

EDITORIAL

The present issue may become a collectible as it is destined to be the final Newsletter to follow the current format. We are considering a new look and design to meet the changing needs of the Society, but rest assured that the quality of the content will be maintained, as we continue to encourage useful insights to new research and events as they occur across Europe.



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CONFERENCES & EVENTS, forthcoming

MARCH: Living in Antiquity:

Interdisciplinary research on aspects of life, economic representation and domestic culture in ancient houses. Workshop at the Archaeological Institute, **University of Hamburg (Germany) 31 March-2 April**. Contact: Andresa Harms, andrea.harms@uni-hamburg.de

Scotland and Beyond: Early Medieval Carved Stones Conference, University of Edinburgh and National Museum of Scotland, **31 March-2 April**. <http://preromanesquestones.wordpress.com/>

APRIL: Castle Studies Group 2011 Conference, Marks Tey, Essex, **7-10 April**. www.castlestudiesgroup.org.uk/

The Inaugural **St Magnus Conference** Kirkwall Orkney **14-15 April**, hosted by the Centre for Nordic Studies, UHI Millennium Institute. www.nordic.uhi.ac.uk

MAY: Shropshire and West Mercia: Recent Discoveries and Research, Royal Archaeological Institute, Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society, and Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, **6-8 May**. www.royalarchinst.org/

The 46th **International Congress on Medieval Studies** will take place at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, **12-15 May**. www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/index.html

International Colloquium of Archaeology in Contemporary Europe (ACE) will present, **The Significance of the Past, the very beginning of Europe? Cultural and Social Dimensions of Early-Medieval Migration and Colonisation (5th-8th century)**, Brussels, **17-19 May**. www.ace-archaeology.eu

Neighbours and successors of Rome: traditions in glass production and use in Europe and the Middle East in the later first millennium AD, hosted by the AHG at the University of York, **19-20 May**. www.historyofglass.org.uk/meetings/html

Fifth Annual Early Medieval Archaeology Student Symposium (EMASS), University of Glasgow, **25-27 May**. www.gla.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/newlinks/emass/
Facebook: 'Early Medieval Archaeology Student Symposium 2011'

JUNE: Rediscovering Glastonbury Abbey Excavations. Symposium **9 June** at Glastonbury Abbey exploring new research into the excavation archives 1908-1979. Denise.Dumbleton@Glastonburyabbey.com, +44 (0)1458 832267.

Vernacular Architecture Group's **tour to Norway, 16-26 June**. www.vag.org.uk/norway2011.pdf

22-25 June University of Liverpool's Centre for Manx Studies and Manx National Heritage, in Douglas, Isle of Man, **New Light on Vernacular Architecture: Studies in Britain, Ireland and the Isle of Man**. Dr Catriona Mackie, c.mackie@liverpool.ac.uk, +44 (0)1624 695 777.

JULY: Medieval Furness: Texts and Contexts, Abbey House Hotel, Barrow in Furness, **8 July**. www.liv.ac.uk/irish/Hagiography/conference.htm

Leeds International Medieval Congress 2011. An interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of all aspects of Medieval Studies **11–14 July**. www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2011_call.html

SEPTEMBER: International conference: Deer and People – Past, Present and Future, University of Lincoln, **8–11 September**. www.nottingham.ac.uk/archaeology/research/conferences/

2011 Deerhurst Lecture: ‘Deerhurst Priory in the later Middle Ages’, by Martin Heale, St Mary’s Church, Deerhurst, **17 September**. <http://deerhurstfriends.co.uk>

OCTOBER: Matter of Faith – a conference in conjunction with the exhibition ‘Treasures of Heaven: saints, relics and devotion in medieval Europe’, British Museum **7–8 October**. www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/events_calendar/toh_conference.aspx

ASIMS Ireland Conference 2011. The American Society of Irish Medieval Studies hosts its first conference in Ireland, at Glenstal Abbey, **7–9 October**. www.irishmedievalist.com

To advertise conferences/events in the Newsletter contact: Dr Oliver Creighton, Dept. of Archaeology, Laver Building, North Park Road, Exeter, Devon, UK EX4 4QE, or email o.h.creighton@exeter.ac.uk

To advertise on the website, email: medieval.archaeology@googlemail.com

CONFERENCE/SEMINAR REPORTS

University College Dublin hosted a conference organised by the INSTAR-funded *Early Medieval Archaeology Project* (EMAP), 26–28 November 2010. **Early Medieval Settlements in North-West Europe, AD400-1100** addressed the organisation of dwellings, settlements and landscapes in terms of social identity. The speakers represented research organisations, museums and excavation units. The conference opened with a keynote address by Chris Loveluck, encompassing a wider geographical scope than would be addressed by the rest of the conference, and offering insight to the

need for informed interpretations of the complexity of continental, as well as British, settlement biographies and social identity.

A session of three regional syntheses of settlement evidence, presenting summaries of the key sites from each region got the main event underway. Finbar McCormick highlighted the wealth of recently excavated early medieval sites in Ireland, and drew attention to the recognition of an emerging diversity among early medieval enclosures, questioning the use of the term ‘ringfort’ in relation to non-circular enclosures. Simon Gilmour discussed cellular structures of Atlantic Scotland, principally figure-of-eight structures, noting that the evidence points to the existence of variation and diversity rather than homogeneity – a theme which was to recur, albeit in an understated fashion, throughout the conference. Mark Redknap considered ‘House and home in early medieval Wales’, again noting the existence of regional variability, and the need to recognise complexity within the archaeological record.

Further papers dealing with Irish enclosures included Michelle Comber’s study of early medieval settlement of the Burren, Co. Clare, stressing a need to study enclosures within the wider landscape, and echoing McCormick’s earlier assertion that evidence for nucleated early medieval settlement in Ireland may exist. Micheál Ó Droma and Jonathan Kinsella’s discussion of two enclosures from Co. Tipperary again raised the question of enclosure morphology and terminology. They highlighted how the scale of recent excavations renders sites more amenable to detailed chronological phasing, for more nuanced understandings of individual site biographies.

Reassessments of power in the landscape were presented by Sally Foster in her discussion of the residences of Pictish power, and Gareth Davies’ assessment of rural elites in Anglo-Saxon Norfolk. The day concluded with a session focussing on structures, including a paper by John Barber and Anne Crone. A more theoretical perspective was taken by Helena Hamerow in ‘The Anglo-Saxon

house: form, function and life-cycle’, which reiterated Gilmour’s discussion of the symbolic power of the hearth. David Griffith presented the most recent findings of the Birsay-Skaill Landscape Archaeology Project. In ‘Viking Age buildings, landscape and status – from Orkney to the Irish Sea’ he took a welcome inter-regional approach which was theoretical in outlook. In the context of Norse settlement of the Northern Isles, his paper raised the issue of identity and the social role of houses. Post-colonial concepts permeated his discussion of Norse adaptation to local practices, indicated by the shift away from Norwegian-style timber construction for local traditions of stone construction. Similar evidence from Viking Dublin indicated that Norse-style structures were constructed using Irish techniques.

The majority of the delegates battled unexpected accumulations of snow to make it back to UCD for the second day of papers, which focussed on ecclesiastical settlement. Lorcan Harney and Thomas Kerr spoke on settlement and activities associated with church sites. Matthew Seaver dealt with burial – particularly focussing on those associated with apparently secular sites. Tomás Ó Carragáin relayed the latest findings of another early medieval INSTAR project, *Making Christian Landscapes*, which was introduced in Newsletter 41.

