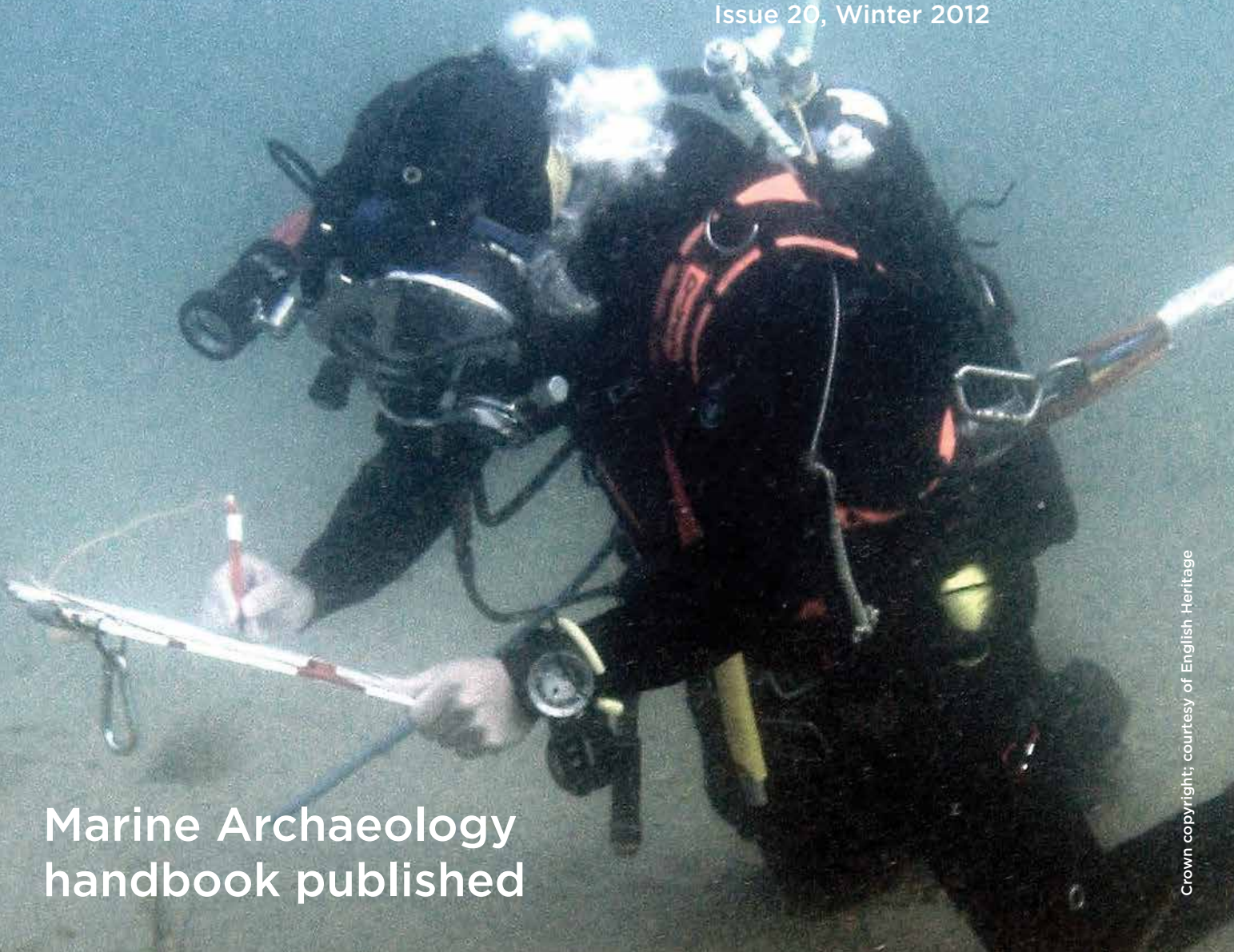


Incorporating  
Conservation News

# NEWS LETTER

Issue 20, Winter 2012



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## Marine Archaeology handbook published

