

# Medieval Archaeology

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY FOR MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY

## Working rural buildings in the medieval North Sea region: construction, function and appearance

Professor Dr. Haio Zimmermann, University of Hamburg, presents  
The Society for Medieval Archaeology Annual Lecture, 2012



Reconstruction drawing showing an early medieval farm at Dalem, Elbe-Weser triangle, by Karl Lehnert.

Professor Zimmermann's lecture will deal with the evolution of farm buildings from the Early to the High Middle Ages in the North Sea region. The transition from earthfast building with posts set in postholes to post on sill or on padstone is one of the most significant developments in construction. The change took place at almost the same time in most areas north of the Alps. Prof. Zimmermann will deal with important functional units of the farm, including the byre, granary and helm. He will stress how close co-operation between archaeologists and experts dealing with still-standing early buildings is so important. He will consider how trustworthy early Flemish and Dutch art is as a source for the appearance of buildings and for the different levels of lower and higher hierarchy.

Prof. Zimmermann has excavated extensively in Lower Saxony, including on the early medieval site of Flögel and the early to high medieval site of Dalem. He has published a major study on the interpretation of the development from ground-set post buildings to those set above ground. He has been particularly interested in interpreting the often enigmatic plans of structures in terms of their function as farm buildings. He was until his retirement director of the Lower Saxony Institute for Coastal Research and since 2005 has been professor at the University of Hamburg. He is president of Ruralia, the Jean-Marie Pesez Conferences on Medieval Rural Archaeology.

The lecture will take place on **Monday 3rd December** at 6:25pm in the Lecture Theatre, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY, following the Society's Annual General Meeting.

A wine reception will follow and all are welcome.

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The business of the Society makes up important elements of the present issue, and it is particularly notable that our Annual Conference is being re-ignited, with a most suitable and engaging theme. The Autumn issue traditionally features the various medieval Group reports and, once again, members will see how busy and how enjoyable our work and play is, while Mark Hall reveals further how the wider public sees and understands this complex period of our past.

Niall Brady  
Newsletter editor  
e-mail: [niall@discoveryprogramme.ie](mailto:niall@discoveryprogramme.ie)

The Society for Medieval Archaeology annual conference series is being relaunched in 2013 when we will meet on 20-22 September at the University of Nottingham, to discuss the theme **Transformations and Continuities in the Eleventh Century: Archaeology of the Norman Conquest.**

See page 7.

The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland's latest project – the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) – has recently completed its first phase and is now available at [www.scottishheritagehub.com](http://www.scottishheritagehub.com).

The website outlines the current state of knowledge and promising future areas of research regarding all periods of Scotland's past. It is designed to be continually added-to and improved by all those involved in Scottish archaeology. Covering all periods of human presence in what is now Scotland, the development of ScARF's medieval period (taken here to mean roughly AD400 – AD1500), was overseen by Mark Hall and Professor Neil Price. Putting ScARF together was an enormous amount of work – the medieval report alone was contributed to by over thirty individuals from across a range of specialisms, and reviewed by many more. All of their hard work and enthusiasm was given for free, which makes the successful completion of the project all the more impressive.

The medieval report, as with the others, is divided by theme rather than chronologically, including The idea of Scotland, Lifestyles and Living spaces, Mentalities, Empowerment and Parameters. Each theme covers the whole geographic region of modern Scotland and ends with a set of research recommendations that it is hoped will help to inform future research ideas and agenda setting. There are also currently eight Case Studies that help to give a deeper understanding of certain aspects of these themes.

The medieval report can be downloaded as a PDF file, but is also available to read online either sequentially or searched directly. Missing subjects and information can be suggested as additions by any registered user: so if there is an aspect of the Scottish medieval you feel is missing please let us know! Links to existing online resources, including CANMORE site records, bibliographies and library and museum collections, allow

the reader to navigate as detailed a journey as they like through Scotland's past. The nature of the resource has allowed the use of excellent full colour images, ranging from the rich colour of the Murthly Hours folio through the intricate beauty of glazed tiles to the more grisly skeletal evidence for the Battle of Good Friday. The web resource also contains 'added extras' such as spreadsheets, databases, videos and interactive maps. The medieval report currently has a downloadable database of medieval archaeological sites in Scotland, compiled as the basis for panel deliberations.

ScARF will be fully launched in January 2013. This will be marked by the publication of a full colour booklet presenting some of the exciting stories derived from ScARF to the wider public and promoting archaeological research. Plans for future improvements include enabling registered users to more easily contribute photos and videos of research and excavations, an interactive timeline, greater incorporation of social media and tailoring content for mobile devices. ScARF will continue to be developed and updated, and suggestions for future additions are welcomed.

ScARF has already begun to play a key role in decision-making and research planning in Scotland and will continue to provide an independent source of advice. From the website going live in June, until mid-October, ScARF has been visited by in excess of 5,000 individuals from over eighty countries viewing over 34,000 pages of information. We aim to build on this: please take part by visiting [www.scottishheritagehub.com](http://www.scottishheritagehub.com) and contributing ideas or comments. There is now also a Twitter feed for the project, @scarfhub, so please follow us or continue to check the Society website for updates!

**Jeff Sanders**  
[scarf@socantscot.org](mailto:scarf@socantscot.org)



Seal matrix from Dunstaffnage Castle. The design, representing lordship, bears a local symbol of martial nobility; a west highland galley. © S. Campbell.

Examples of worked bone found at Udal (a multi-period settlement in North Uist). From the left – four Early Medieval (Pictish) bone pins, the next three are Viking, with the four on the right being from the Norse or late Norse period. Although there are differences, the similarities in styles across these phases are more striking, pointing to a complex relationship between incoming Norse and local communities. © Beverly Ballin Smith.





# CONFERENCE / SEMINAR REPORTS

## Timber Castles, Castle Studies Group, October 2012

A one-day event held in UCL and organised by Jeremy Cunningham, was arranged to mark the twentieth anniversary of the seminal book *Timber Castles*, by Philip Barker and Bob Higham, which is about to be republished by Exeter University Press. Three of the 'Greats' presented; Brian Davison, whose reconstruction drawings illuminate many publications, discussed his soon-to-be-published Late Saxon/Early Norman site, Sulgrave in Northamptonshire. Derek Renn reviewed the evidence for the iconic motte at South Mimms, formerly in Middlesex, now Greater London. The third of the 'Troika' was by the surviving author of *Timber Castles*, Bob Higham. He presented the evidence for the siege work called Danes Castle, just outside Exeter's medieval city walls, and concluded that it was probably constructed in 1136, when the royal castle of Rougemont was besieged.

There followed masterly reviews of castle studies in England by Oliver Creighton, and in Scotland by Richard

Oram. Chris Caple discussed recent excavations of the 12th-century Nevern Castle in Wales. Another excellent overview was by Kieran O'Connor, while Cormac McSparron discussed the long settlement history of an early medieval site at Drumadoon, Co. Antrim, refortified by the Anglo-Normans in the late 1200s. Emma Arbuthnot explained how difficult it was to identify medieval ringwork castles in Ireland, and she rehearsed the chronology and the role that such early timber castles played in the Anglo-Norman invasion. The final paper, by Tom McNeill, was based on his recent article in the *Archaeological Journal*, where he argues for critical examination of the many uses of mottes in the different lordships of Eastern Ireland. Creighton concluded the day by chairing a lively and provocative discussion.