Subsequent papers by Martin Carver, Chris Lowe, Gabor Thomas and Paul Stevens focussed on monastic settlements throughout Anglo-Saxon England, Scotland and Ireland. Several themes emerged, including discussions of the domestic activities carried out at these sites, and the question of the influence of such sites in the wider landscape. Regionality and variation re-emerged, with Martin Carver asserting the need to question the variation evident in the Christianity of the west in terms of adaptation to preceding local traditions. In the final session Rob O’Hara gave a paper on the evolution of enclosed settlements in Co. Meath from the 6th to the 11th centuries, illustrating the complex changing patterns of settlement morphology. Eammon Kelly gave a detailed account of Irish *longphort* sites, including the results of recent work at

Annagassan, revealing how large some of these sites were. Linzi Simpson in turn reassessed previous excavation evidence from Dublin, suggesting that traces of the elusive *longphort* could be seen in the South Great George’s Street area, and may have extended as far upriver as Kilmainham.

Undoubtedly, this conference marks a time of transition in the study of the archaeology of early medieval Ireland. Attention was repeatedly drawn to the scale of recently excavated early medieval sites in Ireland, with mention of ‘boom’ swiftly followed by an almost obligatory ‘bust’. With a focus on settlement and landscape, the conference highlighted how we can begin to move beyond the banks and ditches of the often fetishised ringfort. Ultimately, the papers suggest progression to more nuanced understandings of the variability and complexity of the past, with the application of a variety of theoretical approaches to the abundant dataset provided by the recent expansion in the Irish archaeological record. The international focus of the conference highlighted the richness of the Irish material to outsiders, suggesting new possibilities of interpretation in the variety of approaches to settlement in other areas of Europe.

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Houses – shaping dwellings, identities and homes. European housing culture from the Viking Age to the Renaissance.

In December 2010, the Section for Medieval and Renaissance Archaeology at the Department of Anthropology, Archaeology and Linguistics, Aarhus University, Denmark, hosted a three-day conference organised by Dr Mette Svart Kristiansen, alongside PhD student Astrid Kieffer-Døssing that was extremely successful. The aim of the conference was to ‘address the rapidly changing forms of living, social background and symbolic content in Europe over 800 years, from 800–1600 AD’ and saw a number of presentations from students and university academics, as well as commercial and museum-based scholars.

The conference had over 50 participants of which there were representatives from the UK, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Italy, Austria and Germany. In total there were 24 papers as well as a poster session, structured into four broad themes; Identities and strategies – tradition and innovation, Regions and Europe, Homes and domestic spaces, and Houses and fixtures. We were fortuitous in having a total of five key-note speakers, with Dr Kate Giles followed by Professor Matthew Johnson opening the conference. Dr Giles suggested that we need to start thinking about material culture and the ‘lived experience’ of individual households and not just think about the design of a building. Johnson began to unpick some of the assumptions and meanings behind words like ‘tradition’, illustrating his point with his recent research at Bodiam Castle.



Conference Group, Århus, by Jacob Christensen Ravn, Fotolmedie afdelingen Moesgård

Unfortunately it is not possible to discuss all of the papers in this review, though all were of a very high standard and presented well. This is particularly noteworthy as all were presented in English, which was a second language for most speakers. The talks ranged from Viking longhouses to Danish Royal housing, from the development of the Dutch townhouse to the concept of a smokeless living room, and recent research on medieval sod houses. A number of papers looked at human spatial behaviour and domestic space in Archaeology; materializing ideas on how to live properly and the way in which wealth and status was displayed.

The conference papers concluded with Professor Else Roesdahl’s address, who also chaired the challenging task of the

final discussion. It looked at the key themes of the conference, and also to the future, to investigate how the study of medieval buildings may develop. Roesdahl observed that the conference had brought together history, ethnography, social psychology and of course archaeology, and it is this that made the conference a great success. By bringing together researchers from different fields who look at the same subject, it demonstrated the importance of taking an holistic approach to studying medieval buildings and to making use of all the resources available. A great number of techniques had been used to investigate the buildings presented; for example the survey of standing buildings, excavation, reconstructions, use of finds and the use of 3D-modelling. Interestingly, some of the themes that emerged from the three days were regionality, the importance of looking beyond our own borders and to looking to Europe as a whole, while not forgetting the role theory has to play.

Throughout the conference, the hospitality was excellent and everyone was made to feel extremely welcome. A personal highlight was a twilight stroll through the buildings at a snow-covered Den Gamle By, followed by a traditional Danish feast in an 18th century barn. It is hoped that the papers from this conference will be published, and it was particularly encouraging in the closing discussion to see support for repeating this conference at some point in the future.

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Durham Medieval Archaeologists (DMA) Research Seminar Series 2010: Current Archaeological Projects and Research in Northern and Eastern Britain AD 400–1500.

The DMA has just completed a successful research seminar series that promoted current and ongoing archaeological projects in northern and eastern Britain AD 400-1500, running from June to December 2010. Keeping students and staff on the cusp of innovative medieval research, speakers were invited from various professional archaeological bodies and institutions

and covered a fascinating breadth of topics and chronology.

Since its inception, the DMA postgraduate-led group, supported by staff, has initiated and completed a series of events that have promoted medieval archaeology at Durham University to a wider interdisciplinary audience. The 2008–9 workshop, ‘Sensory Perceptions in Medieval Society, AD 450-1600’, identified the need for a greater focus on the variety of material culture as a basis for understanding sensory experiences and engagements. Recognising this, the 2010 seminars provided a research arena in which undergraduates, postgraduates, early careers and staff could engage in informed discussions on new finds, sites and approaches to material culture.

The DMA seminars ranged from early medieval ceramics and the Danelaw (Dr Duncan Brown), funerary archaeology at the Street House 7th-century cemetery (Dr Mark Simmons), settlement archaeology with the Lanton Quarry early Anglo-Saxon settlement (Dr Clive Waddington), and the Bamburgh Research Project (Dr Graeme Young). These projects were complemented with a thematic discussion by Dr Vicky Crewe (Sheffield University) on the reuse of prehistoric monuments in early to middle Anglo-Saxon settlements. New archaeological evidence was reported for Medieval Hungate (Dr Jayne Rimmer) and the pillar of Eliseg in North-East Wales (Prof. Howard Williams). Standing Buildings Archaeology was also promoted in the series with PhD research on the archaeology and conservation of the East Front of York (Alex Holton, York University), bell towers of Lincolnshire (Prof. David Stocker), a new corpus of Scottish parish churches (Prof. Richard Fawcett) and the biography of the Hirsell: an estate, church and cemetery (Prof. Rosemary Cramp).

Despite the occasional blizzard, the series was well-attended and made up of Durham students and staff of medieval archaeology and visiting research students from the Universities of York and Newcastle respectively. Demonstrating the vibrancy and interdisciplinary nature of archaeology, the series was also attended by research

students and staff members from the history and anthropology departments.

Three key points emerge from this series: the importance of the study of newly discovered sites and new approaches to material culture in order to develop our knowledge of Anglo-Saxon society; the importance of the study of standing buildings in order to explore the meaningful and multiple roles of religious structures; the value of collaborative archaeological work and to strengthen formal links between professional archaeological bodies and researchers at universities.

The committee, Lisa Brundle and Emma Wells, would like to thank the Rosemary Cramp Fund and The Graduate School Conference and Event Grants (Durham University) for their financial award and support of this project. For future DMA initiatives please contact: archaeology.dma@durham.ac.uk.

