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Institute of Field Archaeologists
SHES, University of Reading, Whiteknights,
PO Box 227, Reading RG6 6AB
tel 0118 378 6446
fax 0118 378 6448
email admin@archaeologists.net
website www.archaeologists.net

The ARCHAEOLOGIST



This issue:

**CELEBRATING
21 YEARS OF
THE IFA**

**The (Field)
Archaeologist
at 21**

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**21 years of
Chairing IFA**

p12 – 21

Looking forward

p22

**21 years of
science in
archaeology**

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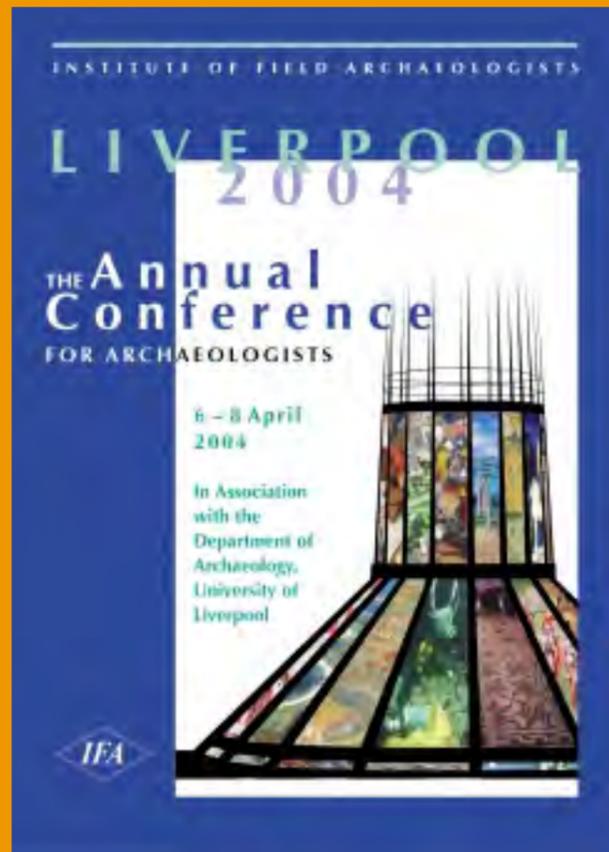
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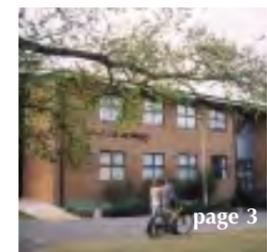
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Birthdays bring on nostalgia so readers must forgive the backward-looking slant of a large chunk of this TA.

Talking to past Chairs of IFA I was struck by how recurrent were the themes – sorting out internal organisational matters, broadening our appeal to the whole archaeological profession, taking on an expanding range of issues and challenges, not to mention trying to cut through the meshes of bureaucracy that can sometimes bore us to a standstill. Nor of course ever having enough money for half the things we want to do. None of these problems look like going to go away, so we just have to take some comfort from realising that there never was a Golden Age, and that our short life has actually seen quite a lot of progress.

I was struck too, by the positive can-do attitude of so many of our fresh-faced Chairs. They were all sure they could actually make some big differences – could even create a united profession of archaeologists. We could also run a publication programme, though the roll-call and turnover of editors shows this is not a job with great life-expectancy. Going back over TAs, most of which came out under purely voluntary editorship, it is the familiar refrain throughout – please send interesting articles, please meet deadlines, and please

find some pictures! Does nothing change? But an impressive publication output was nevertheless maintained, even though we have not yet achieved the Journal that we still confidently plan.

But how can I really complain? In this issue, our hyperactive Maritime Group, always reliable for a good story and good pictures (photography is obviously much easier underwater) sent in two pieces I could not resist, and our IT-minded colleagues responded nobly to the plea for explanations of their work even I could understand. To keep us fully rounded (note the eternal pleas for us to appeal to an ever-widening circle of our profession) our Buildings Group shows just how broad and fascinating their interests are. Finally, 21 years is a long time in the world of archaeological science, so I asked the Centre for Archaeology (who are just a bit younger than us) what they reckoned their major advances had been.



Alison
alison.taylor@archaeologists.net

Please can you all make a note of the new address:
IFA, SHES, University of Reading, Whitenights,
PO Box 227, READING RG6 6AB?



IFA founders: Inaugural Meeting of Council, December 1982. L to R present: Tatton-Brown, Cleere, Carver, Wachter, Hobley, Barker, Fowler, Musson, Davison, Mercer, Addyman, Reynolds, Bradley inset: Farley, Baker, Heighway not shown: Coles, Pryor (The Field Archaeologist No 1)

Notes to contributors

Contributions and letter/emails are always welcome. Short articles are preferred, and must be less than 1000 words. They should be sent as an email attachment, which must include captions and credits for illustrations. The editor will edit and shorten if necessary. Illustrations are very important. These are best supplied as originals. If sent digitally they must be on CD, as TIFFs or EPS, not JPGs, scanned at a minimum of 300dpi at the size they are expected to appear. More detailed Notes for Contributors for each issue are available from the editor.

EDITED by Alison Taylor, IFA, SHES, University of Reading, Whitenights, PO Box 227, READING RG6 6AB

DESIGNED and TYPESET by Sue Cawood

PRINTED by Charlesworth

View from the (director's) Chair

Peter Hinton

A few weeks ago IFA was tipped off that there were two days left to make a submission to the Labour Party National Policy Forum on its *Enhancing the Quality of Life* draft. On this occasion, the response had to be short, focused on a few key points, and very quick. It also had to react to a document that showed more concern with the natural environment than the historic, and inform a policy making process in which one of our *Time Team* friends, Tony Robinson, has considerable influence.

Did we get it right? Is this what IFA members want us to say? Feedback on this, and Alison's summary of what we should be saying to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (p6), will help us with our next submission.

'We tend to think of the environments of Britain in terms of separate 'natural' and 'built' elements. In fact our entire landscape, urban and rural, has been shaped by people interacting with nature over many centuries. We have a historic environment – the physical evidence for past human activity that we see, understand and feel. It includes sites, monuments, landscapes, buildings and settlements, as well as our appreciation and perception of them.

But too few people understand that the environment must be managed in a joined-up way. As Lord McIntosh has said *Great progress has been made over the past 20 years in recognising the important public interest in taking firm action to protect the natural environment. We now want to make similar progress to protect the historic environment, which has significance for all of us.*

We understand and explain this historic environment through *archaeology* – and we protect it through *conservation*. We need to do these things because the past is important, and because archaeology and conservation are useful – they have very significant potential for social, cultural and economic regeneration.

By encouraging a feeling of connectedness with the past we can help to promote pride in our neighbourhoods, community sustainability and citizenship. By showing that all our families were at one stage or another immigrants, we can realise that we have roots and experiences in common. Through conserving the past we can retain and develop traditional rural industries and craft skills such as thatching, and we can revitalise our cities with a blend of old and new buildings. By promoting access to the historic environment we can enhance tourism by visitors from Britain and overseas. And we can enrich education: by encouraging learning about the past, we develop understanding of the present and improve our planning for the future.

But to realise these goals we need to make changes.

- We need to streamline and simplify – but not weaken – the legislation that protects our historic environment, bringing it into line with our international obligations, and making it clear where it is obscure, open where it is secretive, and strong where there are loopholes
- We must require all national government departments to ensure that they truly understand the needs and potential benefits of the historic environment, and to be responsible for assessing and reporting how their policies may affect it
- We should give local authorities a statutory responsibility for providing historic environment services that maintain a record of heritage assets, inform sustainable planning decisions and make the past accessible to residents and visitors alike, through museums, galleries, schools and practical opportunities to get involved
- And we need to ensure that those practising archaeology and conservation are adequately trained and resourced for the work they are entrusted with – so that the citizens of Britain inherit the historic environment they deserve.

IFA ON THE MOVE (but not far)

Alison Taylor

Of course, what has really engaged our energies over the last few weeks is not responding to governments etc, but the horrors of moving house. At long last we have left the 'temporary' wartime accommodation, where we have been based since 1997, and have moved across Reading's pretty campus to share the rather newer premises of their Archaeology Department. This gives us slightly more space, is considerably more watertight, warm and comfortable, has food and drink within reach and even facilities for decent tea and coffee (so we can offer guests and committees a little more civilisation than was our custom). The best thing though is that we are now in touch with a lively department full of budding and actual archaeologists, company we are all starting to enjoy.

The move itself mostly fell to the effort of Gillian Phillips and Paula Smith, who sorted, packed and reorganised six years' worth of clutter (ie valuable archives), and even painted the offices. They also coped with computers that died for a week, telephone problems and post in different locations. If you tried to contact the office in mid-October, our apologies. One task that suffered was Paula's work for Validation Committee, for which she normally does a huge amount of chasing. As a result, of 78

applicants for membership only 17 could be approved, mostly because references had not arrived and she had not been able to use her normal gentle persuasion. Two lessons from this: please do try to get in references when asked (it's very simple now on email) and, if applying, check your referee is willing (and then make sure it gets done).



Gillian Phillips and Kenny Aitchison settling into their new desks in Reading



IFA's office is now in the new building of the Archaeology Department, University of Reading

FROM THE FINDS TRAY

Trade in illicit antiquities

Congratulations to Richard Allan MP (Lib Dem, Sheffield Hallam) who has finally secured legislation as a Private Members Bill to make it a criminal offence to deal in 'tainted cultural objects'. Once this receives the formality of royal assent the offence will carry a penalty of up to seven years imprisonment and a fine in England and Wales. Scotland is still a worry (it might be tempting to move trade there), but apparently the Scottish Executive has recently recognised that equivalent legislation will now be needed, so it should not be far behind.

Glass in London

The Abacus House site in Gutter Lane, excavated in 1987 by MoLAS, included a large, brick-lined cesspit containing high quality sixteenth-century glass tableware, and more basic bottles and urinals, on the site of the Embroiderers' guildhall. One piece of cristallo glass goblet seems to be unique in Britain, and is probably Venetian. **Rose Clark** has analysed the assemblage in her MA dissertation, available from both the LAARC (where the glass is stored), and the Institute of Archaeology (UCL).

Twentieth-century military sites: Current approaches to their recording and conservation

This is not your editor's favourite subject but it is now exciting quite a lot of timely interest (timely in that we can still go and ask what some of it meant). English Heritage's recent booklet sets out the range of sites that are of special interest, (PoW camps (I like the beautifully-decorated Italian ones), anti-tank blocks, bombing decoys, acoustic early warning systems, and coastal defences that have seen centuries of adaptation to the latest threats). It is interesting too to see the routes of second world war stoplines, many of which we must have inadvertently excavated. The aim is to ensure 'the correct choices for management and recording', and also to strike some sort of balance on preservation of these very unaesthetic monuments.

Copies of this free 16pp booklet are available from English Heritage Customer Services Department (customers@english-heritage.org.uk).

'Whose Find is it Anyway?' Treasure, Metal detecting, Archaeology and Conservation – the life of detected finds after recovery. 18 December 2003, British Museum

A UKIC Archaeology Section and British Museum joint conference which will review the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and address the difficulties still facing archaeologists, conservators and metal detectorists in working together to gather information and safeguard finds for the future. The aim is to find out what conservation advice detectorists need and how best to achieve this. Different procedures for their investigation, cleaning and care used by amateurs and professionals will be discussed. There will be displays of finds by metal detecting clubs and conservators.