**Terry Barry**  
tbarry@tcd.ie

## Ceramics on the Edge

MPRG Annual Conference, Manx Museum, Douglas, Isle of Man, June 2012

The Manx Museums in Douglas hosted four days of lectures and urban and rural field trips under the able guidance of Peter Davey. The conference focused on those parts of Britain, Europe and further East (to Afghanistan) which can be regarded as on the very edge of known ceramic production.

An overview of the archaeology and history of Man was a useful primer for those who had not visited the island before. It was followed by papers that summarised evidence for medieval ceramic production and distribution in southern Ireland, leading to a consideration of the knotty problem of medieval ceramic production and consumption on the Scottish West Coast and Islands. There was an important overview of Iain Crawford's unpublished assemblage from the Udal, and there was discussion of pottery assemblages from the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland and the theme of marginality from a southern Welsh perspective. Delegates saw excavated pottery from Man and the excellent galleries of the museum.

Discussions moved east on the second day, with intriguing overviews of pottery from the Baltic, Norway and Sweden. We focused on Lodose, a forgotten medieval trading town in

southern Sweden whose excavated assemblages remain to be properly assessed and identified (perhaps a future conference venue...). Central Europe was represented by papers on the Low Countries, Albania, Rumania and Afghanistan, while the 18th and 19th centuries were touched on by contributions on pottery manufacture at Buckley North Wales, the impact of the production of industrial ceramic production on the Scottish Highlands and Islands and the use of ceramics as a statement of wealth and status in the cottages of Western Britain and Ireland.

The conference is one of the most successful meetings the MPRG has held for many years. A selection of the papers may be published in *Medieval Ceramics*. The international approach proved most useful, and a number of new younger delegates were present, helping to dispel notions that research and discussion of ceramics is the preserve of the 'usual suspects'!

The Isle of Man is highly recommended as a place to visit; complete with wonderful archaeology to enjoy.

**Derek Hall**  
derek.hall1@blueyonder.co.uk

Photograph by Derek Hall  
MPRG delegates being shown around St Patrick's Isle, Peel by Peter Davey



### Website

www.medievalarchaeology.org  
The website continues to improve.  
Send us your comments:  
medieval.archaeology@ gmail.com

### Apply for a Grant

The Society is in the happy position of being able to offer grants for research and for travel. For information on how to apply for a Society grant/award, see our website www.medievalarchaeology.org

### Current Officers

President:..... Mark Gardiner  
Secretary:..... Dawn Hadley  
Treasurer: ..... Stephen Rippon  
Journal Editor: ..... Sally Foster  
Asst. Editor:..... Oliver Creighton  
Reviews Editor:..... Neil Christie  
Monographs Editor:.. Chris Gerrard  
Newsletter Editor:.. Niall Brady  
Website Editor:..... Amanda Forster

# Society News

## Notice of the Annual General Meeting

To be held at 6pm on Monday 3rd December 2012 in the Lecture Theatre, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY  
(tube – Euston Square, Warren Street, Goodge Street)

*Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served from 5:15pm in the A.G. Leventis Gallery*

### Agenda

- 1 Minutes of last Annual General Meeting
- 2 Elections of Officers and Council

The following nominations have been received:

For re-election:	Hon. Secretary	Prof. Dawn Hadley
	Hon. Treasurer	Prof. Steve Rippon
For election:	Vice-President	Raghnall Ó Floinn
	Hon. Editor	Dr Oliver Creighton
	Members of Council	Dr Rory Sherlock
		Dr Elizabeth Shepherd Popescu
		Dr Duncan Sayer
3 Election of auditors	Bronsens, 267 Banbury Road, Oxford	
4 Revision of the constitution		
5 Treasurer’s report		
6 Editor’s report		
7 Secretary’s report		
8 Prizes		
9 Any other business		
10 Date of next meeting		

### Annual Lecture

The AGM will be followed by the Annual Lecture (at approximately 6:25pm) by Prof. Dr Haio Zimmermann, University of Hamburg  
‘Working rural buildings in the medieval North Sea region: construction, function and appearance’

### Wine Reception

The annual lecture will be followed by a wine reception, at which the Society’s most recent monographs will be launched.

Prof. Dawn Hadley, Honorary Secretary

2/ it was / 07/3/ in 1957  
 THE SOCIETY FOR MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY ~~has been~~ <sup>was</sup> founded <sup>in 1957</sup> to further  
 the study of British history since the Roman period by (a) the publication of a journal, <sup>Medieval</sup>  
 of national and international standing dealing primarily with the material evidences, <sup>Arch</sup>  
 and (b) various other means, for example by holding an annual week-end conference  
 outside London. The founders of the Society believe ~~that it has long been~~ <sup>that it has</sup> desirable  
 to co-ordinate the work of archaeologists and historians <sup>and it is hoped that the</sup>  
 Society ~~will provide~~ <sup>will</sup> provide a medium for such co-ordination, within the medieval period, by  
 means of its journal and its meetings. <sup>The Society has received considerable</sup>  
 support both in Great Britain and abroad and <sup>its</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>fast becoming</sup>  
 recognised as a society of international standing. 3/9  
 7 which e  
 The Society has received considerable support both in this country and abroad on the  
 and has been favourably noticed in the press. Within the first few months of its incep- March  
 tion more than two hundred members have joined. The officers and council cordially  
 invite you to become a member of the Society by paying the appropriate subscription  
 for the ~~year ending 31st March, 1958~~ <sup>year ending 31st March, 1958</sup>, to the Hon. Treasurer, 67 Gloucester Crescent,  
 London, N.W.1.  
 annual /  
 The ~~subscription~~ <sup>subscription</sup> to the Society and to the Journal for ordinary members is £2 2s.;  
 for bona fide students under the age of twenty-five £1 1s.; and for two members of  
 the same household £3 3s. (entitling them to full privileges of membership and one  
 copy of the Journal jointly). The payment of a subscription immediately confers full  
 privileges of membership. A form of application for membership and a banker's order  
 is attached. <sup>Back numbers of the Journal of the Society, Medieval</sup>  
 Archaeology, are obtainable from the Treasurer at £2.2s each.

Detail from an early announcement of the activities of the Society for Medieval Archaeology, setting out its scope and activities (Photo: Jeff Veitch, Durham University).

## Changing the Constitution

The constitution which still regulates the Society's business is more or less the same document that was drawn up when the organization was founded in 1957. The need to look at this again arose out of a simple question from one member of Council. It soon became apparent that the constitution did not provide very much guidance on that issue, nor on a great many others. It was no longer adequate for present needs and it was time to overhaul it thoroughly.

The Council of the Society has spent much of the past year establishing the basic principles for a new constitution. We wanted it to reflect current practice in the way we operate, and to cover situations which might arise in the future. It also had to comply with charity legislation. In drawing up a revised constitution, we were advised by Adrian Babbidge of Egeria, a company which works with heritage bodies. Adrian also has experience of bodies like ours, having served as Treasurer for the Royal Archaeological Institute.

The most striking thing about the new constitution – and perhaps the most discouraging thing – is that it is much longer than the old one. It may lack concision, but it does provide much firmer grounds for guiding the Society for the future.