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SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

The Impact of Diasporas on the Making of Britain: evidence, memories, inventions (IDMB). The Leverhulme Trust has awarded £1.37 million for an ambitious, multidisciplinary research programme, focusing on Britain in the first millennium AD. It is based at the University of Leicester, and draws on additional expertise from the Institute for Name Studies at the University of Nottingham. The programme runs for 5 years from January 2011, and includes provision for the employment of five post-doctoral Research Associates, each for a period of up to four years, beginning in October 2011. The posts are advertised in March 2011. The Research Associates will work closely with the Research Team, comprising a project manager and permanent academic staff from the Universities of Leicester and Nottingham. A PhD studentship is also available, to be based in Nottingham.



The IDMB Research Programme is unusual for its multidisciplinary

approach and the interdisciplinary character of the projects that will be undertaken by the Research Associates. It aims to investigate the impact of ancient diasporas on the cultural and population history of Britain, and the role of received histories of those diasporas in constructing identities in Britain, past and present. Its geographical and chronological focus is Britain in the first millennium AD but the individual projects may range more widely in seeking to understand patterns in the evidence. The programme is driven by the concurrent interdisciplinary projects undertaken by the Research Associates, each of which seeks to combine information and methodologies from two or more of the following disciplines: history, onomastics, linguistics, social psychology, genetics, or archaeology.

The six research projects are as follows:

1. *Surnames and the Y-Chromosome*, Dr Turi King (project manager) – genetics & history.
2. *Modelling Migration* – population genetics, bioinformatics, statistics, computing, historical demography.
3. *Genetics and early British population history* – human molecular genetics, population genetics, bioinformatics, computing, archaeology.
4. *Immigration and indigenism in popular historical discourses* – sociology, archaeology, history.
5. *Dialect in Diaspora: linguistic variation in early Anglo-Saxon England* – historical linguistics, history.
6. *Home and Away in early England* – history, archaeology, Old English literature.

A PhD project, 'People and Places' is also being offered under the supervision of Dr Jayne Carroll, based at the Institute of Name Studies at the University of Nottingham.

Each project uses evidence and ideas from more than one discipline to ask new questions of the evidence and to develop new methodological approaches to the study of the impact of deep-time diasporas in ways not yet achieved in the scholarly and popular literature. Cross-disciplinary collaboration and

communication is structurally embedded in the Research Programme, to encourage new ways of thinking about old evidence and to interrogate old assumptions in the light of new data. Key to the research programme is the synergy created by a critical mass of scholars working simultaneously on interrelated projects, and the potential for innovation created by unconventional intellectual proximity. The research programme seeks to develop best practice for pursuing research that crosses the traditional boundaries between science and humanities.

The Leicester Research Team comprises: Dr Jo Story (PI) and Dr Richard Jones (School of Historical Studies, both currently on the SMA Council); Dr Simon James (School of Archaeology and Ancient History); Dr Philip A. Shaw (School of English); Prof. Mark Jobling and Dr Turi King (Department of Genetics); Prof. Steve Brown (School of Management). The eighth member of the Research Team is Dr Jayne Carroll from the Institute of Name Studies (University of Nottingham).

www.le.ac.uk/diasporas

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The Fields of Britannia

The 5th century is one of the most important, yet ill-understood, periods in British history. One group of scholars – Romanists – have tended to study the fate of late Roman Britain, while another – early medievalists – have focused upon Anglo-Saxon sites and artefacts that characterise the archaeological record of eastern England in the 5th to 7th centuries. There has also been a considerable body of scholarship into the origins and development of the later medieval landscape, and in particular when and why villages and open fields were created. It is now widely recognized that although there was some Anglo-Saxon immigration into eastern England in the 5th century, Saxon expansion in the west consisted of political conquest rather than mass folk migration, and that the landscape continued to be settled by the native British population. Even in the east of England, Anglo-Saxon

immigrants and their descendants were probably in the minority. This native British population is, however, barely visible in an archaeological record that is dominated by burials and settlement sites whose character is distinctively Germanic (furnished pagan burials and settlements with *Grubenhäuser* etc).

The Fields of Britannia Project, funded by a major grant from the Leverhulme Trust (introduced in Newsletter 42), aims to redress several of the imbalances in the archaeology of this period by focusing on the whole landscape, as opposed to individual settlement and burial sites, and as a result will look at areas settled by both native British communities and Anglo-Saxon immigrants. There are three main areas of research:

1. *Field systems*, studying the extent of possible continuity or discontinuity in the physical fabric of the countryside by examining the relationship between late Romano-British landscapes and their medieval successor.
2. *Land-use*, an analysis of palaeoenvironmental evidence in order to determine patterns of continuity or discontinuity in land management practices.
3. *Settlement patterns*, to what extent there was continuity or discontinuity in settlement patterns in different regions of Britain.

The project area is the whole of late Roman Britain (i.e. south of Hadrian's Wall).

The development of field systems

There will be two strands of research into the development of field systems in this period: an examination of the relationship between dated late Roman features and the historic landscape, and a review of the dating evidence of co-axial field systems in areas such as East Anglia. Work on the first of these is now under way with published and unpublished excavation reports having been collected for a pilot area covering Gloucestershire and Somerset. This early work has revealed some significant evidence for the continuity of field systems. In the clay vales of Gloucestershire, for example, 65% of excavated Romano-British field ditches are aligned with, or share the

same orientation as, boundaries within the historic landscape, while the figure for the Cotswolds is 71%. A key question to address is whether this strong degree of correlation is found elsewhere across Roman Britain.

Palaeoenvironmental research

The study of palaeoenvironmental sequences has traditionally been focused on prehistory, with the historic period being neglected due to a perceived lack of suitable deposits and problems with accurately dating sediments that were prone to mixing, erosion, and degradation. In recent years, however, the refinement of radiocarbon dating and the development of multidisciplinary approaches towards specific archaeological sites and broader landscapes have provided a wealth of data that can be usefully deployed to examine local, regional and national variations in land-use and the natural environment. Early palaeoenvironmental analysis focused on upland environments due to the better preservation of organic components including pollen, plant macrofossils and charcoal. This imbalance in palaeoenvironmental research has started to be redressed through the identification and sampling of discrete lowland mires that allow the complementary study of broad 'off site' sequences with 'on site' assemblages of animal bones and charred/waterlogged plant remains. The aim of the palaeoenvironmental research component of the Fields of Britannia Project is to reconstruct patterns of land-use within the various regions of late Roman Britain, and to see whether or not these changed in the early medieval period.

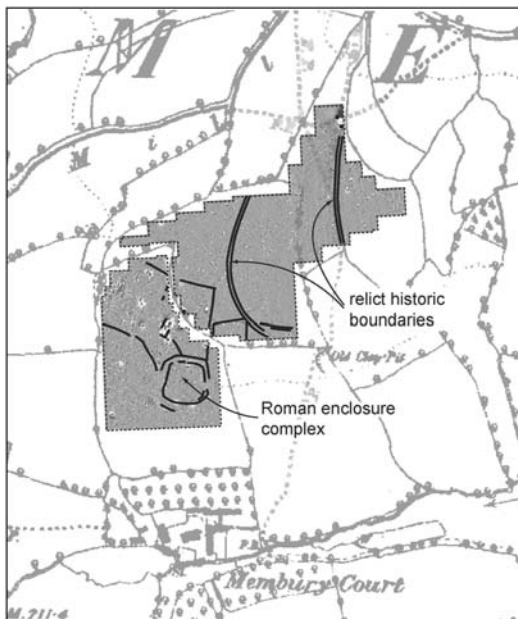
Settlement patterns

The research into settlement patterns will be carried out as part of a studentship included in the Leverhulme Trust grant. In the past there has been much discussion of the possible evidence for continuity of occupation on individual Romano-British settlements, but the focus here will be very different in taking a more landscape-based approach and examining settlement patterns as a whole. A number of case study areas spread across Roman Britain will be examined using a comprehensive assessment of

excavation and field-walking reports alongside other data in Historic Environment Records.