Cost: Members of UKIC, metal detecting clubs or professional archaeological groups £35; non-members £50; UKIC students £25. Fee includes entry to *Buried Treasure: Finding Our Past*, interval refreshments and evening wine reception. **For more details, or to book your place**, contact Kirsten Suenson-Taylor, 01295 720350 k.suenson@virgin.net or Claire Heywood sheywood@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk.



Decoy representing Hull Docks

FROM THE FINDS TRAY

Marine aggregate dredging and the historic environment: assessing, evaluating, mitigating and monitoring the archaeological effects of marine aggregate dredging

Another less-than-catchy title for another guidance note, this time produced by Wessex Archaeology and published by English Heritage and the British Marine Aggregate Producers Association. It is aimed particularly at practitioners in the dredging industry, but it is also good for explanations of some of the equipment now being used, and so is useful for curators and students needing to understand the technical possibilities for this aspect of heritage management.



Geophysical equipment aboard

IFA and the Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors (AAI&S)

We have just agreed a *Memorandum of understanding*, recognising the roles of the two organisations, setting out areas of common interest and cooperation, agreeing to extend membership benefits of each organisation to the members of the other, and setting up an IFA special interest group for Illustration and Survey, which any IFA member can join at no cost.

Contact: Jo Bacon (Chair of AAI&S and Acting Chair of the Group) via the IFA office.

Management Strategies for Maritime Archaeology

A second professional development seminar, Maritime Archaeology Case Studies, will be held in York on 3 March and London on 10 March 2004. Attendance is free but must be booked in advance, through Ian Jones, Tees Archaeology, Sir Wm Gray House, Clarence Road, Hartlepool TS24 8BT. Tel 01429 523455, Tees-archaeology@Hartlepool.gov.uk

Verulamium

At long last the news from Verulamium is good. Herculean efforts (and we don't know how much cash from English Heritage), eventually persuaded the Verulam Estate that damaging ploughing within this prime Roman town should not continue, and an area of land would instead be used for permanent pasture. Unfortunately it is also clear that this sort of expenditure of time and money cannot be repeated elsewhere, and other solutions simply must be found. We reported in the last *TA* on the *Ripping up History* initiative, and on p8 Steve Trow's continuing programme to make protection of other sites in arable a reasonable reality. There are some in the farming community (often not the richest ones) who will voluntarily look after their own sites, but for others something more draconian is obviously needed. If we can't rely on CAP reforms to help, let's hope that the current legislative reforms give us something like the powers that planning guidance gives on development sites.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND PARLIAMENT

RESPONDING TO THE APPAG REPORT

Last spring, the All-Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group (APPAG) published the results of a hard look at the present state of British archaeology. It included ten headline recommendations, varying from improving archaeologists' pay and conditions to prevention of damage to monuments by ploughing. Some of these recommendations need government action, but others are the responsibility of the archaeological profession – ie ours.

For our 21 anniversary AGM therefore we invited key figures in British archaeology to give their views on points where they had particular expertise, and our members had the chance to help inform official IFA responses. Chaired by David Thackray, these presentations gave us a clearer picture of actions already being taken.

Phil Carpenter, negotiating officer for Prospect, took us straight into the major concerns over archaeological pay and conditions that had been taken on board after innumerable representations to APPAG. He made us feel the usual shame – 'archaeologists are very good at complaining but won't do anything about it' – and set out the



problems clearly. These essentially relate to too fierce competition and too little regulation. The way some trades and professions overcome this is by national industry-wide pay bargaining, for which we needed two organisations to act for rival sides. A suggestion from the floor that employers could act through SCAUM and employees through Prospect, with IFA negotiating ground rules, seemed a practical way forward that ought to gain widespread support.

David Gaimster described the role of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, (to which he is currently seconded). The department is supposed to have a lead-role in archaeology even though in reality this is spread over many

departments (Defra for example has many more archaeologists than DCMS's single one). DCMS itself is the smallest Whitehall department, easily pressured by the Treasury, and within the knowledge base and values of this 'minnow' department archaeology barely registers. The word 'archaeology' for example did not appear at all in their Annual Report. However, outraged opinions over the fiasco of damaged antiquities in Iraq provided an unexpected impetus for two major legislative reforms: government support for Richard Allan's bill on Illicit Antiquities, and for ratification of the Hague Convention. This Convention, signed by many nations in 1954, gives statutory protection to antiquities in times of war and would have made many recent actions in Iraq and Afghanistan criminal offences if Britain and America had been signatories. IFA has a valuable role here in keeping up pressure for reforms, and also for direct lobbying of ministers – but we do have to be both street-wise and politicised if we are to get anywhere.

Dai Morgan-Evans, general secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, expanded this theme to explain a proposal for Parliamentary lobby training for archaeologists. At present archaeologists are 'pretty pathetic' at lobbying, and improving the flow of information and advise in both directions through 4-6 month placements, hopefully early in 2004, should be a valuable boost for the whole profession.

David Jennings, director of Oxford Archaeology, took up APPAG's recommendations for franchising versus competitive tendering by stating baldly that franchising was basically 'dead in the water' within the system we now have, and that competitive tendering is being blamed for what are really long-term problems in British archaeology. Statistics over the last thirty years demonstrate that it is structural problems within the profession that lead to poor pay and conditions. One major problem is the non-existent barrier to entry, which has to be tackled quite separately to discussions of amateur involvement. Strengthening the Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) scheme (he is the Chair of this, after all) was the only way to give a level playing field for competitors *and* higher standards of both work and pay. This scheme already makes about 150 recommendations for improvements every year and is now rising to the challenge of becoming more relevant to the other half of the equation – the curators.

Don Henson, CBA's education officer, took up the problems of teaching archaeology in schools.

Apparently archaeology has now all but fallen off the syllabus. The situation is compounded because archaeology graduates are not normally accepted for teacher training – this also means that even museum education officers will probably have no background in archaeology. At a time when we desperately need a public that appreciates its historic environment we must provide rather more than television programmes. Pressing for archaeologists to be accepted for teacher training and to get archaeology back into the national curriculum are urgent political needs.

Christopher Young, English Heritage's head of world heritage and conservation, described the Valletta Convention as 'aspirational, setting benchmarks against which to measure progress', which we all have a duty to implement, even if we can't be perfect. It is inspiring current initiatives that should at least improve the legislative framework for archaeology. Implementation of Article 3, which requires archaeologists to be properly qualified for the work they undertake, is being worked on by English Heritage, Historic Scotland and Cadw, with the likelihood they will develop a code of conduct based on the IFA one. At the same time bodies such as EH can influence work on their own behalf, for example insisting on RAO status and IFA membership for its commissions and for work on scheduled sites.

Steve Trow, English Heritage's head of countryside policy, finished up with graphic illustrations of the long-running problem of plough damage, usefully highlighted by APPAG. Publication and publicity of *Ripping up History* had brought much support, including an NFU pledge to work with English Heritage, while research programmes such as COSMIC (Conservation of scheduled monuments in cultivation in the East Midlands) were establishing and illustrating effects of plough damage. The DCMS review of heritage designation would also be used creatively to bring better management for rural sites.

After all this mental effort IFA held its obligatory AGM (which for once was well attended) in the record time of 20 minutes, and then moved into a very enjoyable (and rather longer) birthday party, part of the celebrations for reaching a mature 21 years of age.

The current state of archaeology in the United Kingdom: First report of the All-Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group 2003 Available (£3) from the Society of Antiquaries of London

Archaeology & the Party Wall Act

Mike Dawson

Planning an excavation, especially in built-up areas, is fraught with problems. Bringing down neighbouring buildings is one thing we can do without. Mike Dawson, consultant for CgMs and chair of IFA's Committee for Working Practices in Archaeology, explains the working of the Party Wall Act, to ensure we are all in the clear on this one.

The Party Wall Act 1996

provides a framework for preventing and resolving disputes in relation to party walls, boundary walls and excavations near buildings. It concerns any owner, their agent or contractor proposing to carry out works or excavations that will affect a party wall. The Act specifies that if you plan to excavate within 3m of a building when that work will go deeper than the neighbour's foundations, or within 6m of a building where that work will cut a line drawn downwards at 45° from the bottom of the neighbour's foundations, you must inform the neighbouring owner.

The notice should include your name and address, the building address, a clear statement that your notice is under the Party Wall Act, details of your proposed works and plans and when you intend to start. In archaeological terms the notice should include your project design.

If the neighbour doesn't reply within 14 days a dispute is deemed to have arisen. If they give counter notice specifying conditions then you must reply within 14 days, and if you don't accept their conditions (which must be reasonable), a dispute is also considered to have arisen. The resolution procedure is the appointment of an agreed Party Wall surveyor – at your or your client's expense. They will prepare an 'Award' which sets out the

work, when and how it is to be carried out, records the condition of the adjacent property and makes provision to inspect the works to ensure they are being carried as specified.

The Act specifies that it is the owner's responsibility to serve the initial notice, so if you are in any doubt discuss this with your client.

Further reading:

The Party Wall etc. Act 1996: Explanatory booklet, ODPM, available from the ODPM Free Literature, PO Box No 236, Wetherby LS23 7NB
Tel:0870 1226 236, odpm@twoten.press.net



Excavations in St Ives, Cambs, were so close to the boundary of a pub that the Party Wall Act was invoked and agreement had to be reached on how close excavations could come to the wall.
© Northamptonshire Archaeology

The (Field) Archaeologist

at **21**

The Field Archaeologist No 1
Making archaeology respectable?
(photograph: TJ Hurst)



From early years a regular house magazine was recognised as a vital plank in IFA's structure. It was needed as a public face, for opinion forming, for publicising the activities of our own members, and above all for keeping the membership aware of what was going on within IFA and in the wider archaeological world. As a nostalgia-trip, I got out a heap of back numbers, checking out the major concerns discussed, and some of the changes in style and presentation.

No 1 of *The Field Archaeologist* (as it was then) came out in February 1984, a slim 8 pages edited by David Baker. It included Martin Carver's impressive vision of what IFA would be offering (quite a bit of it we eventually managed. Even aspirations to present field archaeology to the public through films, TV and videos have been met

No 10 Underwater archaeology was already an IFA concern in 1988



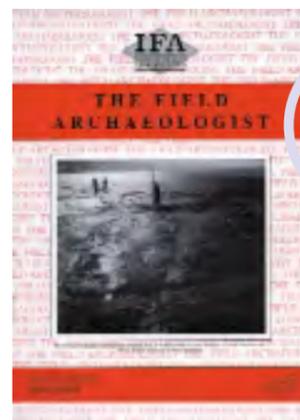
by some members). No 5 (June 1986), by then a serious 12 pages, stands out for the agonies over whether to support the notorious WAC held at Bournemouth, which split so much of archaeology over admission of colleagues from apartheid South Africa (Council reluctantly agreed to continue its support, leading to resignations). Tucked away in this issue is one small piece on *Contract archaeology: the view from the States*, in which Henry Cleere brought American experiences to 'the alarmed, and often ill-informed

discussions about the possibility of 'contract archaeology', probably the first intimation of this notion for most British archaeologists.

No 7 had increased to 24 pages and was able to celebrate IFA's first conference (Archaeology in

Britain '87), held in Birmingham. By then competitive tendering, alongside the perennial call for better communication with the public, was a leading topic. Sue Davies took over editorship in 1988. Her opening Editorial, a plea for members to contribute more articles, is another perennial – and so too is maritime archaeology, the main theme of the issue. No 9 contains another straw in the wind ahead of its time; a consultation paper on how to increase the reporting of portable antiquities.