The Society now has considerable assets, which are invested to provide funding for grants and to support our programme of publications. However, with such assets comes a responsibility to ensure that the money is managed appropriately with proper safeguards. The new constitution has also been worded to comply with the Charity Commission's requirements.

We have posted the new constitution on the Society's website and we will be asking the Annual General Meeting in December to adopt it. Members without access to the internet may request a copy of the revised constitution by application to the Secretary (Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield, Northgate House, West Street, Sheffield, S1 4ET) (email: [d.m.hadley@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:d.m.hadley@sheffield.ac.uk)). Questions or queries about the constitution may be sent to the Secretary by 1st December. We believe that the new constitution provides a secure basis for running the Society, if not for the next fifty years, then at least for the foreseeable future.

**Mark Gardiner**  
President



# News & Views

## Finance

A small number of members are continuing to pay an out-of-date subscription as they have not cancelled their old Standing Order and made an alternative means of payment (preferably a Direct Debit to Maney, or payment by cheque to Maney). In many cases the underpayment is such that we are making a loss on the membership as it does not cover the cost of printing and sending the journal and newsletter. Another small group of members are paying their subscriptions twice as they have failed to cancel their old Standing Orders having set up a new Direct Debit: in the past the Society has refunded the over payment and reminded members to cancel their Standing Orders, but this is getting administratively

burdensome. The Society's Council has therefore reluctantly decided that:

- members whose subscriptions are for an out-of-date amount (i.e. are under-paying) will no longer receive the journal (they must cancel their out-of-date Standing Order, pay the amount that is outstanding, and arrange a new form of annual payment (either a Direct Debit or cheque payable to Maney)),
- members who pay twice will no longer receive a refund.

**Professor Stephen Rippon**  
Honorary Treasurer

## Back issues, discounted stock

The Society for Medieval Archaeology and Maney Publishing are pleased to announce a sale of printed back issues of *Medieval Archaeology* for a reduced price until **31 December 2012**. Members of the Society for Medieval Archaeology will have exclusive access to the special offer during this limited period, with issues priced at £10 for UK members and £15/\$25 for overseas members. From January 2013 the price of back stock issues for Society members will return to the standard £17.50 for UK members and £22.50/\$30 for overseas members. Please note that all prices include postage and packing.

The following issues of *Medieval Archaeology* are available for purchase (please note that the copies are not necessarily in pristine condition and cannot be returned unless there is a fault with the contents, such as missing or misprinted pages).

Some issues have limited availability so order at your earliest convenience to avoid disappointment.

4, 5, 6/7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, and 53.

Issues of *Medieval Archaeology Index* are also available for purchase for the same price:

1-5; 6-10; 11-15; 16-20; 21-25; 26-30; 31-35; 36-40; 41-45; and 46-50.

If you would like to place an order, please contact Maney Publishing's Subscriptions' Department at [subscriptions@maney.co.uk](mailto:subscriptions@maney.co.uk); Tel: +44 (0)113 386 8168, stating which issue(s) you would like to purchase.

## New Associate Editors, for Medieval Archaeology

Our Associate Editors form a 'virtual board' of advisers whose main function is to support the Editor in the delivery of an internationally respected, peer-reviewed journal whose content is of international significance and interest. In addition, they act as ambassadors for the Society, aiming to increase international readership of its journal (and other publications) and to increase its membership base.

Stepping down at the December 2012 AGM after five years, the Society (its Hon Editor in particular) extend grateful thanks to **Professor Andrea Augenti**, Università di Bologna-Dipartimento di Archeologia (sede di Ravenna); **Dr James Barrett**, University of Cambridge; **Cormac Bourke**, Belfast; **Dr Richard Gem**, OBE, Mentmore; **Dr Heinrich Härke**,

University of Reading; **Dr David N Parsons**, University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies; **Professor Neil Price**, University of Aberdeen; and **Professor Ian Wood**, University of Leeds.

The following have very kindly agreed to be the next Associate Editors: **Dr Umberto Albarella**, University of Sheffield; **Professor Anders Andrén**, Stockholm University; **Professor Florin Curta**, University of Florida; **Professor Jim Crow**, University of Edinburgh; **Dr Kieran O'Connor**, National University of Ireland, Galway; **Dr Julian Munby**, Oxford Archaeology; and **Professor Nancy Wicker**, University of Mississippi.

# Society for Medieval Archaeology Conference, 20-22 September 2013, University of Nottingham

## Transformations and Continuities in the Eleventh Century: Archaeology of the Norman Conquest

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The Society's annual conference series is being relaunched in 2013 when we will meet and hold a conference centred on the eleventh century, with a particular concern with Norman expansion. Speakers will be encouraged to address the problem of recognizing in archaeological terms the Norman Conquest of England, or to consider the archaeology of the Normans in other parts of these islands and on the continent. The conference is expected to examine the full range of material culture: landscape, environment, settlements (rural and urban), buildings, fortifications, churches and religious houses, burial, sculpture, artefacts, pottery, dress and diet. It is expected that speakers may conclude in some cases that this was a period essentially of continuity, and that in other areas of enquiry they will identify changes, large and small. Can these developments be linked with the political and social upheavals that are traditionally associated with Norman expansionism? Or were there alternative dynamics at work? Comparison with other 'Conquests' might be appropriate. Speakers will no doubt disagree with one another, and they and those attending will be drawn into debates.

Proposal for papers (maximum length 30 minutes) should be sent to Victoria Bryant, by email to [VBryant@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:VBryant@worcestershire.gov.uk) or by post to The Hive, Sawmill Walk, The Butts, Worcester, WR1 3BP. The proposal should take the form of a title, name of the speaker or speakers with affiliation(s) and a 100-word summary of contents, which, if accepted, will be used in the conference programme. A CV of no more than 50 words should also be appended. Those considering a proposal are welcome to contact either Victoria Bryant or Chris Dyer ([cd50@le.ac.uk](mailto:cd50@le.ac.uk)) informally before submission.

Closing date for receipt of proposals, 1 February 2013.

The papers proposed should not have been previously published. The Society plans, in the light of the papers delivered, to publish the proceedings of the conference.

Facilities will be available on the afternoon of Sunday 22 September for any group connected with the interests of the society to meet. For more please contact Dr Naomi Sykes at [naomi.sykes@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:naomi.sykes@nottingham.ac.uk)



## Society Monographs

ISSN: 0583-9106

The SMA has published 32 books in its peer-reviewed monograph series since it began in 1966, and is currently seeking new projects for consideration. For further information, contact the Monographs Editor, Chris Gerrard, at [c.m.gerrard@durham.ac.uk](mailto:c.m.gerrard@durham.ac.uk)

**Following the AGM on 3rd December 2012, the Society will officially launch the 2012 monographs.**

Be sure to join us on the evening and celebrate these important additions, while enjoying a glass of wine:

I. H. Goodall, 2012, *Ironwork in Medieval Britain: an Archaeological Study*, Monograph 31.

R. C. Barrowman, 2012, *The Chapel and Burial ground on St Ninian's Isle, Shetland: Excavations past and present*, Monograph 32.



# Excavations 2012 at Needham Market, Suffolk

Between April and June 2012, Pre Construct Archaeology conducted a series of developer-funded investigations in the Gipping Valley, near to the river in Needham Market, Suffolk, following the demolition of the former Unilever Factory (Elmlea). Post-excavation analysis is currently underway and what follows is a preliminary summary of our findings.