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Butterley Spillway



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placement in action



Council for  
British Archaeology

[www.archaeologyUK.org](http://www.archaeologyUK.org)

## YAC: forty years strong

**The Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) celebrated its 40th birthday this year with a visit to the Cambridge group by HRH Prince Edward as well as parties and cake cutting festivities across the UK.**

Having started with one brilliant idea in Cambridge in 1972, the Club has grown and grown. There are currently 63 branches, run by hundreds of volunteers who provide fantastic opportunities for thousands of young people. YAC UK members also receive the brilliant Young Archaeologist magazine and YAC Pass which gives members free or discounted entry to over 180 heritage sites around the country.

YAC is at risk, following the loss of its core funding in 2011. While English Heritage has stepped in to help in the short term, we are determined to give YAC a secure future, and there are many ways that CBA members can help.

Find out about our Dig Deep for YAC fundraising campaign at [www.yac-uk/yaccampaign](http://www.yac-uk/yaccampaign).

If you want to get more hands-on, you might like to think about volunteering with your local YAC Branch. The Isle of Wight Branch is in particular need of volunteers at the moment. If you're on the Island and could give some time, please get in touch with Branch Leader Joy Verrinder at email [joy.verrinder@iow.gov.uk](mailto:joy.verrinder@iow.gov.uk).



HRH Prince Edward celebrates with the Cambridge branch. Photo courtesy of Nigel Luckhurst.



## National Trust election success

**The Council for British Archaeology has been re-elected to the influential National Trust Council at their Annual General Meeting held in November.**

The National Trust's Council is a broad representative body whose composition enables the Trust to take full account of a wide range of interests. A ballot is held once every six years for the election of 26 organisations which have the right to appoint someone as a member of the Council.

The Council for British Archaeology's performance in the vote was impressive. Over 15,000 National Trust members supported the Council and it attracted a higher number of votes than the National Federation of Womens' Institutes, The John Lewis Partnership and the Confederation of British Industry.

## Dates for the diary

The **Winter General Meeting** will take place on **2-3 March 2013** in the medieval Grade I listed St William's College in the shadow of York Minster. The meeting will focus on the future of county societies.

Following a very successful members' weekend in Buxton this year we are already planning our next weekend trip to **Pembrokeshire on 13-15 September 2013**. More details on both events will be available at our website shortly [www.archaeologyUK.org/events](http://www.archaeologyUK.org/events).

# CBA NORTH WEST CONFERENCE REPORT

## Mike Nevell, Chair of CBA North West, looks at the growing popularity of industrial archaeology within their wider community.

“CBA North West covers Cheshire and Lancashire, plus the metropolitan areas of Greater Manchester and Merseyside. It’s a region with archaeology as diverse as its landscape, from the Iron Age remains on dales and moors, to internationally significant iconic monuments of the Industrial Revolution.

Archaeology has a high profile in our area - there’s certainly no escaping our industrial heritage, and the remains of the past are all around us in our urban and rural landscapes. This background, combined with development hotspots and related archaeological activity, has created a thirst for knowledge and an increasing number of local societies and community groups.

CBA North West is at the heart of this dynamic network so we wanted our annual conference to reflect this and bring together individuals, local amateur groups, professional bodies, academics and partners.

The theme for this year was, not surprisingly, the Archaeology of Industrialisation and we had a record turnout in Wilmslow with over 80 people, many new to the CBA. We also had the support of the North West Industrial Archaeology Panel.

Andy Myers of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service talked about the excavation of Ashbury’s Iron Works in Manchester and how professional and volunteer archaeologists co-operated on this large industrial archaeology project.