John Hunter became editor in 1990 and Ian Oxley in 1993. Women's studies in archaeology was a main theme in no 14, including Roberta Gilchrist on *Issues of employment and education*, noting how excavators (male dominated) usually got promoted rather than finds specialists (mostly female), with Deirdre O'Sullivan noting the ratio of 1:22 men:women



1994
No 20



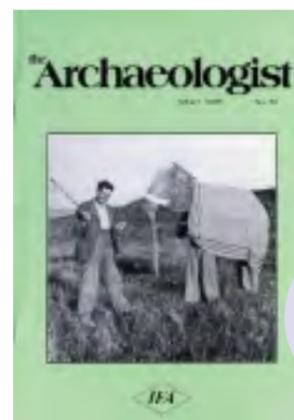
No 22 new design

1995

speaking at conferences. No 15 starts another long-lived thread, looking at the politics of excavating human remains, including the results of Jacqueline McKinley's first questionnaire.

No 20 contains an introduction to PPG 15, and also the sober issues of training, work experience, and the end of Milton Keynes' archaeological service. Equal opportunities surface again in a long paper setting out appropriate guidelines, and Mike Bishop discusses the relationship of research goals and field archaeology.

Nicola King took over in 1995, giving No 22 a new style of cover and inside design, though still with little illustration. No 23 returned to burial archaeology, with an article on crime scene archaeology by Margaret Cox and Mike Parker Pearson on *Ethics and the Dead*, including a draft code of ethics for dealing with human remains. No 25 has Robin Turner on the archaeological job market at that time, which makes dismal reading, with fewer jobs than previous years, less pay and no more job security. Design was taken over by MoLAS at this time, and became cleaner and more stylish.

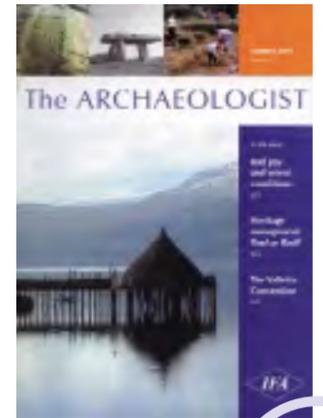


1997

No 30 (part of the social history of archaeology!)

When Mark Bell became editor in 1996 the title changed to *The Archaeologist*, a deliberate attempt to have a wider appeal. This became more achievable when it was realised the work is more than can be expected voluntarily and, with issue No 29, Jenny Moore is announced as 'part-time editor'. By No 30 Jenny's influence can be seen in the increase in illustrations and more varied content, including the social history of archaeology. *TA* grew again in size (32pp) with No 31, and with No 32 (1998) the concept of themed issues was developed: equity issues, (with a survey of PIFAs and a demand for IFA to use RAO scheme to improve both standards and treatment of staff) and, (No 33), human remains again.

No 34 had Richard Bradley as the first *Profiling archaeologists* piece, predecessor of our *Opinions*, and reports on an IFA debate on whether British archaeology was in crisis – surprisingly, this was defeated. A major and very effective design revamp came with No 39, though still only black-and-white reproduction was possible. Mark Bell did his first Web Guide now.



No 41: TA goes into colour

I became editor in 2001 (No 41) with a broadened remit that included four issues per year, full colour throughout, and a 44pp format. The intention was to have one major theme per issue (historic landscapes, reconstructions, education, burial archaeology, archaeology and the public, the future of archaeological services, agriculture, and Roman Britain have been covered so far), plus regular features on Groups, Archaeology on the Web, foreign issues, science, and archaeology in politics.

Copies of most of these back numbers are still available. An index for all the past issues is being prepared, making our magazine an important and fascinating research resource. This will cover the first fifty issues of *The (Field) Archaeologist*, and will be included in our next issue, No 51.

Alison Taylor

Memories...

Peter Addyman Chair 1982-1985

IFA's first Chair and Member No1 was Peter Addyman, who was then running the York Archaeological Trust, itself an innovative venture that he only relinquished in 2003. He claims he was only chosen because he would cause less antagonism than most in our argumentative profession, but his experience as Chair of SCUM (Standing Conference of Unit Managers, now SCAUM), creator of York Archaeological Trust, and broad knowledge of archaeological practice in Britain (and calm imperviousness to rants and criticism) made him a pretty obvious candidate.

Peter Addyman in 1983 (TFA 1)

'Through the 1970s there had been heated debate, mostly coming out of RESCUE, about the need for a plan for a proper archaeology service throughout Britain. SCUM had been set up as a voice for the new units, but English Heritage, Historic Scotland and Cadw didn't exist then, and of course there was no hint of developer funding (at least outside London). **We needed a body to represent the new breed of professional archaeologists – to tackle poor working conditions, give them a voice and actually create a profession.** CBA decided, after much debate, that it didn't want to take this on, the Antiquaries thought it all a mistake, so we took the ball home and made up our own game – and somehow got 500 like-minded archaeologists to form APIFA.



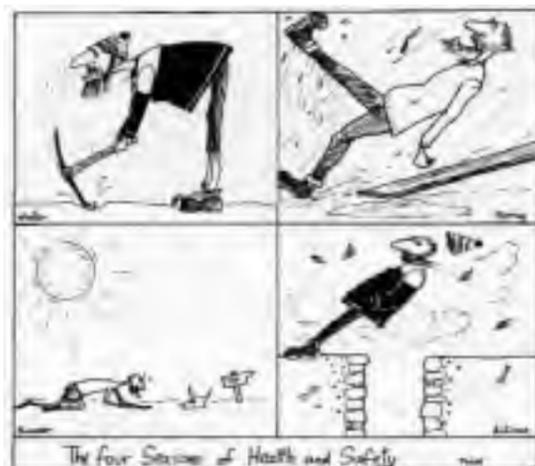
Then Henry Cleere and Peter Fowler went off to a conference in the States and came back filled with ideas inspired by SOPA (Society of Professional Archaeologists) who

were then getting to grips with the professionalisation of archaeology there. It was from SOPA that we derived much of our constitution, code of conduct and early procedures.

Philip Barker was very much our wise eminence grise, insisting on working patiently behind the scenes. Brian Hobley, already responsible for a new basis for working with developers, was treasurer, and Martin Carver our secretary and prime organiser. It was he who set up our offices in Birmingham, with his protégé Steve Walls as first secretary. Julian Richards (of York) ran the first conference (a huge event with parallel sessions, then a revolutionary idea) and we had the benefit of John Coles international academic reputation. Council included enthusiastic youngsters such as Richard Bradley and Francis Pryor – these were exciting times.

If pressed about mistakes, in my view we perhaps followed America too much in our procedures and constitution – becoming very bureaucratic and at times turning people off just by boredom. Our disciplinary procedures too are far too tortuous, even when the case is obvious. Otherwise I think we served archaeology rather well.

Looking to the future one priority for IFA is to meet the challenge set by the changes in heritage designation and management currently being proposed by DCMS. As professionals we must have the insights to make a success of these over the next decade, and we ought to be getting seminars etc underway to see how to tackle this.



Health and safety: an issue from our earliest days. Pinder's light-hearted cartoon, from TFA 5

Brian Davison, now enjoying retirement after 37 years as an Inspector of Ancient Monuments for English Heritage and its predecessors, was another founder and original Council member of IFA. He took over from John Coles, who had served as Chair for just a few months before resigning over an issue which rent the archaeological world at that time – whether South African archaeologists should be admitted to the World Archaeology Congress at Bournemouth.

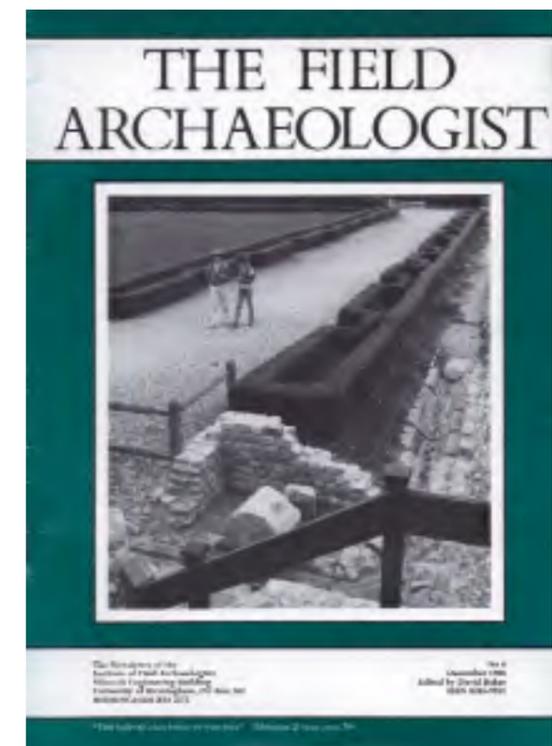
Brian Davison Chair 1986-1987

'At that time the whole concept of a professional institute was still a strange and to some a rather threatening concept, and its structure and procedures needed a lot of development. A previous attempt to form an Institute through what you might call the 'Big Bang' approach had failed, so we spent a lot of time wrestling with problems of consensus building in APIFA. By 1986 the basic framework was in place, much of it the work of Chris Musson (IFA's latest Hon MIFA), but we needed to consolidate the systems that would make it all work. **I saw my main task as expanding from that base and creating a sound internal structure which could be seen to work – and to work fairly.** This meant consolidating the Validation and Disciplinary committees, starting work on standards and on sorting out Areas of Competence. It all sounds very administrative and rather boring now, but at that juncture it was a necessary part of turning archaeology into a profession, and we certainly felt we were creating something very worthwhile.

Although the original impetus had been to persuade digging archaeologists to subscribe to a proper code of conduct, we all thought we should bring in as many different backgrounds as possible, ensuring that abilities in each field were roughly equivalent. I was particularly keen to bring into the fold the curatorial field archaeologists – Inspectors of Ancient Monuments, County Archaeologists, and so on. We were fairly successful in this, but I'm still sorry we still have too few members from university teaching and the museum world.

Looking to the future, I think IFA will need to be very aware of how archaeology is seen by the public and its elected representatives. Archaeology is increasingly required to show itself as being 'useful' in social and economic terms. More and more people think that understanding and conserving the historic environment are no longer acceptable as ends in themselves: instead, they must be justified through contributing to tourism and entertainment. It is quite frightening the way

history is disappearing from our schools. Given that it remains our responsibility to provide good, reliable accounts of the past for the public, we shall have to be more adept at presenting those accounts in a variety of easily digestible forms. I have always seen archaeology as a public service – and in future we shall have to be much clearer about the nature of the service we are providing and more persuasive about the need to pay for it.'



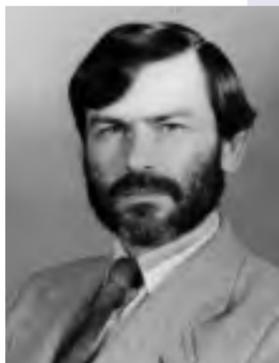
Presenting archaeology to the public: Fishbourne as the TFA cover, 1986



JIS, as first
advertised in 1988
(in TFA 9)

Memories...

Richard Hall Chair 1987-1989



Richard Hall
in 1988

When Richard Hall, Deputy Director of York Archaeological Trust, took over the Chair the debate was still raging over what sort of an organisation IFA ought to be. Was it to be a setter of standards and a fairly passive provider of useful information, or should it start to be more proactive in assisting its members and in influencing the profession? Could it even stay viable when membership was so low? There was still great wariness amongst archaeologists in general, and proving the Institute could be sufficiently relevant to attract representative numbers was a major challenge. Archaeologists themselves were under terrible pressures as public funding dwindled every year under Margaret Thatcher's government, but developer funding (pre-PPG 16) was rarely possible and had to be very hard fought-for.