Despite the fact that the site had been heavily truncated by the later factory buildings a significant range and variety of archaeological evidence from the late Mesolithic to the Early Saxon periods was recovered from within the relatively small area pictured below.

The earliest *in situ* remains consisted of a ring ditch from a Bronze Age burial mound and 18 cremation pits within the circuit of the 25m diameter ditch. Although these remains have not yet been carbon dated, one of the pits contained a small Deverel-Rimbury vessel of the Ardeleigh tradition dateable to the period 1600BC-1300BC. The ring ditch was cut by a series of intercutting ditches of Bronze Age date. A presence on site during the Romano-British period was indicated by a couple of pits containing sherds of locally

produced 'Wattisfield' type pottery but no further evidence of the period survived.

The biggest surprise came on the last day of the excavation. While digging what we had confidently understood to be the central burial within the Bronze Age ring ditch we realised, on discovering a large post hole at the northern end of the 'grave' cut, that we were in fact dealing with a Saxon sunken featured building (SFB) which had removed all but the slightest trace of the original central burial.

A group of three SFBs had been identified during house building to the north of the site in 1993. Was the siting of this SFB within the earlier ring ditch deliberate and informed by the visible presence of the earlier monument, or was the location simply coincidental? We would be very happy to hear any views on this subject.

**Mark Hinman**

MHinman@pre-construct.com

Photograph © Pre Construct Archaeology  
Needham Barrow and Sunken Featured Building





# Group Reports 2011

## Castle Studies Group

In April 2011 the 25th AGM and Annual Conference of the Castle Studies Group (CSG) took place at Mark's Tey in Essex with around 75 members present. Dr Gillian Eadie was elected to the committee. The conference was organised by Dr Peter Purton, Jeremy Cunnington and Chas and Frances Hollwey on the theme of *Castles of Essex and Suffolk*, though somewhat expanded to include the Tower of London. Lectures were given by Dr Jeremy Ashbee on 'The Tower of London' and by Dr. Robert Liddiard on 'The Castle Landscape of Essex and Suffolk'. The varied field itinerary also included the castles at Colchester, Hedingham, Orford, Framlingham, Bungay, Pleshey, Hadleigh and Rayleigh and CSG was particularly privileged to visit the privately-owned sites at Little Wenham Hall and Mettingham.

In October several CSG members attended and contributed to a two-day seminar held by the Northern Irish Environment Agency, entitled *Earls, Gunners and Tourists: the Past and Future of Carrickfergus Castle*, held at the castle. Papers were given by Terence Reeves-Smyth, Dr Pamela Marshall, Dr John Goodall, Dr Kate Roberts, Con Manning, Dr Tom McNeill and Dermot MacRandal.

Details of CSG activities, members' interests and updates on castle research can be found in the *CSG Journal* (latest vol. 25), edited and produced by Dr Neil Guy, and also by visiting [www.castlestudiesgroup.org.uk](http://www.castlestudiesgroup.org.uk), where members of the committee can be contacted by email. Castle-related publications for the year are listed and reviewed in *CSG Bibliography* No. 23, compiled by Dr John Kenyon. In August the CSG interim Bulletin was also distributed, edited and compiled by Peter Burton. Dr. James Petre received a small projects grant of £300 for work in connection with the preparation for publication of *The Castles of Bedfordshire*.

Readers are reminded that undergraduate and post-graduate students who are writing a dissertation or thesis on a castle-related theme may qualify to attend the Annual Conference at half price. CSG also awards small grants to group projects involving castle research. Details of these awards and application forms can be found on the CSG website or by contacting the secretary.

**Pamela Marshall**, Hon. Secretary  
[secretary@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk](mailto:secretary@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk)  
[www.castlestudiesgroup.org.uk](http://www.castlestudiesgroup.org.uk)



Hedingham: external detail of the great tower parapet



Hedingham: CSG members check out the original roof line

## Finds Research Group

The Finds Research Group (FRG) had three gatherings in 2011, in Leicester, the Netherlands and York. We also had two ‘trippettes’ – as they have become affectionately known – to visit the following exhibitions ‘Treasures of Heaven: saints, relics and devotion in Medieval Europe’ at the British Museum, and ‘Splendour and Power: Imperial Treasures from Vienna’ and ‘Vermeer’s Women: Secrets and Silence’ both at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

The workshop at the University of Leicester on 26 March, *Finding the Familiar II: Retention, Discard and Sampling Policies for post-1750 Artefacts* suggested the need for many museum professionals and archaeologists to become convinced of the archaeological and social significance of 19th-century artefacts. The FRG will write policy guidelines that can be quoted and cited in the planning process, and/or in regional research frameworks. These are being prepared for circulation in a future FRG mailing and on the website.

In Leiden and the Netherlands, our visit was hosted by Annemarieke Willemsen and many of her colleagues. A busy and stimulating trip, with highlights that include the National Museum of Antiquities with its innovative and object-rich displays; the botanical gardens and the wonderful 17th-century Bibliotheca Thysiana; the terrifically innovative displays at Rotterdam and the fabulous carved misericords at Dordrecht; S’Hertogenbosch with the Noorbrabant museum also begs a second visit; the Hendrikje Museum of Bags and Purses, with its wonderful collection ranging from the functional bag of the medieval merchant to a Lulu Guinness *must have*, which alone would encourage a trip to Amsterdam. Our group had left Britain with long Johns, waterproofs, hats and gloves but found that a rushed purchase of sunhats and sunscreen was better suited as the temperature rose towards 25°!

Of the many members who contributed comments, some happy memories, abbreviated, include: a mountain of bikes outside our hotel in Amsterdam; Leiden, a jewel of a town with canals, windmills, the National Museum of Antiquities – a great place for a long weekend; in Rotterdam, the *Boijmans Museum* with its wacky installations, visitors’ jackets/coats as a changing display, the peanut butter carpet; Dordrecht, sipping beer in the early evening by the confluence of the Rhine and ‘s-Hertogenbosch, the massive Gothic cathedral with its sculptures and the peaceful exploring of canals. **MM**.

A stroll and entertaining canal trip around Middelburg revealing elegant merchants’ houses, waterfront warehouses, churches and the huge brick-built abbey buildings containing the beautiful and imaginatively presented Zeeuws Museum. Hopping on and off buses and trains around Zeeland, visiting well-cared for early medieval earth bank ring fortifications tucked away in small towns (Oost-Souberg and Burgh-Haamstede) and the remains of villages swept away by a huge and disastrous flood on 5th November 1530.

Most impressive of all was a trip to Oud Rilland, where we were led out over the marsh and mud flats bordering the main shipping route into Antwerp to see the remains of a medieval settlement. The spring low tide revealed timber and wattle structures, a road, peat digging areas, dumps of waste from a brick kiln and field systems. The settlement stretched

out along the shore and under the waves where huge cargo ships passed close by, a reminder of the power of the sea to wipe away homes, businesses and communities in just one day. The importance of Zeeland’s elaborate flood defences passed over in the bus the day before was clearly evident. **JE**

MH’s comments sum it all up: “Above all it was due to the faultless generosity and kindness of our hosts, Annemarieke and Marlieke, leading us through so much intellectual stimulation sustained by such splendid and convivial lunches and dinners. To good companions all”!