Two case studies

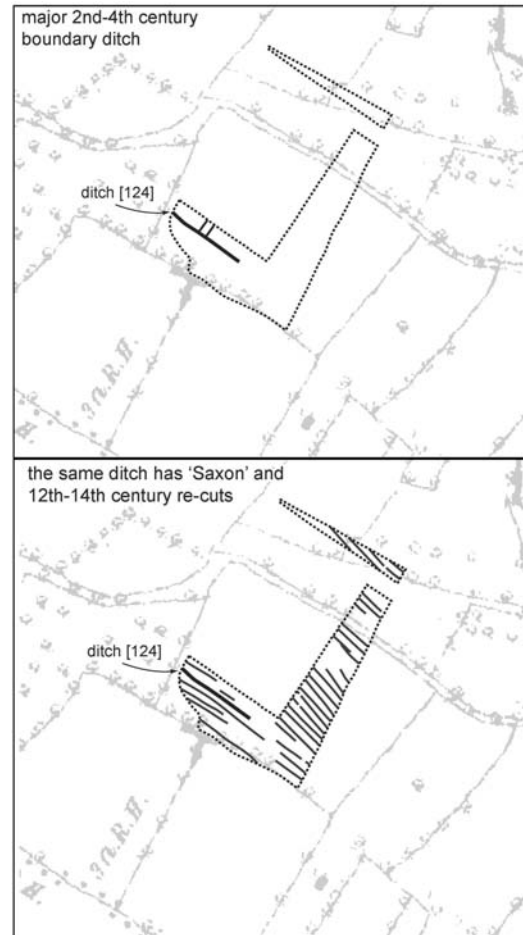
On- and off-site palaeoenvironmental data from two sites in Gloucestershire and Devon demonstrate distinct variation in the landscape and land-use during the Roman to medieval transition period. Based on a pollen sequence from Aller Farm in Stockland, on the Blackdown Hills in Devon, the late Roman landscape appears to have been characterized by managed woodland on the steeper slopes and agricultural land on the valley sides. In the 5th and 6th centuries we might expect to see an expansion of woodland in the upland fringe landscape, but there appears to have been some clearance reflected in an increase in grass, dock, and ribwort plantain.



Membury Court, Devon

The landscape was predominantly open with a trend towards pastoral husbandry and areas of arable cultivation alongside patches of woodland. The post 7th-century sequence at Aller Farm is not securely dated but the valley bottoms became dominated by damp scrub species including willow and sedges, while on the valley sides there was very little woodland, which consisted of a little alder scrub and hazel, and evidence of both pastoral and arable agriculture increased (Hatton and Caseldine 1992).

The Romano-British settlement at Membury Court, which the project team has recently mapped using a fluxgate gradiometer (see figure), lies nearby in the same valley. It may have been during this late 1st millennium change in land-use that the medieval/present field systems around Membury Court were laid out, which is reflected in the way that the historic landscape of today is on a different orientation to the Romano-British enclosure system.



Brockworth, Gloucestershire

At Brockworth, in the Vale of Gloucester, the dominance of grassland herbaceous plant species suggests that the 2nd- to 4th-century landscape was predominantly open and supported a mixed agricultural economy with a preference towards cattle rearing. One of the late Roman ditches (feature 124) was re-cut in the early medieval period (this re-cut containing 'Saxon' pottery), and was re-cut again in the 12th to 14th centuries. Ridge and furrow was oriented with this boundary ditch, and the persistence of the feature suggests there

may not have been a significant period of abandonment of the landscape (see figure; Hickling 2007).

These two sites show examples of discontinuity and possible continuity between the Roman and historic landscapes. As the *Fields of Britannia* project progresses we will hopefully find out what the story was across the different regions of Roman Britain.

References

Hatton, J. and Caseldine, C. 1992, 'Vegetation change and land use history during the first millennium AD at Aller Farm, East Devon as indicated by pollen analysis', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society*, 49: 115–21.

Hickling, S. 2007, 'Land to the west and south of Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth, Gloucestershire'. Unpublished report, Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service Report.

<http://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/archaeology/research/britannia.shtml>

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The Ecology of Crusading: the environmental impact of Conquest, Colonisation and Religious Conversion in the Medieval Baltic is a European Research Council funded project directed by Dr Aleks Pluskowski and hosted by the Department of Archaeology at the University of Reading. The project began in October 2010 and will conclude in October 2014, with a budget of €1.2m. The core team consists of the PI and seven post-doctoral research associates: Dr Alex Brown (palaeobotany), Dr Krish Seetah (zooarchaeology), Dr Lisa-Marie Shillito (geoarchaeology), Prof Daniel Makowiecki (zooarchaeology), Dr Marc Jarzebowski (history), Dr Kaspars Kļaviņš (history) and Dr Juhan Kreem (history). The team is supported by a collaborative network involving colleagues from the University of

Reading, the University of Tartu (Estonia) the University of Toruń (Poland), the University of Białystok (Poland), the University of Latvia (in Riga) and the castle museums in Cēsis (Latvia) and Malbork (Poland). All radiocarbon dating is being conducted by the Scottish Universities Environment Research Centre (SUERC). With the support of an application integrating multiple environmental archaeology databases with written sources and a GIS interface, the project will employ cutting edge and experimental techniques to produce significant outputs for international academic and public domains.

The aim of this project is to investigate a fundamental dimension of the transformation of north-eastern European societies during the expansion of medieval Christendom. In the 13th century, crusading armies unleashed a relentless holy war against the last indigenous pagan societies in Europe: tribal groups in the eastern Baltic region. Tribal territories were replaced with new Christian states, run by the Teutonic Order and individual bishops – virtually unique in Europe. They constructed castles, encouraged colonists, developed towns and introduced Christianity. At a time of deteriorating climate, their impact on the local environment, especially plants and animals, would have been profound. Recent pilot studies leading up to this project have suggested the period of crusading and colonisation coincides with a marked intensification in the exploitation of plant and animal resources, but with variation across the eastern Baltic. Since many aspects of the natural world were sacred to the Baltic tribes, this impact would be synonymous with the cultural changes that created a new world – a European world – at this frontier of Christendom. The project objectives are framed as four key research questions.

1. How were local environments in the Baltic region transformed from the 13th–15th centuries with the establishment of castle sites by crusading institutions?

The project will gauge the impact of establishing and maintaining a military order castle in varying social and environmental contexts during this



Alex Brown coring the moat at Cēsis castle (Wenden), central north Latvia

crucial period by constructing detailed ecological sequences for select castle sites in the Kulmerland, the commandery of Marienburg and east Prussia (north Poland), the commandery of Wenden (central Latvia) and the commanderies of Fellin and Karkus (south Estonia). These sequences will be reconstructed from recovered ecofacts – environmental macro- and micro-fossils at these sites and their hinterlands, as well as cores from suitable peat deposits and sedimentary basins. Written sources relating to provisioning and changes in land-use within the hinterlands of these sites will be examined separately and synthesised with archaeological data.

2. How were wild and domestic fauna appropriated at and around sites associated with crusading institutions in the Baltic, and to what extent did this reflect ideology and adaptation to local ecology? The project will investigate whether military order sites had a distinct ‘biological signature’ and the degree to which this reflected institutional ideology and local adaptation. This will involve the analysis of faunal assemblages recovered from both earlier/ongoing excavations and from samples taken during the project, as well as related written sources. These will be used to reconstruct dietary preferences, butchery

technology, provisioning and changing biodiversity. It is widely recognised that the Order and its Livonian branch had an efficient administrative and economic structure, as well as a cohesive ideology, but to what extent did castle garrisons adopt a consistent approach to exploiting their local environment and how did this fit with regional systems of provisioning, trade and communication? To what extent did they manipulate or adapt to local environmental contexts?