'We saw the need to provide guidance and to defend both archaeological standards and archaeologists in an era of rapidly evolving transition. For example, we had to tackle issues thrown up by the novel world of competitive

tendering and contract archaeology before any curatorial controls were really in place. We had a committee to monitor procedures, and guidelines were drawn up. The Contract Archaeology Steering Group issued an important report, and the first use of disciplinary regulations was vigorously pursued. We were able to make a ruling against 'volunteer' levels of pay, which had been the lot of so many junior archaeologists, and we set up the PIFA grade so they would have better representation. MSC (Manpower Services Commission) projects were both a blessing and a curse at this time, so we issued a *Guide to archaeology on community programmes* which I hope stopped some of the worse abuses.

The Institute was also concerned about the teaching of archaeology in universities. I remember visiting SCUPHA (Standing Committee of Professors and Heads of Archaeology Departments) with Ian Hodder, when he made strong arguments for teaching archaeology in a way that would equip students with skills they would need in the real world. Another aspect of our efforts to get archaeologists into jobs was the Jobs Information Service which we set up at this time. It was run by Val Turner, and became one of our most long-lasting initiatives.

I think the best part of those years was the way IFA grew to address many *different* issues: training, employment conditions, disciplinary problems, competitive tendering and practical help to members. It seems a long time ago now, but I think we did play a useful part at a formative time in the development of the archaeological profession in Britain'.

Timothy Darvill Chair 1989-1991



Tim Darvill

Timothy Darvill, now Professor of Archaeology at Bournemouth University, lists the major challenges of his time in the Chair as the implications of competitive tendering, equal opportunities, and developing new approaches to quality assurance. Contract archaeology was very hotly debated at this time, there were arguments over the name of IFA, the need for post-qualification training was recognised, and the desirability of influencing politicians became clear. Archaeology was diversifying in many directions at once, and the IFA was trying to change to match.

'The introduction of competitive tendering was obviously something we had to get a grip on. At the AGM in September 1990 we adopted the *Code of approved conduct for the regulation of contractual arrangements* that had been prepared by a committee chaired by John Williams. Two months later PPG16 was published by the Department of the Environment, at a stroke changing the whole basis of archaeological practice. *At same time we started to set down guidelines for minimum standards appropriate to various common tasks, and floated the idea of Registered Archaeological Organisations.* We also tested our disciplinary regulations to their full limit with a case that eventually led to one member being suspended.

Steve Walls was of course running the IFA from offices in Birmingham, and as the membership grew we were able to get him some part-time assistance. We were also lucky in having a strong and active Council. Our Secretary at this time was Jonathan Drake who sadly died this September (see p44). Jonathan was especially interested in making the government's Community Programme work for archaeology and together with Anne Fahy prepared IFA Occasional Paper 2 on the subject. He also played a huge part in modernising the image of IFA. At one Council meeting he staggered members by his presentation of various options for a corporate image and a new logo – the result was similar to the one we still use.

The Annual Conferences in Birmingham were amongst our great successes at this time. They really were fora at which to discuss the issues of the day, and in consequence were big events. I always made a point of inviting the chairs and directors of all the national agencies so that members could make direct contact with them. There were some brilliant and memorable speeches at the conference dinners, but these meetings were tremendously enjoyable occasions as well as being quite influential.

Looking ahead, we must continue to help steer changes within the archaeological profession, be major participants in the debates, and give voice to the views of our members. I think we need to focus on making archaeology pay in three distinct ways: improving the quality of life for its practitioners; enhancing public appreciation of archaeological work in giving value and meaning to everyday existence; and increasing our knowledge of the past. Perhaps too we need to debate just where the limits of our discipline should be – we do sometimes seem to take on roles that perhaps others can do better. Overall, I think the IFA can take much credit for the way we have grown to meet the needs of our developing profession in a responsive way. The IFA has played a vital part in keeping us ahead of the game in a rapidly changing environment, and long may it be so.'



Debating politics at ABC 1991. Tam Dalyell explaining it to Alan Beith and Richard (CBA) Morris

Memories...

Ian Ralston Chair 1991-1992



Ian Ralston, 1992
(in TFA 16)

Ian Ralston, now professor of Later European Prehistory at Edinburgh University and also non-executive director of CFA Archaeology Ltd, chaired IFA in the harsh financial climate of the early '90s, when the Institute was still buzzing with all the initiatives Tim Darvill had set in motion.

'My main memory of the organisation at that time was it being rather like a teenager – needing money all the time, going in too many directions. It was operating on a shoestring. Did Steve Walls ever sleep? He ran everything himself, under awful financial constraints. **We had to sort out terribly basic stuff, like office accommodation, computer equipment etc, and our bills from Birmingham University were starting to climb.** That made the Conference more expensive for example (you can imagine the complaints we got), though it did have the good effect of making us peripatetic thereafter.

At this time debates on equal opportunities moved forward (just gender imbalance at that time, I don't think we ever considered ethnic minorities or disabilities at all). There were also passionate debates on green issues. Dave Wel Drake chaired a working party which came up with such ambitious recommendations I don't know if any were implemented, though I think much of this entered our subconsciouses to an extent. We were also starting to look across the Channel to see what colleagues were doing there. The Valletta Convention, with its recommendation for the use of properly qualified archaeologists for professional

work throughout Europe was signed at this time. We are still waiting to see how it will be implemented in Britain!

Good things at this time were reaching a membership of 1000, getting more involved with the teaching of archaeology (we published a booklet on post-graduate courses in archaeology, edited by John Wood, that proved very useful), and John Hunter and I edited *Archaeological resource management in the UK* on behalf of IFA. We also reformed the Council structure, so there was an Executive to deal with routine matters and Council could concentrate more on policy debates. That at least is something that has lasted. On the bad side, the proposal for RAOs was thrown out at the AGM for the second time.

Looking to the future I think that two programmes I would like to see develop are firstly, for IFA to move into some sort of validation for all the new MA and MSc courses we see springing up (which ones will really equip students for jobs?), and secondly to improve links with professional colleagues in Europe, as is already beginning with projects such as Mt Beuvray.'

David Start, now director of the Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire, with a foot in both curatorial and contractual archaeology, and a long-serving member of IFA's RAO committee, became Chair in 1993, a time of upheaval and change at IFA in addition to a worse-than usual financial crisis.

'The first challenge was to stop going bust. We had a thousand members by then but an increasing deficit, so belt-tightening had to come first. I am proud that we managed to do that (largely by cutting back on Council and other committee meetings). It was also obvious that we needed clearer direction – and for that we needed a director. We got the process of that appointment started, and in the process set up the RAO (Registered Archaeological Organisation) scheme, another major step.

These three achievements were in fact all linked. It came about because I asked Geoff Wainwright, newly appointed as Chief Archaeologist for English Heritage, for sponsorship to appoint a director. His response was 'fine, if you can deliver a scheme to improve the standards of field units'. It was a long slog to create this, and members demanded much more monitoring than had originally been envisaged, but we got there and became a much more professional organisation in the process.

Another major advance was more painless. In fact, I think it was the result of one boozy session at the Conference bar. We got into conversation with Cathedral Communications and ended up with their taking over our annual directory – now the *Yearbook and directory*. That year we had struggled to produce our own first full directory so, although there were a lot of misgivings at first, this was huge relief, and Cathedral have made it one of the most useful things we produce.

David Start Chair 1993-1995

Standards, and Continuing Professional Development were two issues much discussed at that time. We didn't really get far with CPD, but there was movement on standards. Both the Excavation and the Building Recording standards were produced, largely thanks to Pete Hinton who was very active on that committee before turning into our first director.

The Secretariat was changing a lot in these years. Steve Walls, guardian of IFA from its beginning, resigned, and Kitty Sisson took on the administrative role – for the first time we had someone to do minutes etc for all those meetings. It was also time to leave our old home in Birmingham and move to Manchester.

Looking at where we go now, I think the crucial thing is that we become a chartered institute to which *all* practicing archaeologists must belong. That's the only way to ensure good archaeology for the future'.



David Start in 1995
(in TFA 20)



David's Council in 1994 (in TFA 20)
(photograph: Edmund Lee)

Memories...

Diana Murray Chair 1995-1996

Diana Murray, now Head of the National Monuments Record of Scotland at RCAHMS, had already served for two years as Secretary when she succeeded David Start, so had already had considerable influence over IFA's work. At this time Kitty Sisson ran the secretariat, and the IFA office was one room in Manchester University shared with the archaeological unit. It was a time when commercial units were being rapidly created, and there were debates over the training and qualifications professional archaeologists needed.

'The RAO scheme was very timely, and with Hedley Swain as Chair of the newly formed committee I had the honour of presenting the first batch of certificates at the Conference in September 1996. The scheme was one of the initiatives that delivered the IFA's new mission statement – setting standards in archaeology. RAOs have to sign up to the IFA Standards and Guidance and we made sure the scheme as a whole was supportive rather than punitive. I believe that this scheme has helped to monitor and significantly raise standards in the archaeological profession.

Diana Murray in her RCAHMS office



We undertook a much needed review of the structure and organisation of the IFA, focusing on promoting and disseminating standards, making Council more accountable to the membership by introducing elections to all posts, and overhauling the constitution. I thought we needed a much 'quicker and slicker' Council, so I was pleased when the idea to drop the number of meetings and keep them short was accepted, but ***I consider the best achievement in my year in the Chair was to finally reach the position where a director could be appointed. It is clear that the IFA has grown in strength, public profile and in service to members as a result.***

I had been the secretary of the Scottish Group (the first to be established) from 1985-1992 so I was pleased to try to encourage development of other Groups Forum. I am still of the view that this network is not used to its full capacity either by IFA or the membership.

We improved our communications and presentation in other ways too. Tracy Wellman did a magnificent redesign job on *The Archaeologist*. We knew we had to be more political so, for example, Mark Fisher MP (then Opposition spokesman for Culture) was brought along to the Annual Conference.

Looking at IFA now, one important thing is to get more of the profession taking part in the work of the IFA Council and Committees. We have also got to make the RAO scheme more widespread, and this means tackling curatorial issues – we are still weak on standards for cultural resource management and engagement with heritage managers. Rather more difficult will be finding ways to set standards and measure the quality of work, beyond procedures. There's a challenge for the whole profession!



Jez Reeve, 1998
(in TA 29)

Jez Reeve left English Heritage in 2003, where she was head of social inclusion and diversity, for a change of direction (as Chief Executive of Community Organisations Forum, Tower Hamlets CVS). She started off her time with IFA in the '80s in very critical mode. She reckoned it was too inward looking, too involved in 'talking in corners', but she allowed herself to be dragged in by John Hunter and, after a year as vice-chair, when she worked with David Start and Diana Murray, found herself the Chair.

'By this time developer funding was well underway, and our overall professionalism and technical abilities could be taken as read. ***I felt we needed maturity in two other directions: firstly in developing terms of reference for curatorial archaeologists, and then (more ambitiously) to make archaeology an important factor in society at large.***

We certainly made progress on the first of these. There were many debates in Validation committee over 'what is an archaeologist?', partly informed by the research undertaken by the Equal Opportunities Committee in comparison with the situation in America and continental Europe, and we did expand to bring in more of the curatorial side. Even so, I still think we need to do more work on the role of consultants in this same context, aiming at a more mature balance between encouraging healthy competition and opportunism. I am not sure we made much progress on the social role of archaeologists though. We should be making much more of a contribution to social cohesiveness (if we understand dead societies why can't we do more for our own?)

