

NEWS LETTER

Issue 31, Early Winter 2014



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Help to record the archaeology of the Llŷn Peninsula

Volunteers are being invited to visit hundreds of sites across Caernarvonshire during 2014 and upload photographs of them as they are today, along with any comments and observations.

Llŷn Archaeology and History Society are working in partnership with the Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) on this public recording project.

The project marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of RCAHMW's inventory of ancient monuments in the county, Caernarvonshire: West III, in 1964. This much acclaimed inventory used modern ideas of recording, emphasising the importance of fieldwork to create detailed records of sites, with a new emphasis on vernacular architecture. By the end of 2014 the project team hope to have updated recordings of these sites, providing an important snapshot of the surviving archaeological heritage of the Llŷn Peninsula.

The project website includes a digital version of the 1964 publication, displaying the records of sites by parish and site type and giving free public access to the digitised original records, plans and notes. Participants can upload in either Welsh or English for the first time. The website will be live until 31 December 2014. Visit it at:

www.crwydro.co.uk/aberdaron

Heritage Exchange Conference – a second chance

In mid July the CBA's Director attended a conference of heritage sector leaders in London. The aim of the Heritage Exchange event, staged by the Heritage Lottery Fund in partnership with the Royal Society of Arts, was to share ideas about the role of heritage in society and how we can improve its resilience in the future. You can view the speakers' presentations and panel discussions online at:

www.heritageexchange.co.uk

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The late prehistoric site of Castell Odo on the Llŷn Peninsula



PAS to train 500 volunteers

The British Museum has announced that the PAST Explorers project managed by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), with partnership support from the CBA, is to receive a grant of £792,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project aims to create a network of trained volunteers to work with the Scheme's county-based Finds Liaison Officers to identify and record archaeological finds in their local area.

The grant will be used to create new dedicated project posts to train up to 500 volunteers and increase the Scheme's capacity for recording public finds across the UK, capturing and enhancing our archaeological knowledge.



HMS Victory

There is still no firm news on the future of the wreck of HMS Victory which was located in recent years off the coast of the Channel Islands by a US-based marine exploration company searching for treasure. The vessel was the flagship of the Channel Fleet when she was wrecked in the English Channel during a storm in 1744.

In answer to a Parliamentary Question put down in July by the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group, Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, a Government spokesman said that discussions are ongoing with the Maritime Heritage Foundation over the future management of the wreck site, and crucially that 'the Project Plan must be consistent with the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage and its associated Annex.'

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Ministry of Defence have also published guidance, including Key Management Principles, on the Protection and Management of Historic Military Wrecks outside UK Territorial Waters on their website

The CBA is urging the UK Government to ratify the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, in line with the conclusions of an independent report recently published by the British Academy and the Honor Frost Foundation. Ratification will provide the UK with a stronger position in international law to protect wrecks outside the UK Territorial Sea in which the UK has an interest, but without significant negative impacts or potentially expensive consequences.

Read the report here:
www.britac.ac.uk/policy/Protection_Underwater_Cultural_Heritage.cfm

International diplomacy

International conventions play an important role in heritage protection across the globe, but the UK has been reluctant to ratify some key initiatives, which are increasingly becoming recognised in other parts of the world.

HAGUE CONVENTION

The CBA's President and Director were among dozens of signatories from across the heritage sector to a letter published in the Daily Telegraph in July which promoted ratification by the UK of the 1954 Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

The Convention was drawn up following the devastating impact of the Second World War on some of Europe's most valued heritage. Following the 2003 looting of museums and archaeological sites in Iraq, the UK announced its intention to ratify the Convention and its Protocols.

A decade later, we have yet to honour this commitment. The UK is arguably the most significant worldwide military force not to have ratified the Convention.

In 2008 a draft Cultural Property Protection (Armed Conflict) Bill passed through parliamentary scrutiny with only minor revisions suggested. DCMS ministers of successive governments have pledged their commitment to ratification as soon as parliamentary time can be found. Ratification has both all-party and interdepartmental support, and the CBA is continuing to urge the Government to introduce the necessary legislation to ratify this important treaty in advance of the 2015 General Election.

To lend your support to this campaign, write to your MP and encourage them to press the government to take action.