Lisa-Marie Shillito taking samples from the hillfort next to Cēsis castle (Wenden), which was occupied as the castle began to be constructed by the Sword Brothers

3. How did the process of Christianisation, in part driven by the crusades of the Teutonic Order and other institutions in the Baltic, change the way indigenous pagan groups conceptualised the natural world? The project will explore the extent to which the cultic role of animals, plants and natural features changed from the 12th to 15th centuries. This will be assessed from trends in the continuity or decline of animal, plant and landscape use in ritualistic and funerary contexts, both in the hinterlands of project sites and at regional levels. Ecological perspectives of religious conversion have proven to be essential to understanding this fundamental cultural process in Scandinavia, and are rapidly growing in the Baltic. Here it will be possible to investigate the role of specific castle communities in suppressing pagan cult activity where it was embedded in the landscape, particularly within the context of associated environmental transformations. These will be situated within regional trends; archaeological evidence suggests the variable continuity of pre-Christian practices in rural Estonia, Livonia and north-east Prussia.



Dave Thornley and Chantel Summerfield conducting a magnetometry survey in the outer bailey of Karksi castle (Karkus) in south Estonia

4. *What can the ecological impact of the crusades on the physical and conceptual landscapes of the medieval Baltic inform us about the process of colonisation, animal and plant exploitation and resulting cultural changes in other regions of Europe?* The aim of this enquiry is to provide an interpretative framework for military order institutions in the Baltic which can be readily extended to other crusading frontier regions, most importantly Lithuania and subsequently to Iberia and the Middle East, as well as to studies of colonisation within the context of political and mercantile dominion, such as Venetian colonisation in the late-medieval eastern Mediterranean, high medieval Swedish colonisation of Finland and English colonisation of Wales in the late 13th century. This will be achieved through some initial comparisons, but the framework is primarily aimed at supporting new and existing research programmes.

Fieldwork is due to start in the spring 2011. Further information can be found on the website, www.ecologyofcrusading.com

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NEWS & VIEWS

As we go to press, the financial distress facing Ireland is taking its toll on research funding within Archaeology. The Heritage Council, which has promoted research actively in recent years, has had to prioritise its grant-aid programmes to support capital works to

heritage under threat and creation of employment. The Heritage Research Scheme has been of significant assistance to archaeologists but will not be funded in 2011, and the coveted INSTAR scheme is significantly reduced. The dramatic downturn in funding opportunities is forcing the wider profession to re-evaluate every sinew of its existence. Hopefully a reinvented and reinvigorated discipline will emerge.

On a more positive note, readers may find the 3D-modelling of medieval sculpture from Co. Offaly of interest, bringing multi-dimensionality to the comfort of your own cursor; see www.offaly.ie/eng/Services/Heritage/Digital_Media/Archaeology_3d/Download_3d_scans_of_Offaly's_carved_stone_and_structures.html

Limerick and South-West Ireland: Medieval Art and Architecture edited by Roger Stalley is The British Archaeological Association's (BAA) Transaction 34, due out in April (Maney 2011).

SOCIETY NEWS

Rise in subscriptions and means of payment, to take effect April 2011. In recent years the Society has seen a rise in its costs due to the increased size of the journal (and increasing amounts of colour), the increased size of the newsletter, the growing number of monographs, and special activities such as making back issues of *Medieval Archaeology* freely available online and other events marking the Society's 50th anniversary, including a substantial subsidy for the resulting monograph. General running costs (auditing, Committee travel expenses, etc) are also rising, and the currently very low interest rates mean that we have to dip into our reserves to fund Research Grants. There are also a number of planned initiatives that will require funds including improving the website and publishing an Index for volumes 51–5. This level of activity means that we have to raise our subscriptions to a level comparable to other learned societies. The previous rise in subscriptions was in 2003. There is an expectation that there will be no further increase in individual subscriptions for at least three years.

	UK/EU		Rest of World		USA	
	current	proposed	curr.	prop.	curr.	prop.
Personal	£25	£35	£30	£42	\$53	\$74
Student	£15	£20	£20	£27	\$35	\$47
Retired	£20	£28	£25	£35	\$43	\$60
Family	£25	£35	£30	£42	\$53	\$74

Full list of revised subscriptions

Means of payment

Members of the Society currently pay their subscriptions in a variety of ways, which proves complex to administer. Significant numbers of members pay the Society by Standing Order, and many of these do not reflect the last rise in subscription. From 2011, the method of paying the Society by Standing Order will no longer be available. It will be replaced by Direct Debits payable to Maney Publishing who administer and maintain our membership list. If you currently pay the Society by Standing Order, please contact your bank and cancel this arrangement. Please then establish a Direct Debit using the form on page 4 of the membership application form available on the Maney website: <http://maney.co.uk/index.php/journals/med/>

When setting up your Direct Debit, please note that this is replacing your existing standing order and is to be from 2011 (Vol. 55 of *Medieval Archaeology*). Should you have any questions about setting up the Direct Debit or if you prefer to use an alternative method of payment, please visit the Maney website for further information or contact Customer Sales and Services at: subscriptions@maney.co.uk; phone +44 (0)113 386 8168.

Stephen Rippon
Treasurer

Society for Medieval
Archaeology

Website www.medievalarchaeology.org

The website continues to improve. Send us your comments: medieval.archaeology@googlemail.com

Notice of AGM

Notice of the Annual General Meeting will be included in the Autumn Newsletter. As this can arrive at various

times for the membership because of different postal efficiencies which the Society cannot control, notice will also be posted on the Society's website to ensure that members can be alerted to the details in a timely manner.

OBITUARIES

The contribution of Jean LePatourel will be remembered in Newsletter 46.



Geoff Egan, on London Bridge

The unexpected death of **Geoff Egan** (1951–2010) has deprived archaeology of its foremost British scholar of later medieval and post-medieval metal objects. Geoff became well known in the 1990s as the principal contributor to two substantial Museum of London catalogues, based on the quantities of new material brought to light by excavations. He was generous in sharing his knowledge, through personal contacts, lectures and a stream of papers. In particular, he showed that we had neglected the importance of play-things for children when considering 'miniatures' and 'models'. Geoff served on the Council for Medieval Archaeology (2001–2003) and contributed to the journal on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) finds (2007–2009) and to the 50th Anniversary volume. PAS secured his full-time services in July 2010, which in turn strengthened the medieval and later academic base of the British Museum, if only for a few months.

At Geoff's installation as Master of the Guild of Arts Scholars, Dealers and Collectors (2009) – the first time a

professional archaeologist had been elected as a Master of a guild within the City of London – he singled out his year in Oxford (1977–1978) on an in-service scheme over and above his *alma mater*, Cambridge. The guild events of 2009–2010 emphasised archaeological and museum themes, when there were chances to explain what archaeologists did with a special focus on antiquities from the Thames. These were displayed by the Society of Thames Mudlarks at the 800th anniversary of London Bridge and at the annual lecture of the Guild given by Geoff in October 2010 culminating in a handling session by the audience, including representatives of the City Companies.

He will be greatly missed.

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Martin Welch who died on 6 February 2011 was a noted figure in the world of early medieval archaeology. He studied Modern History at Oxford and completed his D.Phil there on the subject of early Anglo-Saxon Sussex under the supervision of Sonia Hawkes. The results were subsequently published as a booklet on the cemetery at Highdown Hill and a BAR volume in 1983. Martin took up a post at the Ashmolean Museum in 1973, and in 1978 moved to University College London as a Lecturer in Medieval Archaeology, which at that time was based in the History Department. He later moved to the Institute of Archaeology across the road when it was incorporated into UCL.

