adding both to the archaeological record and our collective knowledge. We hope to build an ongoing resource for skills training



Learning practical skills the fun way

and experimental techniques into the future. At the time of writing our crop of flax is ripening and we hope to have harvested and processed this during the summer holidays!

Keep up with the project on Twitter at **#WYACAllotment** and CBA West Midlands at www.archaeologyuk.org/cbawm



YAC members harvest traditional long strawed wheat

A new model society

Llŷn Archaeology and History Society was launched during this year's Festival of Archaeology.

The founders, a former CBA Skills for the Future Community Archaeology Bursaries Placement holder and an archaeology MA student from Durham University, have developed a new model that combines the traditional values of county societies with new technologies and a focus on engaging wider audiences.

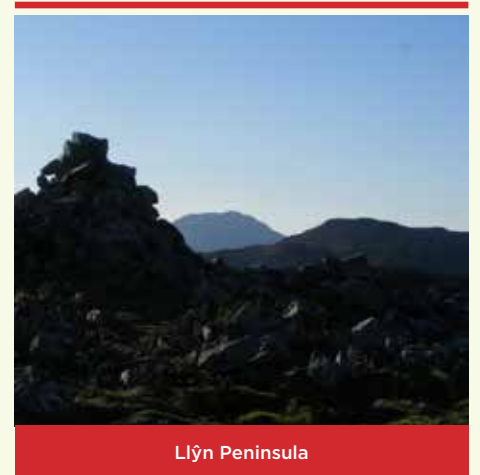
Chair, Jamie Davies, attributes their approach to lessons learned at the CBA's forum for local societies. 'The forum gave me a unique platform to learn from the experiences of a wide range of groups. Best practices were identified and opportunities and strengths discussed and we have developed a flexible society structure to take advantage of these.

A key aim was to encourage more local people to participate in their heritage, so we created a bilingual society for this heartland of the Welsh language with digital communications at its core. Social media was agreed at the forum to be one of the greatest opportunities for local societies and we already have over 250 Facebook friends and 100 Twitter followers, giving us a powerful platform for sharing information.

We also wanted to break down traditional boundaries and make the most of collaborative projects, including collating previous research carried out by heritage organisations and local researchers to create an accessible archive and identify knowledge gaps for future projects.

We want our own projects to focus on site-specific research and dissemination rather than fieldwork. We will focus on sites identified as least understood by local people who completed our recent community heritage questionnaire. This feedback will also help us to work more closely with local schools to encourage greater youth involvement in the archaeology of the Llŷn Peninsula.

Unusually, membership of our society is free, funded by local environmental bodies, businesses and community groups. We hope our focus on partnerships, which was a key area of debate at the societies' forum, will provide a model for other groups looking to broaden their audiences. We would urge other societies to be inclusive, co-operate, embrace technology and listen to the whole community.



Llŷn Peninsula

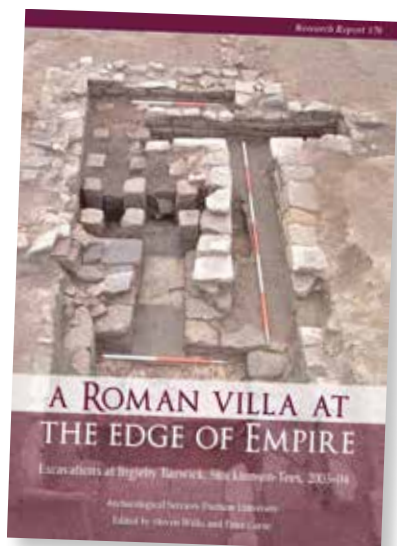
The Forum and future programmes developed by the CBA are opening a new chapter for local societies, and we hope to play an active role.'

Read more about Jamie's new model for societies at www.archaeologyUK.org/future-of-societies-forum and follow him on Twitter **@ArchLlŷn**



Committee members inaugurate the Llŷn Archaeology and History Society

Latest Publications



A Roman Villa at the Edge of Empire: Excavations at Ingleby Barwick, Stockton-on-Tees, 2003-04

*Archaeological Services Durham
University (Edited by Steven Willis and
Peter Carne)*

This autumn will see the publication of several important titles in the CBA's respected Research Report series. The first of these describes the excavation of a Roman villa site at Ingleby Barwick, near Stockton-on-Tees. This is one of the most northerly villas in the whole Roman Empire, and the only one to be excavated under modern conditions. While the villa itself has been preserved in situ, several surrounding structures were excavated, producing an important pottery assemblage as well as exotic finds from across the Empire. Settlement on the site shows a rare degree of continuity in to the Anglo-Saxon period.

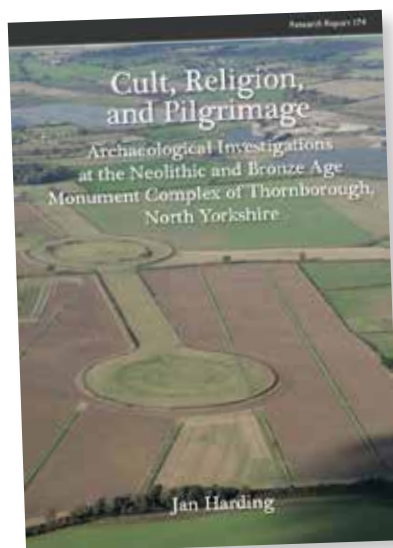
CBA Research Report No. 170, ISBN:
978-1-902771-90-8
244pp, 93 figs incl. colour, Price £25

Cult, Religion, and Pilgrimage: Archaeological Investigations at the Neolithic and Bronze Age Monument Complex of Thornborough, North Yorkshire

By Jan Harding

The Thornborough henges, near Ripon, have been described as the 'Stonehenge of the North'. The three large henges are the most notable features in a rich prehistoric landscape which includes pit alignments, barrows and a cursus. This volume not only describes the extensive programme of archaeological investigation carried out by Dr Jan Harding of Newcastle University over several years, but also explores exciting and innovative ideas about the use and meaning of this 'sacred landscape'.

CBA Research Report No. 174, ISBN:
978-1-902771-97-7
260pp, 155 figs incl. colour, Price £25



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