Participants found out from Ian Miller about excavations of workers’ housing in Angel Meadow, Manchester and what this tells us about how conditions changed as industrialisation intensified. We heard from Oxford Archaeology’s Caroline Raynor about the findings from a major excavation and museum development at Liverpool’s Old Dock. Moving away from the city, speakers from Wilmslow Community Archaeology looked at industry in rural settings and I was able to share interpretations of the history of textiles,

through excavations at Wilmslow’s own Carr Mill. We followed these talks with a tour of nearby Quarry Bank Mill.

The conference is a great focus for the community. Members and non-members get together to share local knowledge and make connections of their own, find out more about how they can get involved with CBA North West and support the CBA - to sustain archaeology for the future at a national level.”

CBA North West holds six-monthly meetings, and sends out newsletters and a journal to its members, as well as working behind the scenes to protect and enhance the historic environment.

For more details see the CBA North West pages on the CBA website at [www.archaeologyUK.org/cbanw](http://www.archaeologyUK.org/cbanw)



Excavations of workers' housing in Angel Meadow, Manchester.

# Utterly Unique Butterley

**Butterley Spillway is special. As the only listed reservoir spillway in the country, it is a nationally important structure that evidences the engineering prowess and panache of the Victorian engineers who constructed it. It is also a highly valued and much loved piece of local landscape to the people who live in the nearby village of Marsden.**

Yorkshire Water, who own and maintain the spillway, want to demolish the existing high-quality stonework, replace its' elegant steps with concrete, raise the walls on either side and take away the handsome pillars. The plans have outraged many, including the Victorian Society, who placed the

structure on their annual round-up of the most endangered Victorian buildings in the country.

Nowhere, however, has the backlash been more strongly felt than in the local community. They have formulated a wide-reaching campaign to preserve the structure and the Council for British Archaeology are lending their support, publicising the campaign group's effort. We have argued that although this is a reservoir spillway, these types of historic assets have tremendous significance to our sense of place and community identity – a spillway it may be, but when it's unique and the best in the country, it matters.

The Council for British Archaeology will continue to fight this vital case and assist the local campaign to defend this important part of their local environment.

**You can find out more about the Spillway and support the campaign at their website at [www.spillway.co.uk](http://www.spillway.co.uk)**



Picture credit: copyright  
David Preston

# Nonconformist Chapels in Wales

**A building type as prevalent as the public house, every village in Wales has at least one. But Welsh nonconformist chapels are a much ignored building type.**

Perhaps their abundance does them disavour, as they will never be seen as rare or unusual. Yet they are definitely special. Nonconformist chapels are a symbol of a revolutionary time for Wales: an era which defined the Welsh culture distinctly from English. Their impact and use by people stretched far beyond religion as they became centres for welfare: delivering food, clothes and basic education for the poor. The Council for British Archaeology values this heritage and is keen to see them treated sensitively.

This heritage is embedded within the architectural design. The earliest chapels looked like domestic houses, their true purpose hidden away from authorities. Later, as the nonconformist movement grew, people looked to identify their chapels with features like tall arched windows. The architectural styling borrowed from the Wesleyan chapels already in existence, with matching nonconformist roots. On the interior, the layout reflects the prioritising of preaching. Often chapels have gallery levels centred around the pulpit and set fawr so that every member of the congregation could see and hear the preaching. By supporting the retention of features like the gallery and set fawr, which are so inherent to the building's design, the Council for British Archaeology are trying to maintain a reading of the building's past: people will be able to understand how these chapels were used, and what makes them distinctly Welsh.

The Council for British Archaeology have recently dealt with a number of cases which involve the conversion of redundant nonconformist chapels. The huge congregations which once filled the pews are dwindling, and so these buildings become disused, neglected and often fall into disrepair. Our most recent chapel case, Capel Gorffwysfa in Penrhyndeudraeth, is

being converted to an antiques shop – a perfect combination which will provide the shop with a beautiful setting for its wares, and the chapel with a new life ensuring its survival and the retention of its historic features. The Council for British Archaeology supports the sensitive reuse of Welsh chapels – but equally, would object to proposals where features are planned to be ripped out. Campaigning has been done to raise the profile of nonconformist chapels, and hopefully with time their value in Welsh heritage will become more widely appreciated.