He published many papers, particularly on Anglo-Saxon metalwork in south-east England and its relationship with continental finds. His work on the finds from the cemeteries of Appledown in Sussex and Norton in Cleveland were published as books. Many students would have been acquainted with his volume, *English Heritage Book of Anglo-Saxon England*. It is unfortunate that he did not live to see the volume of papers in his honour, *Studies in Early Anglo-Saxon Art and Archaeology*, edited by his former students, Stuart Brookes, Sue Harrington and Andrew Reynolds.

Mark Gardiner and Andrew Reynolds



Martin Welch

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Dave Evans has informed us of the death of **Gareth ‘Gaz’ Watkins** in 2010, a well-published pottery specialist of Hull and Humberside.

GRANTS AND AWARDS



A Lion sitting atop a re-used Corinthian marble capital in the North-East Tower of Caesarea (Photo by Amanda Charland)

A Medieval Archaeology Research Grant 2010 totalling £500 supported doctoral research into the function of Crusader-era town defences, which is examining the degree to which social function is represented, in addition to the more obvious defensible roles. The grant assisted with travel to the study area in the Levant, where data was gathered from the gates and walls at Jerusalem, the defences of Ascalon and the moat and towers of Caesarea.

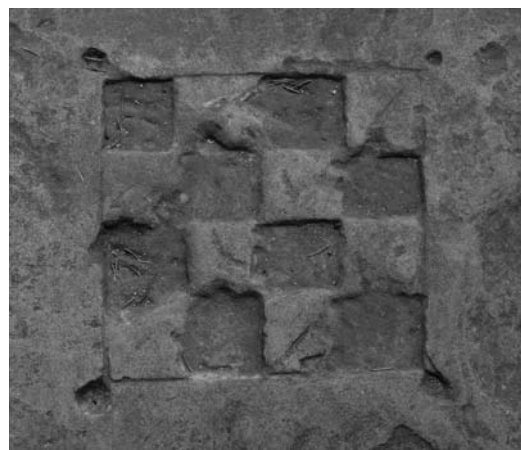
The Council for British Research in the Levant's (CBRL) Kenyon Institute in Jerusalem served as a research base between June and July. In addition to being able to use their extensive library, it was possible to travel from there to each site to record the changes in architectural design, period, and building materials with particular interest in colour and material change. Photographs, sketches and a journal of observations formed the basis of the research archive being generated. It includes over 1200 photographs and the observation that several defensible structures also contain unexplained decorative elements such as the Frankish carved lion sitting atop a spoliated Corinthian marble capital in Caesarea's north-east tower.

I wish to acknowledge the generosity of the Society for Medieval Archaeology as well as the CBRL, and the University of Glasgow's History of Art Department for helping fund this research. I would also like to thank Terence Christian (University of Glasgow) for accompanying me to Ascalon and helping with the photographic survey.

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Aspects of the Material Culture of Medieval Board Games. During 2010 a grant from the Society's Medieval Archaeology Research Fund facilitated attendance at a conference in Paris and to undertake several field trips to record predominantly graffiti board games.

The conference was the XIIIth Board Game Studies Colloquium, held in April in Paris. I gave three papers at this conference, two of them collaborations (with Dr Katherine Forsyth on *fidcheall*

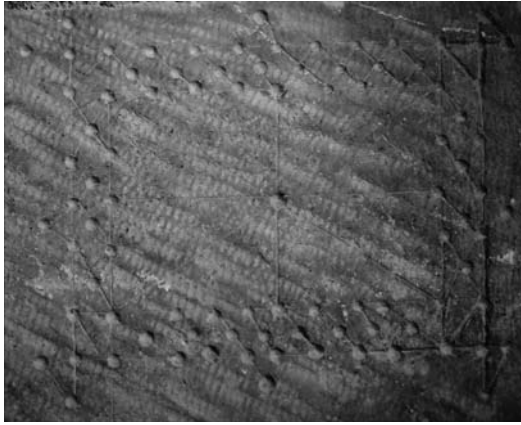


Detail of board East Cloister Salisbury Cathedral

and its British cognates and with Dr David Caldwell on the Lewis gaming hoard) and the third dealing with a significant element of UK gaming material culture, gaming pieces made of jet. The range includes dice, counters/tables-men, chess pieces and possibly *hnefatafl* pieces. To date there are no examples of jet gaming pieces recorded for the Continent. As far as chess pieces are concerned they are almost all abstract pieces and they come in both plain forms and forms decorated with tin-inlay motifs. One of the dice is of particular interest. Excavated at Sheffield Manor it dates to the late 15th century and is unique in several respects. It is of longitudinal, hexagonal form and (of course) made of jet. The nearest parallels are bone and ivory dice of a similar form from the Middle East and India and used in various board games of the tables group.

The other key aspect of the project was to assess and photographically record graffiti board games in the cathedrals of Salisbury and Lincoln. Cathedral and monastic cloisters are typically places for such graffiti but not at Lincoln, where the medieval cloister was substantially re-developed in post-medieval times. Lincoln does though have examples of such board games incised on the stone benches of the nave and in proximity to shrines (including Little St Hugh) and possibly the work of pilgrims. There are also examples in the upper clerestory at Lincoln, most likely the work of masons.

Salisbury Cathedral proved itself a classic example of a cloister filled with gaming



Lincoln cathedral clerestory walkway

graffiti. The cloister zone is where canons relaxed over board games (something confirmed by one of the cloister-set ghost stories of Caesarius of Heisterbach) and many of the Salisbury boards are not lightly incised, ephemeral graffiti but deeply incised, well-executed designs for repeated use. Salisbury also shares with Lincoln pilgrimage-related graffiti, including several board games incised on the tomb of St Osmund. More broadly what these two study-visits (added to others) made clear is that there is a huge palimpsest of graffiti in cathedrals and churches that have been largely overlooked for too long by archaeologists. They have much to tell us about the medieval period and its re-invention by subsequent generations.

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For information on how to apply for a Society grant/award, see our website www.medievalarchaeology.org

MEDIA AND EXHIBITION

Irish High Crosses: exhibition of casts

As they enter stage-centre from the darkened 'foyer' onto the down-lit stage most visitors emit an involuntary gasp: 'wow'. In this cavernous display space, the visitor becomes part of the chorus to the six stars of the National Museum of Ireland's (NMI) temporary exhibition at Collins' Barracks, Dublin. Those stars are the theatrically lit casts of high crosses: North and South Crosses, Ahenny; Tall [6.5m] and Muiredach's Crosses, Monasterboice; Drumcliffe and Dysart O'Dea. The seventh player is the cast-off mould of South Ahenny North,

lying prone like the armour of a fallen hero. Long, vertical banners behind each cross show each original cross in its landscape context and enhance the theatrical impact.

'Locked away', to quote Peter Harbison, since the 1970s, recognition of the significance and interest of the NMI's plaster-of-paris casts, dating from 1896–1908, was re-ignited by a request from the highest of political offices for their display at the 2005 Expo in Japan. Around two million people saw them. The present exhibition, scheduled to close at the end of June 2011, is the second time they have been put on display since their return. In addition to the main casts, the display includes a sample of the moulds – a rare survival – and copies of fine metalwork and manuscripts that were produced for museums and for sale at around the same time, as well as papier-mâché moulds of early medieval sculptures made by antiquarian Henry Crawford and the resultant casts. On departure, a silent effective video introduces current technology used for scanning sculptures.