Jez Reeve Chair 1996-1998

Within IFA these were important years because we at last appointed ourselves a director. I had used the analogy of a busy but headless body to finally justify this step to Council, and we started a whole new phase with Pete Hinton in post. Then we had the excitement of the move from Manchester to Reading. At the same time we restructured the organisation to focus on the two major platforms of Outreach and Standards, much the pattern of today and promoted the strap line *Setting Standards in Archaeology*.

Looking at where IFA should be going now, I would like to go back to what I was saying about the role of archaeologists in society, and our need for greater maturity and confidence. In many ways we underestimate the benefits of an archaeological background – life-skills and techniques (leadership qualities, presentation, management, research and deduction, report preparation); skills other professions would die for – and just how much we have to offer society, whether we choose to stay within the profession or develop ourselves outside of it. Another important direction for IFA is to move closer to academic study. That's where we come from, and we will lose much of our value if we become further divorced'.



Conference 1997: Sara Champion (Champion Chunes), fondly remembered for the music she regularly provided for the Conference disco. Photograph: David Webb (in TA 30)

Memories...

Sue Davies Chair 1998-2001



Sue Davies as IFA
Hon Editor, 1988
(TFA 8)

Sue Davies, now director of Wessex Archaeology, was Chair at a time when archaeology in general was becoming somewhat better resourced and more stable, and when IFA had a director in post who was able to take initiatives forward. As a result it proved possible to get a real structure and agreed objectives in place and to get working on raising the profile of both archaeology and IFA.

'We had an excellent Executive and Council at this time, who were always fun to work with and were effective as a team, which was fortunate because there was an enormous amount of work to get through – our own fault really as we had got ourselves invited onto so many organisations and lists of consultees. **Within IFA the main challenge was to draw up and start implementing the Business Plan, plus getting resolutions through AGMs that freed up Council to act more like a proper Board of Directors.**

One thing I am especially proud of was setting up the Historic Environment Forum, which enabled us for example to get representatives of the main political parties to address us and answer questions at the Antiquaries and which led to the setting up of APPAG. I think we have only just started to see how much further that sort of direct involvement in politics can take the whole profession.

I am also pleased at the way we spread our influence into Europe. We facilitated the European Archaeological Association in setting up its Professional Associations Committee, chairing its round tables, and Pete and I advised archaeologists in the Netherlands on setting up their professional institute. That again is an aspect of our work that has only just started to prove its benefits.

Back home, it was excellent that we could make the appointments needed to expand the Institute. Rachel Boning and then Alex Llewellyn came as Company Administrators, Alison Taylor as head of outreach and editor, and Kenny's job as head of training and standards was set up.

Then too I think the PTC (Professional Training Committee) made huge strides with its vision for training (launched at the Glasgow Conference in 2000). With both John Collis and Mike Bishop pushing this forward and Kenny Aitchison steadily working this is something that will make a great difference to younger archaeologists.

I suppose my one real regret is that we didn't get agreement for a name change. That would have signalled the extent that we are relevant to the whole profession and would have helped bring more students and academics on board.

Looking ahead, it is important to work more closely with partners, because we desperately need to bring in more resources. Otherwise I think we need to concentrate on doing the same sorts of thing, but to get better at them'.

Deborah Porter Chair 2001-2004

Deborah Porter is our current Chair (alongside the day job of Designation Team Leader East and West Midlands and East of England), so has to talk from the middle of things rather than looking back with perspective. As such, she finds herself coping with endless committees, structural changes and policy issues both within and outside IFA at a time of rapid change, and it is hard to disentangle the main threads of achievement. Even so, there is a pattern that stands out, and achievements that can be ticked off against the Business Plan.



Deborah Porter,
2001 (in TA 42)

'One thing we had to do was to sort out the constitution so that we were positioned to go forward to become a chartered institute able to represent the whole profession. In the same way we had to raise our political profile, to make archaeology and the whole of the historic environment a serious issue within government. Engaging with APPAG and the legislative review that is currently underway are crucial for this.

In the same way it is important that archaeology should be mainstream, not a side issue. Drafting a *Memorandum of understanding* with IHBC (Institute of Historic Building Conservation) so we can become closer to those colleagues has been a significant step, and so has all our work with like-minded colleagues in the Historic Environment Forum. We run the secretariat for that, and it has

become a force for the whole sector. It enables us to talk directly to ministers, to give united responses to consultations when this is most effective, to address issues such as looting in Iraq at short notice and to host events at the Society of Antiquaries where we can bring politicians face to face with the leading players in British archaeology.

At the same time our members' concerns (pay and conditions have to be front stage here!) are paramount. The main strategy is to use the RAO scheme to create the level playing field that will enable us to raise standards overall. It has to be a long process, and it needs the RAO scheme to expand to take in curatorial organisations if we are to take things forward without penalising the good. Taking up an initiative emerging from the last AGM we may have a role as a middleman between Prospect (for employees) and SCAUM (for employers) to create some sort of national pay-bargaining structure that should give diggers proper muscle at last.

Looking to the future I think we have to go on building on our strengths to increase representation of the *whole* profession and to be seen as vital to people's careers. To do this means we have to bring in far more organisations as RAOs – and of course have to keep up the current rise in membership!



RAO inspections: talking to staff is an important part of this process. Richard Hall and David Start visiting the Field Unit at Essex County Council, 2002 (in TA 46)

The Archaeology Data Service



Julian D Richards

The Archaeology Data Service (ADS) was set up in 1996 with the mission to 'support research, learning and teaching with high quality and dependable digital resources'. It supports users of the data and provides guidance for people creating it. At the core of our mission is long-term preservation of datasets from researchers and provision of online access to them. We also offer a safe digital archiving system for excavation records – or any archaeological data. Funded through the education funding councils, the service is geared primarily for university-based researchers, but this is good news for archaeologists whether in university or not – data are available for all researchers, and the facilities exist for all data to be preserved.

ADS was set up by a consortium of eight universities plus the CBA, and is based at the University of York. Julian D Richards is the Director, with William Kilbride in charge of User Services and Tony Austin of IT. Jo Clarke, Jen Mitcham, and Keith Westcott are curatorial staff. Catherine Hardman, Collections Development Manager, looks after relationships with data depositors and manages OASIS.

Grey but available

OASIS is evolving into one of the most useful services for field archaeologists, for it seeks to overcome the problems associated with inaccessible grey literature resulting from developer-funded projects, the despair of so many researchers. The

Excavations at Danebury, one of the many fieldwork archives available from the ADS. Picture courtesy of the Danebury Trust

project, originally a collaboration between ADS, the English Heritage NMR and the AIP project in Bournemouth University, aims to create a flexible but standard system for reporting archaeological fieldwork to SMRs and NMR, and ultimately to the public. Units in England are being asked to submit short details about field projects online, in a format which can be stored digitally and then retrieved using catalogue records. After being validated by staff in SMRs and the NMR, the records can be downloaded for use. As well as these outline summaries, OASIS can distribute the whole documents in electronic form. Though still in development, several field units have tried out the data gathering form, and training for more units and SMRs is planned.

Hopefully, completion of an 'OASIS record' and electronic submission of grey literature will become a standard part of every archaeological brief. The potential reuse value for researchers has been shown by the archives the ADS currently makes available.

SMRs online

More familiar to fieldworkers is the capacity of ADS to offer free instant access to SMRs throughout the UK. We currently have some twenty SMRs online, combining local and national records. These can be searched for anything from basic records to sites archives or monographs. You can use the integrated access facility to look at them all at once, or by any relevant organisation or area.

ADS has played a major role in developing standards for digital preservation, including metadata used to describe archives. It has published six *Guides to Good Practice*, covering GIS, CAD, VR, geophysical data, air photos and remote sensing, and excavation and fieldwork archiving. The *Guides* are available online or in hardcopy from Oxbow Books.

HEIRs and successors

ADS also leads a number of projects of wider interest. It maintains HEIRPORT, an experimental portal that searches across different databases remotely, and provides access to the HEIRNET Register, a database of databases, with details of who maintains them, why and how to consult them. It also provides access to ARCHway, a list of the archaeology journal holdings of 25 UK research libraries.

Individual projects and publications made available online by ADS include out-of-print CBA Occasional Papers and Research Reports, *Defence of Britain* project records and the whole run of the *Proceedings*



ADS catalogue
ArchSearch
(<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>)

of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Other projects include ARENA (Archaeological Records of Europe Network Access) managed by Jon Kenny, and PATOIS (Publications and Archaeology in Teaching with Online Information Sources), developed by Kate Fernie.

Classic sites and PhDs

In April ARENA launched online archives of classic excavations from sites such as Biskupin and Vorbasse from partners in Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Romania and Poland. PATOIS released the last of four tutorials aimed at encouraging university students to make more use of online resources, including fieldwork archives, e-publications, and monument inventories. The Christchurch Spitalfields tutorial for example shows how documentary and archaeological data can usefully be combined.

Our latest initiative, launched this October, is the E-thesis project, archiving PhD theses and making them available in electronic form. In the first instance, we will include PhD abstracts within the Library section of the ADS catalogue, with the full text available on request. Academic theses are among the most exacting and innovative forms of academic endeavour, but are often very difficult to access, and seldom published in their original form. Most readers have to use a microfilmed transcript which can only be read with dedicated specialist readers in libraries. So, if you or your students have recently completed a PhD thesis and would like ADS to preserve and distribute copies contact Catherine Hardman on csh3@york.ac.uk.

Julian D Richards
The Archaeology Data Service
Department of Archaeology
University of York
King's Manor
York YO1 7EP

Tel: 01904 433954 Fax: 01904 433939



Severn Valley Ware tankard

Oxford ArchDigital was created in 2001 by a group of archaeologists from Oxford's Institute of Archaeology and private investors to develop systems for the heritage and archaeology sectors. Hardened by years of handling unwieldy data produced by archaeological research, they wanted to provide individual solutions for content management, digital archiving and imaging for different archaeological organisations, based around core software. Their engine, christened *ToadHMS* (The Oxford ArchDigital Heritage Management System), allows storage of images and map-based data along with text. It is backed up by *ToadView*, which provides image storage and management, and *ToadMap* which incorporates spatial data that can then be used to create distribution maps and plot expedition routes, or for overlaying on maps or aerial photographs. Whilst not intended as a replacement for the analytical functions of GIS, *ToadMap* fulfils the needs of many projects that require spatial information online.

Some of the projects Oxford ArchDigital has designed solutions for include



WORCESTERSHIRE CERAMICS

<http://worcestershireceramics.org>. The Worcestershire online fabric type series is the first part of an online database of all the pottery used and made in Worcestershire from prehistory to c 1900 AD.



Roman Severn Valley Ware

At present it contains Roman and medieval wares: prehistoric and post-medieval pottery will be added over the next two years. *ToadHMS* is used as a data management and presentation tool, allowing system managers to input data online, link photographs, drawings and thin sections to the relevant fabrics and forms, and present the contents to researchers and the public. The system describes all the types of pottery found on archaeological sites in Worcestershire and, for each type, contains information on fabric (clay type and inclusions), manufacture, forms, source, distribution and date. Each record includes photographs of cross sections of pottery plus bibliographic references for each fabric and cross references to other fabric type series. The resource is initially aimed at researchers and students although, because it contains simple as well as advanced navigational tools, it has potential to appeal to a much wider community.



PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

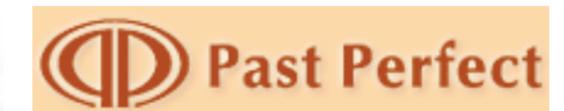
ToadHMS also supports the Portable Antiquities Scheme, making archaeological finds by the public available on the Web. The system is unique in that it allows users, Finds Liaison Officers as well as the public, to enter data directly via their web browsers.