Chapel Mawr  
exterior



# Innovative Rennie building retrieved at Sheerness



**The Protect Kent Historic Buildings Committee joined with a number of other heritage organisations to oppose the demolition of the Grade II\* listed Working Mast House at Sheerness Docks to make way for a wind turbine manufacturing plant.**

The developer touted the environmental benefits of wind power and job creation as reasons why the demolition should be considered “wholly exceptional” under the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This argument was accepted by Swale District Council who voted to approve. What we could not accept, though, was that the demolition was absolutely necessary to obtain these benefits. We had submitted three alternative layouts for the facility to

The Protect Kent Historic Buildings Committee is one of the most active of the CBA Agent network. The chair of the group Graham Horner reports on an important recent case.

demonstrate that there were solutions which did not involve loss of the heritage assets whilst the CBA’s conservation team questioned the legitimacy of using the environmental benefits of wind power to outweigh any heritage arguments.

Before the approval was issued the developer withdrew, but the port itself (and indeed the Borough and County Councils) was keen to get planning consent so as to attract alternative investors. Swale now had to accept our argument that any new developer might have very different ideas about how to lay out the site. The demolition applications for the Mast House and the Pumphouse for the dry-docks were withdrawn and outline planning permission for the rest has now been granted. Probably, the case for demolition will be made again should a new developer emerge. The Working Mast House (1826) is one of the few remaining buildings from the time of the re-building of the Royal Naval Dockyard which John Rennie Snr designed. It is a brick-walled two-storey building with a cast-iron internal structure and roof. The

modular scheme developed by architect Edward Holl and perhaps Rennie himself was innovative and must have made for very economic and quick construction. Although parts of the structure are missing, as are many windows, the building still says a lot about the early days of metal-framed structures and the latter days of wooden shipbuilding.

The case raised a number of issues about the balance between public benefits and harm to an important heritage asset. There was also much debate about the value of reconstructing the building on a remote site, divorced from its associated structures, all of which are now hidden from view. The developer successfully argued that it was better to spend money on smartening up the remaining heritage assets in the Dockyard (including the Grade I Boat Store) and providing for some public access to them.

# Placement view from Scotland

Kevin Grant



**Kevin Grant, one of our current Community Archaeology placement holders, tells us about his passion for archaeology, and about the placement with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) in Edinburgh.**

"I'm from the seaside town of Ardrossan in North Ayrshire, which boasts some excellent archaeology ranging from an early Christian cemetery through to a medieval castle and a complex post-medieval harbour and World War Two remains. I attended the University of Glasgow where I gained my undergraduate MA in Archaeology in 2008 and an MLitt in Historical Archaeology in 2009. I followed up my interest in post-medieval rural Scotland by starting a part-time PhD in the subject in 2010 which I've chipped away at while working variously as

a shelf-stacker, commercial archaeologist, and a runner at martial arts events!

I had my first brush with community archaeology when I took part in a project taking school children on heritage boat tours on the Forth and Clyde canal in Maryhill, Glasgow. The Forth and Clyde canal was the world's first sea-to-sea canal and incorporated the Kelvin Aqueduct which was the longest in Europe and the proving ground for the world's first practicable steam-powered vessel, the Charlotte Dundas. I was shocked by how little the local school children knew of the incredible archaeological resource on their doorstep. During my time there I saw that community heritage work could inspire local people to have a more positive outlook about their community, provide opportunities for engaging new audiences with heritage, and potentially aid in enhancing the archaeological record. After this experience I was determined to get more involved in community archaeology and volunteered whenever I could. I was therefore delighted to get my CBA placement at RCAHMS in April 2012.