Interpretatively, there are two main themes: telling the story of the creation of the casts, putting this in the context of 19th- early 20th-century interest in making reproductions of ancient objects to educate, and the part these played in international fairs and early museum displays; and telling a story about the original sculptures, mainly from an art-historical view, focussing on the iconographical content of the crosses. Photographs of the sculptures *in situ* (including the banners) and of early church sites contextualise these large artefacts/monuments. Peter Harbison enthuses eloquently about the importance of the original cross-slabs and the cases in a video running in one of the smaller exhibition spaces *en route* to the main display space.

A colourful and glossy A4 booklet is excellent value at €6. Its content derives almost exclusively from the exhibition's information panels (with some minor reordering of panels and their text), plus views of the exhibition itself. At the time of writing, the NMI is planning to add a PDF of this to their website: www.museum.ie/en/exhibition/irish-high-crosses.aspx

Such an exhibition illuminates the cultural biography of the casts as well as the original monuments, revealing how much we still have to learn (e.g. about cast technology), and illustrating the significance and future potential of such material, a fragile resource that curators and others have not always recognised for its enduring importance.

The exhibition has reignited my interest in casts and prompted me to begin a project on casts/replicas of early medieval material from Scotland. Please contact me if you are aware of collections and/or documentary sources relating to these, particularly in local museums, art schools etc, on 07581 751 074 or email.

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Redisplay of the Late Antique and Early Medieval gallery at the British Museum

Curators at the British Museum are working on a complete redisplay of Room 41, the Late Antique to Early Medieval gallery. The new gallery will display *Europe and the Mediterranean from AD 300-1100* and contain outstanding material such as the finds from the Sutton Hoo boat burial, the Lyncurgus Cup, the Projecta Casket, the Domagnano and Cuerdale Treasures and the Fuller Brooch, to name but a few examples. The project is made possible through a generous donation by Paul Ruddock FSA, who also supported the recently opened *Paul and Jill Ruddock Medieval Gallery* at the British Museum.

The concept stage for the new gallery is underway and the opening date is scheduled for late 2013. The current gallery will be closed from 5th September this year, while a selection of highlights will be displayed in Room 2, where changes in the Museum's gallery spaces are show-cased.

The new gallery will take a synoptic overview of the whole of late antique and early medieval Europe and beyond, from the Atlantic to the Black Sea and from North Africa to Scandinavia, thus reflecting the unique riches and breadth of the British Museum collections, which are among the most important in the world in view of both geography and chronology.



The Fuller Brooch shows allegorical depictions of the five senses. Late 9th century, silver and niello

The period covered was one of great change in numerous ways, including the movement of people, political geography and religious beliefs. The gallery will range from the Late Roman and Byzantine Empires via the Migration Period, rise of Islam and Viking Age to the consolidation of Europe after the Norman Conquest in Britain and with the foundation of the Holy Roman Empire on the Continent.

Sutton Hoo will take centre-stage as the focal point around which the rest of the gallery will circulate and to which it will relate. As well as giving the Sutton Hoo material greater prominence within the Museum, the repositioning will also provide a gateway into the diverse cultures featured in the rest of the gallery, with particular regional and chronological emphases in different sections. Along with developing a more coherent narrative for the collections as a whole, the aim is to bring out some of the star objects more effectively than is possible at present.

The project will be based in the Department of Prehistory & Europe at the British Museum, with Dr. Sonja Marzinzik FSA, curator of the Insular Early Medieval Collections, as the lead curator. Enquiries should be directed to smarzinzik@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk or to the assistant project curator, Sue Brunning sbrunning@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk.

Sonja Marzinzik

Demons, Saints and Material Culture: adventures in Medieval Germany

Essen and the wider Ruhr conurbation or 'Ruhrpott', in Westphalia, Germany, was European City of Culture in 2010. The Westphalian State Archaeology Museum (LWL) staged an exhibition about the Ruhr's medieval past. *AUFRUHR 1225! Ritter, Burgen und Intrigen Das Mittelalter an Rhein und Ruhr- '1225 Knights, Castles and Intrigue, the Middle Ages in the Rhine and the Ruhr'*, ran from 27/02 to 28/11 and attracted well over 100,000 visitors. A big event in German medieval politics – the assassination of Archbishop Engelbert I of Köln in 1225 – demanded and got a big exhibition determinedly unconfined by the walls of the Museum. The exhibition wove a focussed narrative with a tight chronology (1216–1301) into a broader, contextual story told primarily through archaeology. The main narrative begins with a reconstruction of the murder of Engelbert, ambushed on a forest road south of Herne on 7/11/1225 before addressing both the background to and the consequences of the murder. The background was a dispute between Engelbert and his relative, Friedrich Count of Isenberg, over control of the Protectorate of the Essen Chapter of Noble Women, whose abbess, Adelheid, sought to take a middle course between the two, a dispute mired in a wider net of sacred and secular politics and family ties. The exhibition dealt with the immediate aftermath of the murder (11/1225), the trial of Friedrich, *in absentia*, in Nuremberg (9/12/1225); Friedrich's failed attempt to win ecclesiastical support in Liège (02/1225) and Rome (Spring 1225) after which he was anathematised; the culting of Engelbert with shrines on the site of his murder and at Köln Cathedral, becoming a very popular but unofficial saint; Friedrich's capture and execution (14/11/1225); the fight to recoup some of Friedrich's inheritance (c.1230); the limited success of his son Dietrich in doing so (c. 1244); Dietrich's ill-starred war with the City of Dortmund (1270–71); the 'Battle of Knights', Worringen, 1288, which saw the defeat of the Archbishop of Cologne and his allies; before concluding with the death of the last of the Isenberg's, circa 1301.

The source-critical narrative of elite power politics is contextualised by a wide range of themes including the structures of secular and ecclesiastical hierarchies, travel, pilgrimage, knightly culture, crime and punishment, the growth of towns, the cult of Engelbert, expansion in castle-building and the way that the story has been told differently over the centuries (but largely in favour of the biased church account).

It is presented in a main gallery. Two smaller galleries deal with castle life and the great density of castles in Westphalia.

Within the main gallery and that dealing with castle life, a refreshing degree of immediacy and personality was achieved through the use of free-standing, life-sized steel silhouettes of the leading figures (Engelbert, Friedrich and his lady, Countess Sophia, Adelheid, *et al.*) and some generic characters (the King, the Prince, the knight, the peasant, the pilgrim, the messenger, *et al.*), each over-printed with a first person narrative explaining who they were. It framed the story imaginatively as something of a 'CSI' case, suggesting the whole thing is much less clear-cut than biased church sources have always sought to demonstrate. The exhibition caught the ambiguity of saints' cults: Engelbert's cult might be said to have failed in international terms, but there were almost as many unofficial saints as official ones (including, for example, St William of Perth – whose cult was only practiced in Rochester – and St John Schorn), and their localness and more limited numbers of practitioners did not deem them failures.



Build your own castle wall (Photo M A Hall, with permission from LWL Museum, Herne)

One of only two great helms that survive from medieval Europe is on display –

that from the Abbey of Seckau dated to c. 1350 (the second being that of the Black Prince in Canterbury Cathedral). The silver-gilt head of Frederick Barbarossa; a large array of humble-looking knightly toys; the royal sceptre of Richard of Cornwall and a comprehensive selection of ceramic vessels forming the castle kitchen are also included. The exhibition presented its story and objects very much rooted in the local landscape but also fully in touch with the wider European context. Engelbert's murder took place in woods south of Herne and many of the castles survive in the succeeding industrial landscapes.