The system's integrated Workflow and Data Quarantine facility ensures that all data automatically enters a quarantine area for checking



by a specialist before it appears on the internet. The database also integrates text, images and mapping data in a single interface. Selecting any find will bring up the full record relating to that find, including any drawings and photographs. One more click will show on a map of Britain where it was found. Security is provided by a hierarchical system of user and group-level access control, useful feature for restricting access to sensitive information such as precise map references.

'*ToadHMS* has enabled us to create a living heritage resource on the Web. Instead of being mere observers, members of the public will be helping to create the resource and so feel a sense of ownership in it as it grows,' says Roger Bland, the British Museum's Coordinator of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. 'The contents of the site will never be the same two days in a row, and yet the data that appears on it will be fully validated. As a result, we have a valuable, evolving tool for the archaeological community.'



DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

<http://www.pastperfect.info>

Durham County Council's site, Past Perfect, is an interactive, virtual tour around the archaeology and history of Durham and Northumberland. Visitors can browse around seven very different archaeological sites and search the archive sections to find historical documents, archaeologists' records, photographs, objects and other archives. Oxford ArchDigital used *ToadHMS* to manage the site contents during the development stage, and to publish the static results onto a CD.

To find out more about Oxford ArchDigital visit <http://oxarchdigital.com>, call 01865 793043, or email nick.case@oxfordarchdigital.com.

Eastry Kentish Disc Front – the image used to design the Portable Antiquities Scheme logo

Herefordshire ●●●●●●●● online

SMR 35542: Dinmore-Canon Pyon parish boundary: the snaking form suggests a woodland origin. © Rebecca Roseff

Sites and monuments records, for three decades the backbone of information storage for British archaeology, have been gaining a reputation for cumbersome inaccessibility from which digital access is at last rescuing them. Even with all the expert help available however, the process is not straightforward. Herefordshire SMR, now celebrating its first year of using the internet to widen access to archaeological records, is one success story. There, the County's archaeologists recognised how important it was for SMRs to be part of the 'information superhighway' and have had their own website, 'Historic Herefordshire on Line' live since September 2002. The website is part of a Heritage Lottery project, designed to last for three years. Miranda Greene reports.



SMR 23292: Hampton Meadow Bridge: a medieval bridge raised in the seventeenth century for navigation purposes. © Rebecca Roseff

Before the website was up and running virtually no one knew Herefordshire's SMR existed, we had about 100 enquiries a year and (with just one member of staff) even this was too much. Since being online we have over 300 visitors a day and hardly ever send out data at all. In the first two weeks in September this rose to a staggering 600 visits a day. Whether this is because schools have returned (as I hope) or due to the BBC programme Hidden Treasure (as I fear) we don't know. Curiously, visits to the office are no higher, and although we have a form for enquiries we get very few.



We didn't want to limit access or to just offer digested information, so the website includes the entire database of 15,000 records, searchable by a variety of criteria. However, to complement this we have added period summaries and pages on subjects of particular interest (castles, railways, the Cathedral etc). There is also a separate education section based on the National Curriculum for 11-16 year olds, to encourage schools to use the local landscape as a learning resource.

So what difference has it made? Firstly we are unquestionably more relevant than we ever were. Local historians use the SMR, which previously they never did. More school children are using the website as they have been brought up using the internet and know all the technical ins and outs. We now have a useful end for volunteer work, such as the field names project, and a place for guest authors. We are also able to link up with the Museum and Record Office, and requests for talks from community groups have risen. Visits to the site increase steadily each month as people learn that it is there and has got something to say.

It is very satisfying to know our SMR is now available 24 hours a day, can be accessed across the world, and the information published can grow by the day.

The Herefordshire SMR website is designed and created by Miranda Greene and Toria Forsyth-Moser. The SMR Officers are Rebecca Roseff and Melissa Seddon (job share). Alan Vince and Paul Tyers created the online database.

Miranda Greene
New Audiences Officer for SMR
SMR Officer
Herefordshire Council
PO Box 144
Hereford HR1 2YH
01432 260130
roseff@herefordshire.gov.uk ●●●●●●●●

TRAINING IN LANDSCAPE SURVEY: *an English Heritage initiative*

Expertise in landscape archaeology was one of the principal skills shortages recognised in *Profiling the profession* (2003), and employers have long recognised how much this is the case. It is not something that is easy to teach a class of undergraduates and, with the technology that is now required, it is hardly possible to take the old teach-yourself route. English Heritage does have this expertise in-house (part of its inheritance from the Royal Commission) and, through its Archaeological Investigation team, has a tradition of outreach training, mostly through the Oxford Continuing Education scheme. This is useful, but cannot hope to turn out fully qualified professionals at the level needed. So, last May the first two 'training placements' began work, one in Cambridge and one in the Swindon office. The scheme is due to expand, hopefully with four placements to be appointed in March 2004, so this was a good time to ask Nathalie Barrett and John Lord just what they had got from the experience, and if they would recommend other young archaeologists to apply.



Nathalie, a graduate of King Alfred College, Winchester, was drawn to landscape archaeology because it meant she could study all periods and could immerse herself in the evolving history of the landscape – even if concrete fortifications in eastern England are a bit of a shock after her previous work on Exmoor. 'Earthwork surveys are the best. It is so rewarding to work out all the detail and see the whole picture unfold. We have been learning traditional graphical methods as well as using theodolite EDMs and GPS – with analysis and interpretation the results are hugely informative.'

John, who took a BSc at East London University, had already studied geophysics and surveying and was keen to expand his understanding of how landscapes developed. He too likes the multi-period approach and the challenge of walking onto a nondescript area and working out what happened there. This includes research they are encouraged to do on documentary sources and aerial photography. Both feel their survey skills have benefited from

their training, not just technically but in how to use the skills when approaching a site. Aspects such as what research is needed and who the audience is have become second nature, and they now feel at home in the world of archives.

Both appreciate how much they have learned from contact with skilled people. 'Just walking around a landscape with experts – even having tea breaks with them – can be a huge learning process. Working side by side with landscape archaeologists, buildings historians and aerial photographers has been a great opening for us. We've still got some exciting projects before we leave, and we know this is the work we really want to do after that, whether back in English Heritage or out in a commercial unit'.

More professional placements in the Archaeological Investigation team will be advertised in January. If landscape archaeology is your ambition, watch out for these.

Nathalie Barrett and John Lord set up equipment at English Heritage's Cambridge office

Bringing old timbers back to life

Douglas McElvogue



Model of Llyn Peris Boat to showing how it would have looked when first built

Britain has an impressive collection of nautical archaeological finds but few have undergone the rigours of conservation and even fewer are on display. Notable exceptions are the *Mary Rose* (Portsmouth), the Dover boat (Dover), parts of the ships and boats from London at the Shipwreck Heritage Centre (Hastings), and more recently the Llyn Peris Boat now on display at 'Electric Mountain' visitor centre, Llanberis, North Wales.

Boats of Llanberis

Evidence for boats on the lakes of Llanberis includes two boats and a log boat from Llyn Peris and Llyn Padarn, a log boat from Llyn Llydaw and another log boat and a small clinker punt still be *in situ*. Each find is unique in date and form and was discovered by accident. The Llyn Peris boat, which dates to 1549, is clinker-built, 6.3 metres long and 2.2 metres in the beam, a fine forward raking bow with a bluff, straight and near vertical stern. The planks, in eleven strakes, are radially split from at least two parent oaks. Each plank was fastened to its neighbour with wrought iron roved and clenched nails, the precursor of the rivet, whilst the frames are fastened to the planking, and the stem

Llyn Peris Boat on display



and stern post to the keel, with treenails. Some of the treenails show evidence of coppicing, a once-forgotten industry in Llanberis. The planking was waterproofed with birch resin mixed with organic matter.

Animal droppings, hay and moss were found between the planking and in the stern area. Further organic material was found under the keel which included leaf mould, acorns, a hazel nut and goat and horses dung along with wool and hair.

Reconstruction and display

As part of its outreach and community support programme First Hydro commissioned the University of Bangor to reconstruct and display the Llyn Peris boat. The disarticulated remains were recorded, along with all constructional details and evidence of deformation. This included the positions of each nail hole on both sides of the plank, important when it came to reconstructing the hull form of the vessel.

Archaeological remains were modelled at 1:4, in both plastic and wood. The planking was cut and shaped, and the nail holes drilled at their original angles (hence the reason for both faces needing to be recorded). The lands, where individual planks overlap, were also cut into the scaled planks. When joined together, nail hole to nail hole, the planks reformed themselves into the original shape of the vessel. The scaled down internal structure, with slight modification to take out any quantifiable distortion, was then fitted into the planking. The resulting 1:4 scale model was then recorded and a full set of boats plans and lines were produced. Using this set of plans a further 1:4 model was produced, in oak with iron clench and roved nails, to show what the vessel would have looked like when first built.

The recording of the timbers and building of the model gave intimate understanding of construction and hull form of the original vessel. This helped immensely when rebuilding the original timbers and constructing their tailor-made support frame. The models also became part of the display, telling the story of the boat and how it was rebuilt. The oak model is also a tactile display for the visually impaired and the ever inquisitive children.

Whilst the display focuses on the vessel and the scale models, it also encompasses wood technology, the local environment and history, and climate changes. Types of moss used in the waterproofing highlighted the different seasons they were collected and environments they grew in.

Dendrochronology allowed a time line to be constructed, whilst naval architectural analysis gives the visitor an idea of how much the vessel could carry and thus how it could have been used.

The success at Electric Mountain can be judged by the increase in visitors to the site, some from as far afield as Australia. The capacity of the visual impact a boat or ship can have should not be underestimated. It can reach the imagination and emotions of an individual and thus drive their curiosity. Hopefully in the future other parts of our nautical archaeological heritage will also be allowed to tell their story and light the imagination of young and old alike.

Douglas McElvogue
Senior Research Fellow
Mary Rose Trust



Looking up the pass, with Llyn Peris in the foreground and Dolbadarn Castle to the right



1:4 scale reconstruction model being built

Subterranean secrets below the Isle of Wight

Our indefatigable underwater archaeologists are now involved in investigating the first stratified submarine Mesolithic site to be recognised, and in the process are demonstrating the impact of climate change 10,000–5000 BC. A sea level over 100m below today's level meant that Britain was a remote peninsula of Europe, and the Solent a series of rivers abraded across Dorset through to West Sussex. As the glaciers retreated at the end of the last Ice Age, the warming climate encouraged hunters and foragers north. They exploited the resources (being richest adjacent to the watercourses) and occupied newly accessible territories. After another 5000 years lands were lost below the oceans, but in that time the population had made an impact we can detect archaeologically. **Garry Momber**, of the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology (HWTMA), describes the potentials and technicalities of work in this environment.

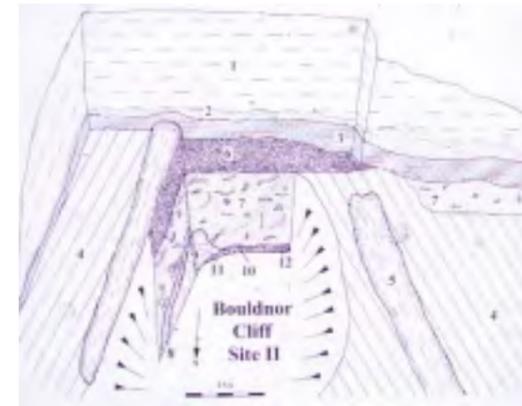
In the western Solent the courses of the ancient river channels have not been satisfactorily detected, primarily due to erosion continually deepening the channel as the system is evolving. Large deposits of the early to mid Holocene landscape do however fringe the waterway, protected by alluvial silts laid down as the waters rose. Today, they represent a rich archive of sediments and peat that contain archaeological material. This material is being exposed as the Solent continues to mature.