Casualty of war: the Royal Palace in Warsaw following its bombing in 1945 and reconstructed as it would have been.

Archaeology needs you!

Mike Heyworth, CBA Director looks at how the CBA supports students.

Like any discipline, archaeology relies on a regular supply of 'new blood' to bring in energy, creativity and resources.

Fortunately, despite the concerns about recent declines in applications to study archaeology at university, there are still a good number of new students starting relevant higher education courses each year and archaeology has much to offer in terms of transferable skills - even for those who just want a good all round non-vocational degree.

With new development work picking up in the south of England, and major infrastructure projects like HS2 in the offing, there are opportunities for new employment in field archaeology and some of the major contractors are now looking to recruit new staff. A degree in archaeology is the usual starting point for a career in the discipline, although inevitably further practical training is required and is usually acquired 'in the field'.

We aim to provide student members of the CBA with a headstart not just in their studies at university, but also in terms of preparing for a possible career in archaeology - and the skills involved can also be applied in other circumstances to provide an advantage in any job market. Universities are clear that an undergraduate degree in archaeology is not just vocational and provides an ideal platform for many future career options, and the CBA's links

with community archaeology across the UK mean that you can stay involved as a hobby if you wish, whilst pursuing an alternative career.

CBA student membership provides access to cutting edge research and news, as well as case studies and examples of good practice which can be used to enhance assessed work, and provide ideal background material for job applications. There are also opportunities to get involved in field training and other archaeological activities, as well as the opportunity to play a part as a volunteer in the work of local archaeological groups, a local branch of the Young Archaeologists' Club, or regional CBA Groups in England (or national partners in other parts of the UK). We provide online communities for debate and knowledge exchange which everyone can access, for example via email discussion lists, Facebook and twitter and the CBA website.

We are encouraging more young people to get involved with the work of the CBA to add their voice to our campaigns speaking up for the UK's archaeology within the heritage sector, at the local level and in government. We will continue to press for new opportunities for young people to get involved in archaeology, and gain skills and experience to enhance well-being and enjoy the benefits of archaeology for all.

'All passionate archaeology and heritage students should at least become a member of their archaeology society and a CBA Student Member - essential steps for a successful career in archaeology and the survival of archaeology as a whole.'

Jamie Davies, Doctoral Candidate at Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage, University of Birmingham



A Level students from York College planning a skeleton at DIG - ©York College

My journey into archaeology

The paths young people follow to work in archaeology are many and varied: Kerry Massheder-Rigby, one of our recent Community Archaeology Bursary Holders, gives us her story.

“From a young age I knew I would become an archaeologist. I volunteered in museums, on excavations and within offices to gain archaeological experience. Following a BA Hons in Ancient History and Archaeology and an MA in Egyptology at the University of Liverpool I entered the world of commercial developer-funded archaeology. I found I enjoyed being a field archaeologist and was fortunate to work on some interesting sites alongside talented, knowledgeable and supportive archaeologists. I’m now entering the fourth year of my PhD at the University of Liverpool researching the combined investigative approach of site based archaeology and oral history to look at the housing experience of industrial workers.

Whilst studying, I wanted to combine my love of archaeology with my passion for working with young people and I was fortunate enough to be accepted for a Council for British Archaeology Community Archaeology Bursaries Project placement based within the Museum of Liverpool at National Museums Liverpool. This was a fantastic opportunity to gain relevant experience in community archaeology and has led to me becoming an Assistant Leader of the Mersey and Dee Young Archaeologists’ Club and serving on the

councils of the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology and the Merseyside Archaeological Society.

I recently started working as the Heritage Development Officer at Lister Steps in Liverpool, working with the local community to regenerate a Grade II listed former Carnegie library (a project that is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund). I doubt this opportunity would have been available to me had I not carried out the Placement or received the support of the Council for British Archaeology.

The CBA have supported my career in archaeology in a number of ways; via the Community Archaeology Bursaries Project Training Placement they provided me with the funding and supervision to undertake an NVQ in Archaeological Practice and the opportunity to run the Young Archaeologists’ Club branch has enabled me to work with young people in an archaeological setting.