Medieval Herne re-emerges from Industrial Herne (Photo M A Hall, with permission from LWL Museum, Herne)

The principal individuals operated within the local landscape but also on an international stage, as indeed did a wider mass of the population: both demographics are represented by the material culture in the exhibition (though the elites more-so), two contrasting examples being the 1220 sceptre of Richard of Cornwall, who gave it to Aachen Cathedral treasury once he had been elected Holy Roman Emperor and a selection of pilgrimage souvenirs from various European shrines (including a Becket ampulla excavated in Perth).

The exhibition was supported by a wealth of activities and accessories, including a concise exhibition guide (though sadly not bi-lingual as the main exhibition text) and a film showing the making and the

installation of the exhibition. Most spectacular was the construction of a full-scale motte with timber palisade and keep adjacent to the Museum, and based on archaeological evidence from several sites.

The castle worked in its own terms as a piece of interpretation (with some concessions to Health and Safety) and added terrific atmosphere to a two-day, well-attended medieval Christmas fair, including tournaments and lots of warming *glühwein* to help combat the freezing weather.



Motte and keep (Photo M A Hall, with permission from LWL Museum, Herne).

The lasting impact will be made by the splendid and weighty catalogue (over 600 pages), illustrating and discussing a huge range of material. Under the chief editorship of Brunhilde Leenen, a huge array of German scholars write about the German medieval landscape and material culture in the region defined by the Rhine and Ruhr rivers, following the themes set out in the exhibition but developing them in significant ways. The catalogue is structured in two parts, 18 essays followed by a catalogue in 12 sections (mirroring the structure of the exhibition). It is splendidly illustrated throughout.

My interest in medieval gaming has taken me down the valuable and separate by-way of depictions of gaming in stained glass. *Vidimus* is the on-line newsletter of the Stained Glass Society. The July/August 2010 issue includes a note on a thriller by Helen Grant, *The Glass Demon*. Very much aimed at teenagers, it tells the story of 17-year old Lin (the book's narrator) and her encounter with a medieval demon haunting some "lost" medieval stained glass. Her father is a medieval historian at Oxford University who takes his family to the Eifel region of Germany to find and publish the notoriously long-lost stained glass from Allerheiligen Abbey, the work of glass-master Gerhard Remsich.



Glass demons of Steinfeld Abbey (Photo © Roger Roswell)

The model for this imagined glazing is one of the real glass schemes of Remsich, that of Steinfeld Abbey and its own chequered, lost-and-found history (*Vidimus* 35, www.vidimus.org/archive/

[issue_35_2009/issue_35_2009-04.html](http://www.vidimus.org/archive/issue_35_2009/issue_35_2009-04.html)). Some of the glass was famously re-discovered by M R James in 1904, and inspired one of his own ghost stories, *The Treasure of Abbot Thomas*, which has partly inspired this latest story. It does have a degree of Jamesian atmosphere but other influences are at work (including the author's studies in Oxford, her time in the Eifel and the serial-killer medievalism of the film *Seven*). In the end the glass and its demon are more of a Hitchcockian McGuffin than the unexplained supernatural, a came-like superstructure to the real story of a 17-year old girl's coming of age in a disfunctioning family. The colour-mix includes the understated, wry, black pigment of academic rivalry in medieval history. It is a fun read with an unexpected and moving emotional reconciliation, which uses the medieval past and its study creatively, without perverting it.

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FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome submissions relating to current research projects in Ireland, the UK and on the continent, and ask that submissions do not exceed 800 words, with conference reports to be within 500 words.

Please do not embed pictures in Word/text files but do send pictures/plans as separate high quality JPEG files. Send to Newsletter Editor, e-mail: niall@discoveryprogramme.ie

The due dates for receipt of copy are:
Spring Newsletter: 15th February
Autumn Newsletter: 15th August

THE SOCIETY FOR MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY MONOGRAPHS

- 1 G Bersu and D M Wilson (1966) *Three Viking Graves in the Isle of Man*
- 2 F W B Charles (1967) *Medieval Cruck-building and its Derivatives*
- 3 P A Rahtz (1969) *Excavations at King John's Hunting Lodge, Writtle, Essex, 1955-57*
- 4 A L Meaney and S C Hawkes (1970) *Two Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries at Winnall, Winchester, Hampshire*
- 5 H E J Le Patourel (1973) *The Moated Sites of Yorkshire*
- 6 G T M Beresford (1975) *The Medieval Clay-land Village: Excavations at Goltho and Barton Blount*
- 7 H Clarke and A Carter (1977) *Excavations in King's Lynn, 1963-1970*
- 8 J G Hurst (general ed) Wharram. A Study of Settlement on the Yorkshire Wolds, vol I: D D Andrews and G Milne (eds) (1979) *Domestic Settlement I: Areas 10 and 6*
- 9 C M Mahany, A Burchard and G Simpson (1982) *Excavations at Stamford, Lincolnshire, 1963-69*
- 10 P Mayes and K Scott (1984) *Pottery Kilns at Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton*
- 11 J G Hurst and P A Rahtz (general eds) Wharram. A Study of Settlement on the Yorkshire Wolds, vol III: R D Bell, M W Beresford and others (1987) *The Church of St Martin*
- 12 D Austin (1989) *The Deserted Medieval Village of Thrislington, Co Durham: Excavations 1973-1974*
- 13 V L Yanin, E N Nosov, A S Khoroshev, A N Sorokin, E A Rybina, V L Povetkin and P G Gaidukov (1992) *The Archaeology of Novgorod, Russia*
- 14 K Parfitt and B Brugmann (1997) *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery on Mill Hill, Deal, Kent*
- 15 D Gaimster and P Stamper (eds) (1997) *The Age of Transition: the Archaeology of English Culture 1400-1600*
- 16 D A Hinton (2000) *A Smith in Lindsey: the Anglo-Saxon Grave at Tattershall Thorpe, Lincolnshire*
- 17 S Lucy and A Reynolds (eds) (2002) *Burial in Early Medieval England and Wales*
- 18 S T Driscoll (2002) *Excavations at Glasgow Cathedral 1988-1997*
- 19 P Mayes (2003) *Excavations at a Templar Preceptory. South Witham, Lincolnshire 1965-67*
- 20 J Hines, A Lane and M Redknap (eds) (2004) *Land, Sea and Home*
- 21 W D Klemperer and N Boothroyd (2004) *Excavations at Hulton Abbey, Staffordshire 1987-1994*
- 22 K Giles and C Dyer (eds) (2005) *Town and Country in the Middle Ages: Contrasts, Contacts and Interconnections, 1100-1500*
- 23 S M Foster and M Cross (eds) (2005) *Able Minds and Practised Hands: Scotland's Early Medieval Sculpture in the 21st Century*
- 24 A Saunders (2006) *Excavations at Launceston Castle, Cornwall*
- 25 C Gerrard with M Aston (2007) *The Shapwick Project, Somerset. A Rural Landscape Explored*
- 26 C Caple (2007) *Excavations at Dryslwyn Castle 1980-95*
- 27 C Scull (2009) *Early Medieval (Late 5th-early 8th Centuries AD) Cemeteries at Boss Hall and Buttermarket, Ipswich, Suffolk*
- 28 G Beresford (2009) *Caldecote. The Development and Desertion of a Hertfordshire Village*
- 29 N Edwards (2009) *The Archaeology of the Early Medieval Celtic Churches*
- 30 R Gilchrist and A Reynolds (eds) (2009) *Reflections: 50 Years of Medieval Archaeology, 1957-2007*
- 31 I H Goodall (forthcoming 2011) *Ironwork in Medieval Britain: an Archaeological Study*
- 32 R C Barrowman (forthcoming 2011) *The Chapel and Burial Ground on St Ninian's Isle, Shetland: Excavations Past and Present*