A joint conference organised with the Historical Metallurgy Society, Roman Finds Group and York Archaeological Trust (YAT) took place on 17 October, at the Merchant Adventurer’s Hall, York. Organised by Justine Bayley and Christine McDonnell, the great day was held in the historic Merchant Adventurers’ Hall, which provided an atmospheric setting. Susan La Niece spoke on ‘7th century Anglo-Saxon jewellery settings and inlay’, Hazel Forsyth on ‘The art and mystery of the 17th-century Cheapside Hoard goldsmiths’, Sonia O’Connor on ‘Understanding iron mail’, Tim Young on ‘Brazing: using copper alloys for joining and finishing iron objects’ and Peter Northover on ‘How many ways are there of making money?’ The final session focused on glass and enamels, with Marie Davies on ‘Technology or Design? ‘Enamel’ in the 1st century AD’, Frances McIntosh on ‘The Iron Age Stanwick Hoard, incorporating new evidence’ and Marian Campbell on ‘Limoges enamel in England: French or Scandinavian sources?’ Although the topics were diverse it was an informative day, followed by many new and old friends meeting up later in local pubs and restaurants.

The FRG produces datasheets on categories of objects which are sent out free to members. Datasheet 42 ‘Viking-Age Scandinavian art styles and their appearance in the British Isles. Part 2: Late Viking-Age art styles’ by Jane Kershaw was published in 2011. Datasheets and Datasheet Books I and II are available from Katey Goodwin (jandkgoodwin@talktalk.net), or online via our website. To contribute new Datasheets, contact Dr Steve Ashby (steve.ashby@york.ac.uk).

Annual Membership to the FRG costs £6 (£10/€15 for overseas members), members receive two mailings a year and we try to have two annual day-conferences. The Group is in a healthy financial position and membership is currently c. 375.

Our next meeting is on Monday 29 April, at the Institute of Archaeology, London, the title is to be finalised. In autumn 2013 we will be having a joint meeting with the Portable Antiquities Scheme on the finds of post-medieval and early modern date, at the British Museum. Looking ahead to 2014 we plan to help celebrate a major exhibition at the Museum of London entitled ‘London’s Lost Jewels: The Mystery of the Cheapside Hoard’ and are most excited at the prospect of a visit to the Isle of Man in the autumn. Further details will be published in forthcoming newsletters and will be posted on the FRG website.

**Jane Cowgill**, Hon. Secretary:

jane.cowgill@e-a-c.co.uk

www.findsresearchgroup700-1700.org.uk



## Medieval Pottery Research Group



MPRG Delegates view various pottery collections on Man during Ceramics on the Edge



MPRG members visit the The Braaid site on the Isle of Man. Described as an Iron Age round house and two Norse long houses the delegates set about re-dating it to the Neolithic

The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) met in June 2011 for its one-day conference at the Museum of London. Recent Work and Current Research provided the launch pad for a publication that will hopefully generate considerable ‘new work’: *A Research Framework for Post-Roman Ceramic Studies in Britain*. It is the Group’s 6th in its series of Occasional Papers, and provides a focus for post-Roman ceramic studies in England, Scotland and Wales. The aim is to inform archaeologists during the development of local, regional and national research programmes, as well as period-specific strategies. Part one is a Resource Assessment and survey of the profession. Part two presents the Research Agenda and Part three the Strategy to achieve it. It is expected to be an important driver of the Group’s work over the next decade as we continue to highlight the role that medieval and post-medieval ceramics play in understanding the archaeological record. Copies of the publication can be downloaded from [www.mprgframework.info](http://www.mprgframework.info) or hard copies can be obtained from Anne Irving ([annelouiseirving@gmail.com](mailto:annelouiseirving@gmail.com)). The remainder of the conference included excellent papers on a range of projects including the Stamford ware production site at Pontefract, West Yorkshire (Chris Cumberpatch and John Hudson); culinary and ceramic choices in medieval Southampton (Ben Jervis); and the pre-burial origins and use of cremation urns from Anglo-Saxon cemeteries (Gareth Perry).

During the autumn we were extremely sad to learn of the death of Anna Slowikowski. Anna was our serving Regional Groups Officer for the MPRG, having previously been Assistant Treasurer. She was one of the mainstays of the South-East Midlands Pottery Research Group, furthering research and organising regular meetings, visits and talks. Anna had worked on the pottery from Wharram Percy and with Steve Moorhouse on the Wrenthorpe Potteries before moving to Bedford in the 1980s. She was one of the authors of the *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG Occasional Paper 2) and her most recent book “Genius in a Cracked Pot”: *Late Medieval Reduced Ware; a regional*

*synthesis* (MPRG Occasional Paper 4) was published shortly before her untimely death. She will be missed by her many friends and colleagues.

The latest of the Group’s occasional papers, *Ipswich Ware* (MPRG Occasional Paper 7) by Paul Blinkhorn has just been printed along with the Group’s journal, *Medieval Ceramics* (Volume 32). The next edition of *Medieval Ceramics* is due out in February 2013 and we are already working in collaboration with the British Museum on a proposal for a new occasional paper based on Gerald Dunning’s archive of roof furniture.

We are also working with the Prehistoric Pottery Research Group and the Research Group for Roman Pottery on developing a joint project to produce a new set of minimum standards for the processing, recording, analysis and publication of pottery assemblages. In another joint project we have been working with the Association for the History of Glass to organise a one-day conference in honour of Sarah Jennings – *Recent Research and New Discoveries in Glass and Ceramics* will be held on Friday 16th November at The Wallace Collection in London.

Earlier in the year the MPRG set up a Facebook page. It has been developing a great deal of new interest, particularly from overseas, and it has acted as a forum for specialists to help identify their more unusual finds. The page has featured on the BBC News website, after an image of a vessel posted by Lorraine Mephram was identified by a member from the Netherlands – the small three-handed vessel was excavated at Corfe Castle in 1986 but was recognised as a 17th-century firegranate or smoke-bomb. The increasing international interest in the Group is reflected in the growing number of overseas individual and institutional members.

The increasingly international outlook of the group was reflected in the summer’s three-day conference held on the Isle of Man, as reported in this Newsletter by Derek Hall.

**Andrew Sage**, Hon. Secretary  
[secretary@medievalpottery.org.uk](mailto:secretary@medievalpottery.org.uk)  
[www.medievalpottery.org.uk](http://www.medievalpottery.org.uk)



## Medieval Settlement Research Group

The end of 2011 marked a particular high point for the Medieval Settlement Research Group (MSRG) with the publication by Windgather Press/Oxbow Books of *Medieval Rural Settlement. Britain and Ireland, AD 800-1600*; a major survey of the subject area, edited by former President Paul Stamper and the present Secretary Neil Christie, and featuring an array of talent drawn from past and current Committee members and MSRG researchers. The development of medieval rural studies as well as aspects of pre-medieval settlement and lordly landscapes feature in Part I; a series of regional and national surveys occupy Part II; and Part III concludes with how to investigate medieval rural sites. The emphasis on English regions, is balanced by papers on Wales, Ireland and Scotland. A series of feature boxes detail particular sites, themes and projects.