Submerged sampling

Investigations of these exposures by HWTMA are based on a programme of monitoring and sampling. This followed bathymetric and geophysical survey, employed to locate topographic variations and sites of potential archaeological or palaeo-environmental interest. This is followed by diver investigation, monitoring and sampling. Sampling involves using a 30mm auger to track submerged deposits under the alluvium, collection of timber samples for dendrochronological analysis and of monoliths for palaeo-environmental analysis. Excavation is conducted where required.

Oaks on the seafloor

In 2000, excavations led to the discovery of over 300 Mesolithic worked and burnt flints from a



submerged site lying 10–11m below OD, a site pre-dating 8565–8345 Cal BP (Beta-140104). In 2003 English Heritage funded a further excavation to characterise the landscape from which the archaeological material has been recovered, assessing the impact of human activity on the evolving landscape. Excavations were conducted in a metre-wide section cut into the cliff face with a smaller trench dropped into the seabed. Large oak trees exposed in the peat on the seafloor around the site were believed to form the basal organic deposit, but new exposures revealed a more complicated stratigraphy.

Initial assessment suggests a number of events caused adaptations to the landscape (see plan). The lowest exposed level (11–12) contained fluvial gravel lying within 500mm of fine sands and flint fragments. A small cluster of burnt flints were recovered from just above this horizon (10). This was covered by up to 550mm of fine grey silty sand containing freshly knapped flint flakes, worked cores and organic inclusions (7). On the eastern side, timber (9) lay directly over the fine grained sand, and flint fragments were recorded at the bottom of the trench (11). This was covered by a peaty/humic seam, dipping to the north (8). Above this lay the fine grey silty sand (7) with flint flakes and organic inclusions. Central to the trench but not exposed in section to the west, was a fluvial fan of gravels intermixed with organics (6). This was recorded directly above the grey silty sand (7). The deposit contained a possible secondary archaeological deposit of abraded Mesolithic and Upper Palaeolithic flints. The whole sequence was capped by a layer of peat dipping to the north and west (3), which in turn was covered by Holocene alluvial silts (1) laid down as the sea covered the landscape during the Flandrian Transgression. Layer 2 represents the interface between the peat and alluvium where the silts have become stained by vegetation.

Adaptations of the landscape: excavations at Bouldnor Cliff, Isle of Wight



Lithics recovered from Bouldnor Cliff site in 2000

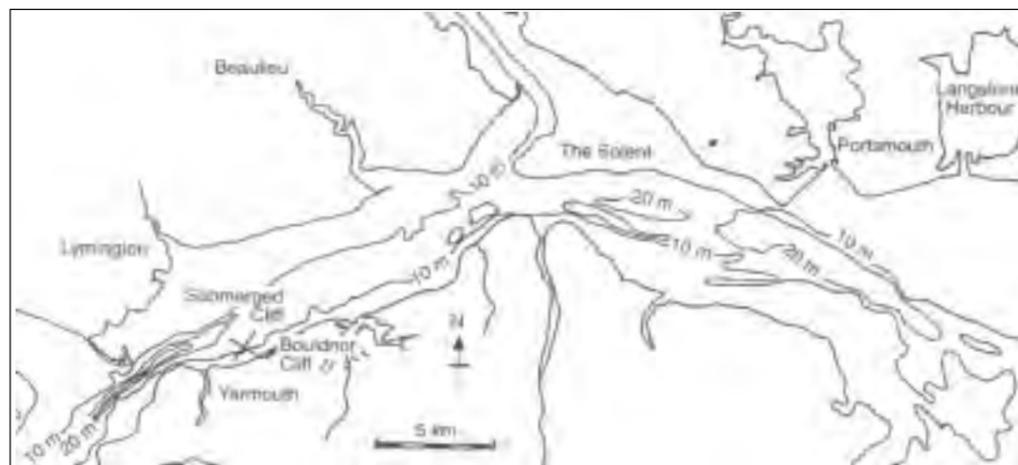
Reconstructing drowned landscapes

Interpretation of the results, currently subject to dating and specialist analysis, will identify the potential archaeological and geomorphological significance of the drowned landscape and lead to a reconstruction of the events during a period that saw the rising sea engulf a continental shelf.

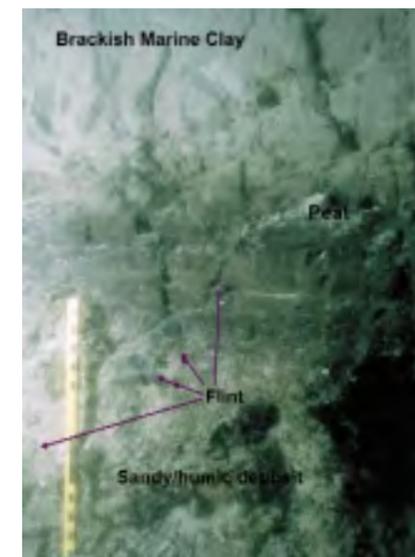
The discoveries in the Solent have been made because the HWTMA has invested time in looking. A second site about 600m to the west has now been discovered eroding from the submerged cliff and the presence of worked flint over areas of the seabed suggests that primary context sites have already been lost. Erosion of Holocene alluvial sediments is continuing around the country. The site at Bouldnor Cliff may be the first stratified underwater Mesolithic site identified to date but as more archaeologists look below the water, many more will be found.

Section at -10.5m OD across an horizon containing cultural material. Lithics have been recorded from within and below the peat deposit

The Solent, lying between Isle of Wight and Hampshire



Garry Momber
Hampshire and Wight Trust
for Maritime Archaeology
Southampton Oceanography
Centre, Room W1/95
Southampton SO14 3ZH



The Centre for Archaeological Science:

21 YEARS OF SCIENCE IN ARCHAEOLOGY

The last twenty one years are also an important period in the development of archaeological science. In this time English Heritage, through its Centre for Archaeology (CfA), scenically if inconveniently situated in the dramatic Napoleonic stronghold at Fort Cumberland, has continued to contribute to innovations in many of the techniques we now see as routine, and remains a principal practitioner in archaeological science. **Justine Bayley** (Head of Technology at CfA) looks at some of the major advances of the last 21 years.

SEEING UNDERGROUND

Geophysical techniques are now a routine part of developer-led evaluations. Rapid digital data capture and improved visualisation of geophysical

data have been aided by portable computers, data-loggers, graphics software packages etc, and these have enabled ground-penetrating radar to be introduced into archaeology alongside improved methods for visualisation of the data (notably 3-D time slices). The development of global positioning equipment for locating survey measurements, towed arrays of sensors for extremely rapid and wide ground coverage and the adoption of more sensitive magnetometers for investigating problematic areas, such as archaeology under alluvium and very weakly magnetised features such as post-holes, are other areas where technical developments have led to real benefits.

Other developments include explorations of multi-elemental geochemical analysis as an interpretative tool in conjunction with geophysical survey. Important too of course is the ready availability of information about surveys via the Web: the EH Geophysical Survey Database now contains over 2400 surveys.

DATING BUILDINGS

The world of scientific dating has also changed over the past 21 years. Radiocarbon dating has undergone several more 'revolutions', with high-precision calibration available from the mid 1980s and Bayesian modelling producing chronologies of unprecedented precision from the mid 1990s. Significant developments in both calibration and mathematical modelling continue. In 1982, tree-ring studies in England were dominated by waterlogged oak. Now, construction of long well-replicated oak master chronologies for the medieval period in most parts of England has meant that the dating of



Dual fluxgate gradiometers with automatic recording in use in 2003. © English Heritage

standing buildings has become routine. In the 21st century, the first steps to extend this analysis to buildings constructed from imported conifers are being taken. One example of using radiocarbon and tree-ring studies together is the felling date of April–June 2050 BC for the inverted stump at Seahenge.

INSIDE MONUMENTS

While 21 years ago most environmental investigations involved the analysis of bones and plant remains, there is now an increased emphasis on synthetic approaches towards understanding site formation processes and palaeoecology. A recent example is the collapse of an antiquarian tunnel at Silbury Hill, which has provided a fortuitous opportunity to look again at the turf stack and buried land surface previously examined in the 1960s. A by-product of the seismic study to search for additional voids was a series of 10cm-diameter cores from the whole depth of the hill. These will yield additional ecological data particularly from the dark organic (turf) deposits of the primary mound. Moss within the turf layers can now be dated using AMS to provide the most accurate date so far for Silbury's construction. These turves are being compared micromorphologically with samples both from the cores and from areas around the monument in an effort to understand both construction details and the burial environment which has led to this unusual preservation.

INSIDE BONES

Two decades ago, human osteoarchaeology was mainly carried out by those with a background in medicine, and concentrated on descriptions of

interesting cases of unusual diseases. Now the emphasis is on populations rather than individuals and there has also been improved integration with the rest of archaeology. There have also been important innovations in methodologies. Twenty years ago, human osteoarchaeology was primarily based on the visual observation and measurement of bones. Now, techniques include stable isotope analysis, ancient DNA and histological study of bone thin-sections. More workers now have access to laboratory facilities, and there is less tendency for specialists to work in isolation, starved of other archaeological input.

Micro-analytical techniques are making other advances. Recent work with Bristol University, for instance, has used small but significant differences in stable carbon isotope ratios in specific lipid residues extracted from potsherds to study the contents of the original vessels. Milk for example is shown to be regularly used in England from the Early Neolithic.

INSIDE ARTEFACTS

A scanning electron microscope (SEM) used to produce images of mineral-preserved organic materials on metal artefacts was an innovation of the late 1970s. Once the potential of the technique had been demonstrated it was enthusiastically taken up and nowadays identifications of this sort, and the reconstructions they allow conservators to make of complex objects, are taken for granted. Modern SEMs are far simpler to use and, with the addition of analytical capabilities, can be used to answer questions about the structure and composition of many materials. In the field of ancient technology the need for quantitative analytical data is now often met by the routine use of such equipment.

Scenic if inconvenient: CfA headquarters at Fort Cumberland, near Portsmouth. © Crown copyright. NMR



Fluxgate gradiometer and field plotter in use by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory in 1981.





The SEM in use. On the main screen is an image of a seventeenth-century copper-rich slag. The right hand screen shows the analytical data. © English Heritage

The last 21 years have seen a move from identifying past technical processes to interpreting the debris they leave behind in a social and economic context; however, this must still be based on scientific analyses. Extending into the post-medieval period has brought new rewards; eg combining science and documentary research has provided much information on changes in glass technology.

OUTREACH

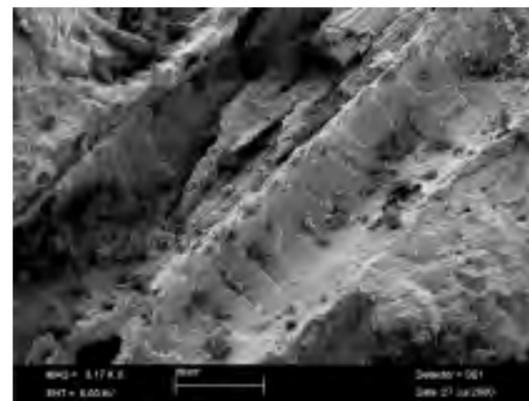
Regional Science Advisors (RSA) were first appointed in 1999, partly to strengthen archaeological science within developer-funded interventions, and partly to provide 'one-stop' advice regionally. They now provide scientific

support for curatorial and contracting archaeologists dealing with development and natural pressures. Close consultation is maintained with regional offices of Defra, the Environment Agency, English Nature and other bodies in developing management strategies, as these invariably have impacts on the historic environment. In the east of England, for example, the vulnerability of the coast to erosion and submergence and to the impacts of longer-term climate change is significant. Schemes of mitigation for submerged and buried prehistoric landscapes, wrecks, and other types of site are being developed and contributed to the production of *Coastal Defence and the Historic Environment: English Heritage Guidance*.