The CBA has also provided me with a number of free training opportunities including a recent workshop on freelancing and funding and plenty of ways for me to network with other archaeologists and like-minded people through their social media and online forums, via my local CBA Group and at the events they run.”

Over 50 recent graduates have been able to kickstart their careers and gain diverse skills and on the job experience through the CBA’s Skills for the Future Community Archaeology Bursaries Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

GETTING A Foothold IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Kerry’s amazing journey demonstrates that there is still a bright future for keen young people to be successful in the field, but we all need to encourage the next generation to take up opportunities to study and get involved in archaeology.

- Give a gift student membership to your children or grandchildren to give them a headstart in their archaeology studies
- Encourage your local university archaeology society to join the CBA as an organisational member, and sign up its members with the CBA
- Volunteer with your local Young Archaeologists’ Club Branch committee to pass on your love of archaeology to young people
- Point budding archaeologists to our online resource library to find out more: <http://new.archaeologyuk.org/become-an-archaeologist/>



Kerry at work at the Museum of Liverpool

Archaeology skills for all

Julian Richards of CBA Wessex and lead archaeologist at Wafa introduces the project.

The Wessex Archaeology Field Academy (Wafa) is an educational initiative of CBA Wessex and grew out of the realisation that our members and many of those who have a fascination with archaeology would love to be able to get involved with its practicalities.

They would like to learn how to 'read' landscapes, how to recognise ancient finds and, most of all, how to dig.

Wafa provides a venue for teaching a wide range of ways of investigating the past within the setting of a long term landscape study. The aim of Wafa is to enable anyone, regardless of age, ability and experience, to gain the skills that will enable them to confidently and responsibly explore the past. Our teaching will all be carried out within the context of a multi-period landscape study of Ash Farm and its surroundings, lying in the shadow of Hod Hill close to Blandford in Dorset. Here we can teach techniques in 'Mick's barn', our cowshed classroom, and then apply them as part of our research.

Wafa has started small, with taught courses and a deliberately small summer excavation, but will develop and grow, responding to the needs of those who come to use it and providing expert tuition (and wonderful cakes) in a friendly environment. The project has been made possible through the generosity of the Russell family who have welcomed archaeology to their

farm and to Alistair Somerville Ford of the Institute of Commercial Management for its start up funding.

When Barry Cunliffe, our Patron, spoke at the launch of the project, he emphasised the unique opportunity it offers of being able to study a whole landscape through time, teasing out the human impact on the environment so that, in decades to come Ash Farm could be one of the best understood landscapes in Britain. As a former CBA President, Barry emphasised the importance of the tradition of amateur involvement in archaeology and how Wafa could give non-professional enthusiasts a chance to contribute to new discovery and research.

READING THE LANDSCAPE

The landscape that we are studying at Wafa lies partly in the valley of the River Iwerne, beneath the huge hillfort of Hod Hill with its superimposed Roman Fort. In the valley bottom lie the medieval settlement remains of the Domesday village of Lazerton, the church being the target of our first small teaching excavation in the summer of 2014.

We already know that the river valley contains earlier Iron Age and Roman settlement remains. Ash Farm itself is 320 acres spanning a typical chalkland dry valley and is largely a blank canvas. Somewhere within it lies another Domesday settlement and metal detecting in the past has produced a number of items of late Saxon metalwork. The sides of the valley show evidence of both prehistoric and medieval cultivation so one of our first

questions is where are the prehistoric settlements?

Our first small exploration of the hillwash soils that have accumulated within the valley have demonstrated huge potential for unravelling the environmental history of the area.

We are only just starting on this journey of discovery - come and join us.

The autumn programme at Wafa will start on 22-23 November with courses on Ancient Woodlands (with the Ancient Technology Centre), Earthwork survey, and fieldwalking and finds identification. Book your place at: www.wafa.org.uk



Our small summer excavation confirmed the location of the chapel and the structural remains. We will be returning next year for a more extensive investigation.

Kiln Conservation

The CBA supports plans to re-use bottle kilns at the former Falcon Works, Stoke-on-Trent.