The volume was launched at the AGM and Winter seminar held in the Great North Museum at Newcastle University on 3rd December, alongside the Harold Fox memorial volume, *Life in Medieval Landscapes: People and Places in the Middle Ages*, edited by Bob Silvester and Sam Turner. The Seminar (overseen by Sam Turner) took as its theme 'Heartland to Frontier: the Tees-Forth Region in the Middle Ages'. The six well illustrated and informative papers, included David Petts, on 'Roman to early medieval cultural transformations in the Tees Valley', Rob Collins on 'Recent Anglian discoveries recorded by the PAS in the North East', Alice Blackwell on 'Anglo-Saxon finds from northernmost Northumbria', and to Chris Burgess' description and discussion of the battle of Flodden.

For the Spring Conference we teamed up with Lancaster University's Centre for North-West Regional Studies on 2nd April for the theme 'Medieval Settlement in the North West'. Kindly hosted by Lancaster University, the papers were presented by Richard Newman, County Archaeologist for Cumbria, on 'Advancing the research agenda for medieval rural settlement in North West England', Caron Newman on 'Understanding the later medieval settlement pattern of Cumbria', Matthew Hyde on 'Medieval Cumbria: the missing bits', Mike McCarthy on 'Early medieval monastic landscapes', and David Griffiths on 'Settlement and Landscape around the Viking-Age Irish Sea, connections and contrasts'. On Sunday there was a guided coach excursion, led by conference organiser Dr Angus Winchester. The itinerary was based around a transect across the western Pennines from the Lune valley to the upper Eden valley, taking in the landscape and deserted medieval settlement of Sotherscales, Chapel-le-Dale, a Wensleydale vaccary landscape,

and the ruins of Pendragon castle. The castle was likely erected c.1180 by De Morville, baron of Westmorland, to close Mallerstang valley, its name (recorded by 1309) one of the cluster of Arthurian associations in the Eden valley. Enlarged c.1300 and actively garrisoned against Scots raids, it was badly damaged in 1341 and again 1541. Later it saw restorations and extensions under Lady Anne Clifford, whose diary for 1660 records, 'in June of this year my...decayed castle of Pendragon in Mallerstang...begun to be repaired, which had layne waste...ever since the time of King Edward III, when the Scots did then burn down the timber of it...and it was soe well repaired by me that on the 14th October in the year following I lay there for 3 nights together, which none of my ancestors had done since Idonea, the younger sister of Isabella de Veteripont lay in it, who died the 8th year of Edward III'. Soon after we hear of a new resident, Capt Braithwaite, Parliamentary officer, although a 1680s source tells us his wife, 'in a mad-melancholick fitt leapt down & broke her neck & all her bones to pieces' from the castle tower. Angus Winchester reassured us that no such injuries were sustained on the 2011 fieldtrip.

The MSRG Committee's new web-manager, Tara-Jane Sutcliffe (CBA York), has overseen a major overhaul of the website, so please visit it and offer feedback and suggestions for links and projects. The site will host an archive section, since the Group has undertaken the digitisation of all the back numbers of the MSRG's *Annual Reports* (since 2009 formally a journal and named *Medieval Settlement Research*) (hosted by ADS). Digitisation is planned in the near future of reports from the pre-MSRG era, in terms of the **Medieval Village Research Group**, the **Moated Sites Group** and the **DMV Research Group**. Members will be notified as progress is made.

MSRG membership is healthy at c. 475. We are delighted at the growing number of MA and PhD students who are taking advantage of the bargain £6 per annum student membership (half cost of the full membership), and we are keen to enhance their presence further. An innovation planned for 2012 was the election of a student representative for Committee meetings. Please see the website for the Membership Form. As well as a copy of the journal, members are eligible to apply for fieldwork grants (of up to £500) and students can apply for the Beresford conference bursaries. The MA Dissertation Prize in honour of John Hurst deadline is 31 December each year.

**Neil Christie**, Hon. Secretary  
njc10@le.ac.uk  
[www.britarch.ac.uk/msrg/](http://www.britarch.ac.uk/msrg/)

*Pendragon Castle, Mallerstang, detail on a sunnier day than when visited on 3.4.2011. © Angus Winchester.*



# Media & Exhibition

## ‘One beetle recognises another beetle’: animating the early medieval Celtic West in *The Secret of Kells* and *Brave*

The release of the Pixar-Disney animation blockbuster, *Brave* (2012) prompts a review of it alongside the equally compelling animation *The Secret of Kells* (2008). The latter tells the story of the making of the Book of Kells, from its beginnings on Iona to its completion in Kells. It is a lovely piece of animation, elegantly fusing style and colour and a striving for high authenticity. It is particularly lively and accomplished in its depiction of the patterns in the Book of Kells as reflecting the patterns of nature. Perhaps the supreme moment is when the novice Brendan has entered the barrow where Crom Cruach dwells, floating in space he deploys an artistic line to coral Crom and wrest from it a magnifying crystal, at once creating a sense of timeless mythic struggle, linked to a sense of the creative process of illuminated manuscript production as an act of civilization, of culture controlling nature: at one point the Book is described as ‘the secret that turns darkness into light’.

The film has on the one hand a respect, a tolerance, for the prehistoric, pagan past – one that St Patrick would have approved of – but is reticent about early Christianity and giving a sense of what it was about. If you did not already know about early Christianity and monasticism you would be hard pressed to divine it from this film – even allowing for the use of the terms abbot and brother. But how the Book of Kells was central to Christian beliefs and teaching is hardly touched upon. It is certainly true that the film reflects the Book’s iconic status today, where it is seen very much as a great work of art and a relic of nationhood but in the popular imagination is somewhat divorced from its origins as a fundamental artefact of insular Christianity. But then that is the trajectory of its biography within wider society.

Other pleasing touches are the inclusion of Gerald of Wales’ famous comment on seeing a Gospel Book (possibly Kells) in Ireland in the 12th century, that it is the ‘work of angels’ (in *Kells* it is said by the young Brendan, when he first sees the manuscript) and the inclusion of Pangur Ban as a character, Aidan’s playful white cat that travels with him from Iona and befriends the young Brendan. During the closing credits of the film the poem to Pangur Ban in the Book of Kells is narrated in Gaelic. The film makes it clear that the manuscript is both the Book of Iona and the Book of Kells, proclaiming the generally accepted theory that the manuscript was started in Iona and continued in Kells. The film also includes the tradition that Columba created the Book; succinctly signaling through humour that this is

legendary material. Although it makes no reference to Kells being founded within an abandoned hillfort, it does have a sense of time depth and of a prehistoric landscape before Christianity and transformed by it. The stone circle within the forest with all of its stones marked with ogham is a good example of this transition. In the film’s terms the forest is totally primeval and pagan (and in that light very consistent with the medieval notion of the forest as the wild other to the civilization of towns and farming). Its precise chronology however is a little hazy. The film is set in the early 9th century and has Abbot Cellach in charge but does extend his life to accommodate the narrative arc. The depiction of Kells is

close to what it actually looked like albeit round with no inner zone rather than oval and with two clear zones. It is depicted mainly as a large, defended settlement and whilst this does describe early monasteries the film depicts a civilian settlement as much as a monastery, with large numbers of villagers living there. The film version of *Kells* includes a round tower and a High Cross. For dramatic, narrative reasons it makes no reference to such towers

as bell towers but as a refuge from Viking attack. Though it serves to make a point about universality and tolerance still the make-up of the monastic community hardly seems credible with monks from China, Italy, Russia and Africa represented and though used to brilliant narrative and dramatic effect, in a style reminiscent of 1950s *Looney Tunes* cartoons, the Vikings are a very one-dimensional caricature as villains of the piece, with their hoary horned helmets and mono-syllabic guttural language (the only clear utterance ‘gold’).