RCAHMS aims to identify, survey, interpret, and promote Scotland's

historic environment as well as holding several nationally and internationally significant collections, containing over fifteen million objects. RCAHMS also manages Scotland's National Monuments Record. My placement is within the Survey and Recording department, where I'm working with the Communities team seeking to support grassroots community archaeology and encourage wider audiences to engage with Scotland's rich historic environment. One of the key projects I have been involved with has been supporting community archaeology work in the Cairngorms National Park. Workshops on survey, woodland heritage, and historic building recording have all aided in encouraging local community archaeology work. Surveying by local

community groups has begun to enhance the archaeological record and new sites are being discovered and recorded. Upcoming work in schools should also help to engage new audiences with the archaeology of the national park. I've learned a huge amount about community archaeology and benefitted from the archaeological expertise in RCAHMS.

Ultimately, I would like to work within my own community in North Ayrshire to use the amazing local archaeology to benefit the community and the archaeological record."

***The Council for British Archaeology has announced another eight organisations to host Community Archaeology Training Placements from April 2013.***



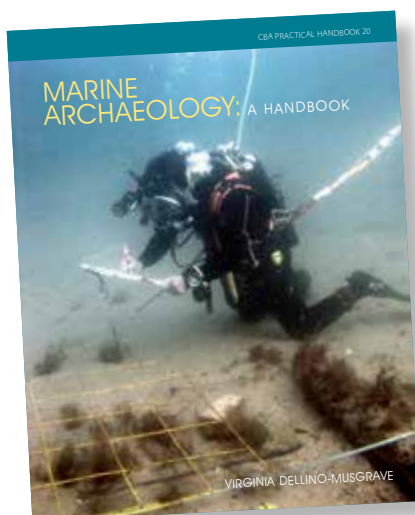
Local community prepare for workshop at Loch Pityoulish, Strathspey.

# Winter warmers

For those who like their archaeology most when it's under water, the CBA's latest publication, *Marine Archaeology* (£12), provides an excellent hands-on insight into this area of discovery and research.

This book is an essential guide for both amateurs and professionals. Written by Virginia Dellino-Musgrave, a leading authority on maritime affairs in archaeology, the handbook navigates readers through the practical issues involved in managing often complex and challenging projects in the marine areas surrounding the UK.

Hot off the presses we also have two reprints in our popular Practical Handbooks series. If you want to learn how to read and understand a building's history through its interior fittings, from spice cupboards to door and window hinges, then *Fixtures and Fittings in Dated Houses 1567-1763* (£8) is a great choice.



We can also help you to decipher Britain's varied and remarkable scenery through *Historic Landscape Analysis*. This handbook introduces some of the techniques that archaeologists, historians, historical geographers and planners can use to unravel the history of the countryside (£12).

All these books and more can be ordered through our website at [www.archaeologyUK.org/books-and-publications](http://www.archaeologyUK.org/books-and-publications).

## Special Offer!

## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? LIVE 2013

Now in its seventh year, *Who Do You Think You Are? Live*, will return to London's Olympia on 22-24 Feb 2013.

This is the UK's leading family history event offering genealogical experts, informative workshops, resources from libraries, museums and archives and all the major online resources as well as dozens of family history societies - all under one roof.

This event gives you unprecedented access to experts from all areas of genealogy providing you with the opportunity to participate in the world's largest family history show.

Tickets are available now at [www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk](http://www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.co.uk) or by phoning 0844 873 7330.

All members of the Council for British Archaeology can benefit from two tickets from just £25\*. Simply quote ARCH2425 when booking.

\*£2 transaction fee applies. Offer ends 8 Feb 2013. Usual on the door ticket price £22.

## FESTIVAL OPENS FOR BOOKINGS

Event registrations are now open for the Festival of Archaeology which will run from Saturday 13 to Sunday 28 July 2013.

Last year we attracted over 1,000 events across the UK which contributed towards our most successful festival ever. Groups small and large were involved from village societies to major national bodies with walks, talks, tours, day schools, hands-on activities and re-enactments. Get involved and register your event now at <http://festival.britarch.ac.uk/organiser/register>



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

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