Stoke-on-Trent is famed for its ceramic production, the industry even giving the collective name to six towns in the area: the potteries. The rich heritage of ceramic manufacture dates back to the early seventeenth century, and by the nineteenth century workshops and kilns populated the towns' streetscapes. Bottle kilns in particular, have a distinctive shape which dominated the skyline: a visual symbol of the heritage of Stoke. But now many of the factories and the associated kilns have been demolished and only a small percentage of the original bottle kilns remain.

FALCON WORKS

The bottle kilns of the Falcon works survive due to conservation several years ago. They currently stand disused along with several workshops on the site. The workshops and bottle kilns have been listed by English Heritage with Grade II status.

Although they survive, the kilns have no current use and no-one conducting regular maintenance. This poses a threat to the listed structures, as their condition is likely to deteriorate over time. Bottle kilns are notably susceptible to water ingress or collapse, as their chimneys require blocking and the curved design puts pressure on the bricks below.

Image courtesy of Potteries Heritage Society.

It is therefore good news that a developer has submitted sensitive proposals for the Falcon Works site, with plans to convert the listed workshops into apartments and reuse the separate bottle kiln building as a bicycle store. The CBA welcomes the imaginative conversion of the bottle kilns, as it would secure a sensible new use and encourage regular maintenance. In fact, we assessed the conversion of the workshops and made suggestions to help retain the significant features of the building.

WORKING WITH LOCAL GROUPS

The CBA consulted local interest group, the Potteries Heritage Society, to see if they were aware of the case. We discussed the application proposals and found similar views: we agreed that the plans were welcome in principle, but points of detail needed to be raised to seek the best for the listed buildings. We each submitted a response to the local council. The two letters complemented each other, with the CBA making national policy points and the Potteries Heritage Society adding local knowledge. We hope these points will not only encourage the reuse, but improve the application so that Falcon Works can continue to stand strong in Stoke's skyline.

If you are involved with a society which responds to listed building applications, please contact the CBA's Listed Building Caseworker - we may be able to support your case.

Email us at:

Casework@archaeologyUK.org





Professor Graeme Barker on site in Libya

Beatrice De Cardi Annual Lecture/ AGM 2014

If you haven't already made a date in your diary, please join us on 10 November at the British Academy in London for our annual lecture in honour of founding employee, Beatrice de Cardi.

Interviewed by The Independent in 2008, Beatrice de Cardi said that 'archaeologists still have opportunities for adventure' but also that 'too many people are over-concerned with dotting all the Is and crossing every T'.

In his Lecture, 'Do we measure up to Beatrice? A British archaeologist abroad', Professor Graeme Barker, Disney Professor of Archaeology at Cambridge will share a lifetime of research across the Mediterranean, the Near and Middle East and South East Asia, reflecting on the role of Britain's archaeologists in world archaeology.

Give the gift of archaeology

Introducing others to the wonderful world of archaeology is the best present you can give this Christmas. Support Britain's archaeology through your Christmas shopping by helping to grow and strengthen the CBA's voice with gift membership for your friends, family and colleagues.

Our Gift membership options include six issues of British Archaeology and our members' newsletter through the door, regular e-news, invitations to explore archaeology at special events and hear world-class archaeologists at our free annual lecture, plus discounts on a range of archaeology products and entry to heritage attractions.

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ARE YOU A FRIEND TO ARCHAEOLOGY?

Choose the CBA as your Christmas charity this year and make a donation to help us continue our important work.

Together with our members, supporters and partners, we help give archaeology a voice and a place in so many people's lives. But in these challenging times of funding cuts and pressure from development, archaeology needs friends and ambassadors to speak out with a united voice. The CBA represents your interests and is the voice of the archaeology community here in the UK - but our future too is uncertain without your help.

By investing in the future of the CBA now, you can help to provide a stable foundation so we can continue to resource our vital campaigning and advocacy work, projects and programmes.

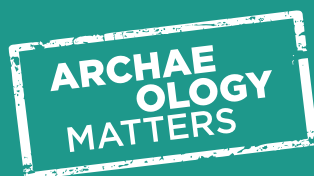
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www.archaeologymatters.org.uk
or call us on 01904 671 417

Beatrice De Cardi House
66 Bootham, York
YO30 7BZ
Tel. 01904 671417
Fax. 01904 671384



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Council for
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www.archaeologyUK.org