As one reviewer remarked, the use of 2-D animation gives an old fashioned flattened effect that serves to ‘pay tribute to the flattened volume and exquisite repeating motifs of the original manuscript’, and is in marked contrast to the volume and detail of *Brave*. Clearly influenced by *Kells* in its narrative structure and settings this is a sumptuous and eye-popping piece of animation set in a fairy-tale version of mostly 10th-century Scotland. First and foremost *Brave* is a fairy tale and with fairy tales anachronisms are a key part of the mash-up. Its fairy tale texture draws deeply from the well of conventional fairy-tale motifs and narratives, including a witch, a talking bird (a crow), will o’ the wisps, magic potions, shape-shifting (into bears, evoking both berserkers, *The Hobbit* and *The Singing Ringing Tree*) and the default setting of a pseudo-medieval world. Its medievalism is an intricate mix of elements of chronology, architecture and material culture.





Scenes from *Brave*, including a pseudo-Urquhart castle. © Pixar-Disney.

The suggestion is that we are in the 10th century, the kingdom having been born out of a clan alliance forged to defeat Viking attacks. The later medieval clan system is thus transposed into an earlier time, along with 18th century kilts and 19th/20th century Highland Games. It is also a cultural milieu in which clans have princes and princesses and one of the suitors for the princess's hand has defeated not just Vikings but 10,000 Romans. The principal residence of the kingdom is a loch-side stone castle clearly based on Castle Urquhart, Loch Ness. This is contrasted with the power centre of the previous kingdom, a ruined broch that also looks down on the loch, one of two locations in which the film deploys Pictish symbol stones. A suggestion of Pictishness is also made by having the leaders of the MacIntosh clan painted/tattooed with woad. The material culture exhibits both time depth (a relative sequence of prehistory, Picts, Vikings and Highlanders is perceptible as is a sense that a human landscape always has older bits in it) and an anachronistic, fairy-tale fusion. It ranges over an Iron Age carnyx, 11th-century tapestries, 12th century and later ceramic forms, post-medieval kilts, long-ship style galleys, generic Celtic motifs decorating, for example, wooden thrones, and Pictish symbol stones. The Pictish symbols appear three times – in the opening shots that establish the landscape the camera glides past a group of stones including Aberlemno 1; a similar shot closes the film, moving past a stone and looking down on the loch; and around the mid-point when the ruined broch is discovered with its broken throne room scattered with both figurative sculptures and stones bearing Pictish symbols. They have no apparent active use and form part of the film's time-depth *mise-en-scène*, along with the impassive stone circle in the forest. The most active piece of prehistoric (Iron Age) material culture is the animated version of the Deskford carnyx – used to trumpet the start of the archery contest at the gathering to decide on the Princess's suitor. Its sounding directly references the trumpet blast that heralds the start of the archery context in *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1939), the arrow-splitting shot of which is also borrowed by *Brave*.

Perhaps the most significant appearance by a piece of medieval material culture is that made by the Lewis chessmen. Princess Merida has, in teenage fashion, stormed off to her bedroom in protest at her impending betrothal. Her mother, Queen Elinor, follows and picks up the board and pieces that

are in Merida's room (signaling it as a childhood pursuit) and uses them as a prop in re-telling the tale of the fall of the previous dynasty, to show Merida the error of her ways, bring her back to tradition and accept an arranged marriage.

There are some deep structural parallels with *Kells*: the contrast of a small, enclosed world (a castle in *Brave*, a monastery in *Kells*) and a deep, dark often frightening forest where older ways remain in the form of stone circles and magical beings (wisps and witches in *Brave*, fairies and Crom in *Kells*); the Vikings as agents of destruction and both share a head strong, rebellious teenager as lead, who learns a renewed sense of social conformity. But there are some key differences also: the styles of animation; the grounding in reality (*Kells*) as against fairy-tale (*Brave*) and the question of religion and belief. *Kells* is rooted in the celebration of a real and profoundly important piece of material culture, The Book of Kells, whereas *Brave* merely drapes a contemporary story in a mixture of whimsy and hoary Scottish myths and stereotypes. Most telling is the centrality of religion and belief in *Kells* and its almost complete absence in *Brave*. There is no hint of Christianity in *Brave* and although paganism is implied by its magic content and its wisps in reality these are stripped of supernatural content and serve only as plot mechanisms, what Hitchcock would have called MacGuffins. The witch and her talking crow are a safely comic version of the truly evil necromancer Jafar and his parrot in *Aladdin* (1992), whilst her animated broom and her quaint cottage also recall the 'Sorcerer's Apprentice' episode in *Fantasia* (1940). The cottage's front door opens onto alternate realities when repeatedly opened and closed, a reference to *Howl's Moving Castle* (2004) and a confirmation that the magic we are seeing is more quantum than supernatural. The biggest nod to something deeper is perhaps the releasing of the Princes' spirit from the evil bear Mor'du, the trajectory of Prince-tempted to evil-bear to released-spirit directly mirroring that of Anakin to Darth Vader to Anakin. In the end the key difference between the two films is not one of place or animation style or verisimilitude but of mystery (imagination supreme) Vs. psychology.

**Mark A Hall**

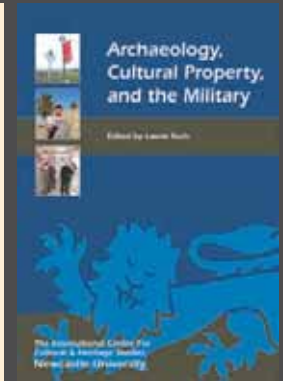
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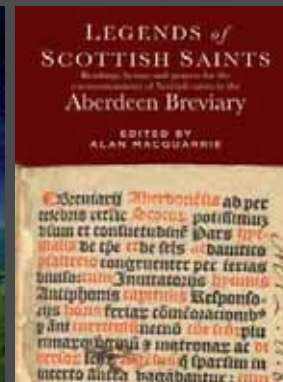
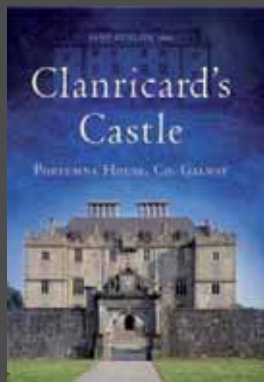
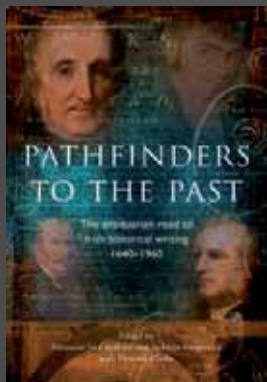
# New Titles

**Boydell & Brewer**, [www.boydellandbrewer.com](http://www.boydellandbrewer.com)

The Society's former president, Roberta Gilchrist, has recently published a new book on *Medieval Life* with Boydell & Brewer that seeks to look at the intimate relations between age groups, between the living and the dead, and between people and things.



**Four Courts Press**, [www.fourcourtspress.ie](http://www.fourcourtspress.ie)



The Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland has recently completed a wonderful historiography highlighting a selection of the great antiquarians and early researchers of Ireland in its *Pathfinders* volume, published with Four Courts Press.

**Wordwell Press**, [www.wordwellbooks.com](http://www.wordwellbooks.com)

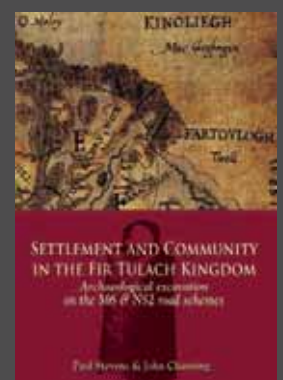


Among the highlights of current publishing by Wordwell is the Discovery Programme's long-awaited research project on the large stone-built enclosures of western Ireland, the most iconic of which is Dún Aonghasa on the Aran Islands.

**National Roads Authority and Westmeath County Council**

Order a copy of the book directly by contacting Therese Egan, [tegan@nra.ie](mailto:tegan@nra.ie)

Early Medievalists may be interested in a recently published monograph on excavations conducted in central Ireland and published by the National Roads Authority and Westmeath County Council. The excavations included work at the monastic site of Clonfad, where significant evidence for ecclesiastical bell-making and production was recovered.



To advertise conferences/events in the  
Newsletter contact:

**Dr Oliver Creighton**  
**Dept. of Archaeology**  
**Laver Building**  
**North Park Road**  
**Exeter, Devon**  
**EX4 4QE**  
**UK**

or email  
**o.h.creighton@exeter.ac.uk**

To advertise on the website, email:  
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**googlemail.com**

## Contribute to the Newsletter

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. The preferred format for site  
plans/maps is EPS, with layers clearly  
indicated and unlocked, and any  
linked files attached.

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

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# Conferences & Events

## — FORTHCOMING —

### NOVEMBER:

**8-9 November**  
Society for Medieval Archaeology  
Student Colloquium. [http://www.  
medievalarchaeology.org](http://www.medievalarchaeology.org)

### DECEMBER:

**17-19 December**  
Theoretical Archaeology Group 34th Annual  
Meeting, Liverpool.  
<http://www.liv.ac.uk/sace/livetag>

### JANUARY 2013:

**14-18 January**  
World Archaeology Congress, to be held in  
Jordan at the Dead Sea.  
[http://www.wac7.  
worldarchaeologicalcongress.org](http://www.wac7.worldarchaeologicalcongress.org)

### FEBRUARY:

**22-24 February, 2013**  
Scotland in Early Medieval Europe.  
The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.  
[SIEME@socantscot.org](http://SIEME@socantscot.org)

### MARCH:

**21-24 March**  
Making Space for Festival, 1400-1700.  
Interactions of Architecture and Performance  
in late medieval and early modern festivals,  
Venice. [www.courtresidences.eu/index.php/  
events/conferences/venice2013/](http://www.courtresidences.eu/index.php/events/conferences/venice2013/)

### APRIL:

**20 April**  
Beyond the Western Mediterranean:  
Trade and Exchange of Materials,  
Techniques and Artistic Production,  
650-1500, The Courtauld Institute  
of Art, London. [www.courtauld.ac.uk/  
researchforum/events/2013/apr20\\_  
beyondthewesternmediterranean.shtml](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/researchforum/events/2013/apr20_beyondthewesternmediterranean.shtml)

**29 April**  
Finds Research Group meeting at  
the Institute of Archaeology, London.  
Title to be announced. [www.  
findsresearchgroup700-1700.org.uk](http://www.findsresearchgroup700-1700.org.uk)

### MAY:

**9-12 May**  
The 48th International Congress on  
Medieval Studies, Western Michigan  
University, USA. [www.wmich.edu/medieval/  
congress/](http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/)

### JUNE:

**17-19 June**  
First Annual Symposium on Medieval and  
Renaissance Studies, Saint Louis University,  
USA. Call for Papers Deadline 15 December  
2012. <http://smrs.slu.edu/>

**21-22 June**  
CFP: Sensing the Sacred: Religion and  
the Senses, 1300-1800, University of  
York. [http://www.york.ac.uk/crems/events/  
sensingthesacred/](http://www.york.ac.uk/crems/events/sensingthesacred/)

### JULY:

**1-4 July**  
International Medieval Congress at the  
University of Leeds. [http://www.leeds.ac.uk/  
ims/imc/imc2013\\_move.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2013_move.html)

**8-9 July**  
Kings & Queens II- Making Connections:  
Alliances, Networks, Correspondence and  
Comparisons, University of Winchester.  
[http://www.royalstudiesnetwork.org/  
conference2013.html](http://www.royalstudiesnetwork.org/conference2013.html)

**9-12 July**  
Plantations amidst Savagery: reformed  
monastic orders in North Europe, c. 1100-  
1600. University of Stirling. Contact Richard  
Oram, [rdo1@stir.ac.uk](mailto:rdo1@stir.ac.uk)

### AUGUST:

### SEPTEMBER:

**9-15 September**  
Agrarian Technology in the Medieval  
Landscape, Ruralia's 10th conference will  
take place in Smolenice Castle, Slovakia.  
Your National Representative is:  
UK: Mark Gardiner, [m.gardiner@qub.ac.uk](mailto:m.gardiner@qub.ac.uk);  
Piers Dixon, [Piers.Dixon@cahms.gov.uk](mailto:Piers.Dixon@cahms.gov.uk)  
Ireland: Niall Brady, [niall@  
discoveryprogramme.ie](mailto:niall@discoveryprogramme.ie)  
Other countries, [www.ruralia.cz](http://www.ruralia.cz)

**20-22 September**  
The Society for Medieval Archaeology  
annual conference series is being  
relaunched in 2013 when we will meet  
at the University of Nottingham, to  
discuss the theme Transformations and  
Continuities in the Eleventh Century:  
Archaeology of the Norman Conquest.  
[naomi.sykes@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:naomi.sykes@nottingham.ac.uk)  
[www.medievalarchaeology.org](http://www.medievalarchaeology.org)

## Geoff Egan Prize for Finds Research

### The Finds Research Group institutes a new annual prize

In honour of the memory of Geoff Egan, the Geoff Egan Prize for Finds Research will be awarded to an individual in recognition of extraordinary potential in the field of finds research (post-Roman to modern periods). The award will be made on the basis of a piece of original artefact research submitted for consideration. The award is open to up-and-coming finds researchers with no track record of publication in finds research, archaeology or cognate subjects. The **closing date for applications will be November 30th**, but to allow submissions to be made while still fresh, they will be accepted between April 1st and November 30th. Submissions should be submitted to Christine McDonnell, Chair of the Finds Research Group, York Archaeological Trust, 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX.

The successful applicant will receive a small cash prize (£50.00), one year's free membership of the FRG, a copy of the Datasheet volumes and in addition an annual award of a copy of Geoff's 'Material Culture in London in the age of Transition' has been kindly offered. They may also be invited to submit an article for production as a FRG Datasheet or to have a summary of the work produced in the Group's newsletter. In its first year, the prize has benefitted from a kind and generous personal donation.