Many recent developments in archaeological science are reflected in the Guidelines which EH publishes. They and the related training courses are areas where the RSAs and CfA collaborate to encourage future developments in archaeological science.

Justine Bayley
With help from Alex Bayliss, Gill Campbell, Matthew Canti, Andrew David, David Dungworth, Jen Heathcote, Simon Mays, Peter Murphy, Andy Payne and Sebastian Payne

English Heritage Centre for Archaeology



SEM image of mineral-preserved sheep's wool from the Iron Age sword from Bryher, Isles of Scilly. © English Heritage

Archaeomagnetic dating: glassmaking sites at Bagot's Park, Staffordshire

Directional archaeomagnetic dating is a little-used scientific dating technique owing to its limited applicability, but it is used by a few practitioners, including the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology and can date features to within 50 years during periods when the Earth's magnetic field was changing rapidly.

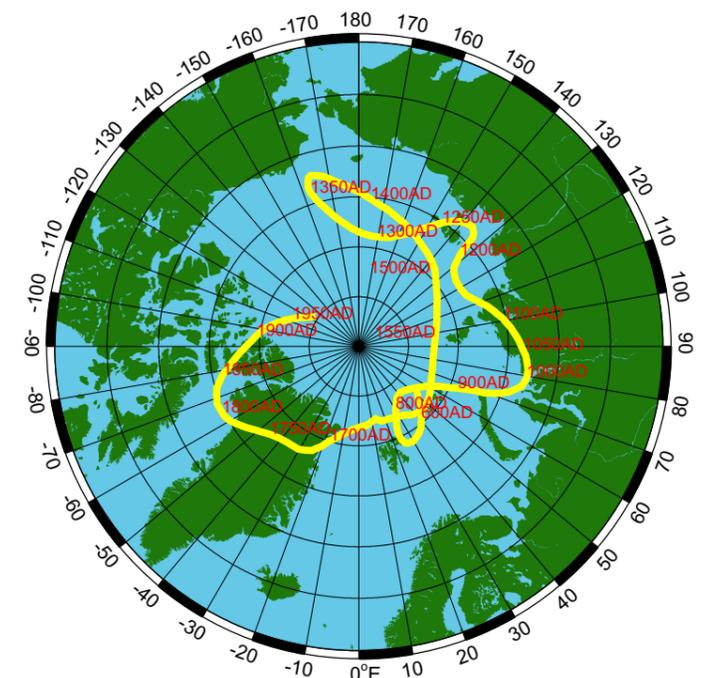
It works on the principle that the position of the magnetic north pole varies with time relative to true north. This magnetic pole position may be determined relative to any point on the Earth's surface by measuring the declination of the magnetic field at that point (the direction indicated by a magnetic compass) and the angle of inclination, or dip, of the magnetic field below horizontal. It is based upon substances containing iron oxides which have the ability to become permanently magnetised when heated above the 'blocking temperature'. This temperature is specific to the material and typically ranges from about 400–800°C. On cooling, the substance will become magnetised in the direction of the prevailing magnetic field. Clays (and thus bricks and tiles) as well as many types of stone can acquire this thermoremanent magnetisation. Thus, if an undisturbed structure such as a hearth, kiln or furnace is constructed of an appropriate material and was heated above 400°C during its use, its last firing can be dated.

A good illustration of the technique is Bagot's Park, near Abbots Bromley in Staffordshire, where it has been used to investigate medieval and early post-medieval glass furnaces. Central Staffordshire was one of only two major centres of glass production in Britain during the medieval and Tudor periods (the other being the Sussex/Surrey Weald). David

Crossley investigated glassmaking here in 1966, excavating one of the furnace sites and showing that crown window glass was being produced. The site was subsequently used for arable agriculture.

Test excavations in 2000 demonstrated that the natural clay soil originally beneath the furnaces had been heated sufficiently to acquire a thermoremanent magnetisation, and was below the depth of ploughing. Fifteen archaeomagnetic dates from furnace sites already indicate that glass production was not uniform, but that after limited activity in the late thirteenth century there was an hiatus of about 75 years after which it resumed and increased steadily until the mid sixteenth century. We know too that glassmakers from Lorraine worked in the Park from 1585 onwards, and two of their sites are known from surface scatters although they cannot be dated by archaeomagnetic techniques. There does appear to be a gap before the arrival of the Lorrainers, and this adds to a national picture of dwindling window glass production in England in the mid sixteenth century.

Paul Linford & Christopher Welch
Centre for Archaeology
English Heritage



Stereographic projection of the Arctic region, showing the apparent movement of the magnetic north pole over the last 1200 years (yellow line)

The archaeology of buildings

'Archaeology above ground', as study of historic buildings is sometimes known, has become part of mainstream archaeology in recent years, and both our disciplines have benefited by moving closer together. Nowhere is this better demonstrated than in IFA's Buildings Group. In 2003 this Group has a new committee but will still be headed by its Chair, Robina McNeil. Robina wanted to learn more about the special interests of her committee, and so asked them to describe their favourite or most hated building/case history. The results are a fascinating reminder of how far archaeology has extended its range in both period and subject matter.

Religious architecture featured prominently in the choices made. At Romsey in the Test Valley the refectory roof of the Abbey is being dated by dendrochronology and at the King John's House site an adult education course included hands-on experience of working with lime mortars. This has to be one of the ways forward, teaching people to appreciate their historic assets and the development of new skills in the profession. In Manchester, the Cathedral has finally (after 600 years) acquired a

refectory in its new Visitor Centre. This was created as a result of the IRA bomb in 1996 and houses Hanging Bridge, a scheduled monument that was part of a massive rebuilding of Manchester in c1421. Hanging Bridge is one of the sites involved in APPEAR, an English Heritage and European initiative to make hitherto unknown archaeological monuments more accessible to the public and so increase our sense of ownership of the past.

Nineteenth- and twentieth-century standing archaeology, primarily post 1880 'mass consumer age archaeology' (eg social housing, cinemas, pubs, schools, etc) features prominently among the interests of the Group. In Hertfordshire *Jonathan Smith's* favourite buildings include the 1938 lavish art deco Rex cinema in Berkhamsted, the early 1950s' Fire Research Station in Potters Bar, many of the 1930s' subtle art deco hangars and ancillary buildings at Hatfield aerodrome, and the Ovaltine Egg Farm north of Watford (a particularly lovely art-and-crafts structure).

For those of you who are football mad, the charm of the Vicarage Road Stadium, Watford, originally laid out in 1922, is that each side exhibits different periods of development and quite different styles and engineering techniques. The east side includes

the 1922 East Stand, constructed with a pitched roof supported by vision-restricting stanchions. Prior to demolition, this has been fully archaeologically recorded in the usual manner – in today's society twentieth-century archaeology in all its manifestations is becoming mainstream.

And most hated in Hertfordshire? The Galleria on the edge of Hatfield, constructed over the A1M, was built in the mid 1980s and brutally re-excavates from one's psyche all the worst of that decade. It was opened by Margaret Thatcher amid fanfares lauding its status as an icon of shopping centres that provided high quality, cosseted, piped consumerism. The Galleria's structures can largely be described as a collection of steel-framed warehouses clad with pressed steel. This is jazzed up extremely superficially with crudely assembled brushed tubular steel fretwork, cable, and acres of plate glass. The only barely perceptible architectural styling might be described as faux neo-neo-Georgian. Within a year of its opening the Galleria proved a striking commercial failure, a financial millstone to the local authority.

Another building associated with commercial failure is Hardwick House in Norwich. This is an imposing building of 1865 designed by Philip Charles Hardwick and originally intended to be Harvey & Hudson's Crown Bank. It was built in the Classical style with a grand portico and large top-lit banking hall, in many ways reminiscent of a Georgian Assembly Room. The grandeur of the stone building and use of the outdated Classical style were attempts to give clients the impression of a solid and reliable bank. It nevertheless went bust within five years of moving into this building. The building went on to be the General Post Office for Norwich for ninety years, and until recently occupied by Anglia Television. *Phil Thomas* admires this building on his way to work.

The Trafford Centre on the M60 is no commercial failure. For those of us in Manchester, you will never need to travel the world again, as the whole range of architectural styles from Classical Greece to nineteenth-century New Orleans is displayed as you wander through the Middle Eastern bazaar, the temples of Manon, China Town or join the doomed on the bridge of the Titanic. Our past informs the future and we must wait to see how these retail paradises will be judged in the future.

Some twentieth-century buildings inspire awe, and the Battersea Power Station is *Catherine Cavanagh's* favourite. Assessment and subsequent record and analysis have been carried out for both the power



Battersea Power station from the air. English Heritage



Battersea Power Station taken through window of Battersea pumping station. Photograph: Catherine Cavanagh

station and the adjacent Battersea Water Pumping Station, completed in 1840. Both are listed but the latter is due to be demolished. At one time the pumping station housed the largest Cornish engine ever built with a 112" diameter cylinder. Recording has included researching the existing archive and will be supplemented by oral testimonies of former operatives, and video recording.

Pre-determination assessment can be vital to inform decision-making. Assessment of three blocks of

Hardwick House, Norwich, originally the Crown bank of Harvey and Hudson. Photograph: Phil Thomas





The Chapter House; wall foundations on display beneath road (arched 'windows') with Savacentre to rear, built over remains of Merton Priory. Photograph: Catherine Cavanagh

buildings east of King's Cross uncovered a nineteenth-century stable block behind a 1980s' façade, and led to the listing of industrial buildings on the site. Conversely, Lots Road power station further upriver has no statutory protection. This is despite the probability of it

being Britain's earliest surviving steel-framed multi-storey building, predating the construction of the Ritz Hotel. Until very recently, the power station supplied electricity to London Underground.

One of Catherine's worst buildings in London must be Merton Priory. The twelfth-century foundations of the Chapter House are on display beneath the relief road, and the Savacentre was built over the excavated priory. It really is a grim spot, alleviated by the nearby Abbey Mills with its working water wheel, part of the former Liberty works. The Chapter House is a scheduled monument and on the Buildings at Risk register. There is some hope that the new Heritage Centre will present the remains more sympathetically.

Staircase House in Stockport is my own choice. It is an intact merchant's house with integrated warehousing comprising on the domestic side a town house (a cruck hall in 1460), with a timber-framed service, solar and staircase wing behind and, on the business side, timber-framed and brick warehouses, shops, a stone counting house and courtyard. This arrangement of rooms and

hierarchical spaces remained virtually unaltered for over 350 years. I was forced to reassess it when an arsonist tried to burn it down, and applied new empirical inquiry. As with so many buildings, this is what is important – posing research questions and looking at different models to understand the significance of buildings and hence the role they can play in regeneration strategies.

Blaenavon used the significance of its archaeology and its potential in regeneration strategies as the cornerstone of its successful bid to become a World Heritage Site (WHS). Manchester and Salford has been entered on the UK Tentative List of WHSs and understands the advantage of underpinning its heritage as an economic, social and cultural resource. The citation reads 'Manchester is the archetype city of the industrial revolution. It witnessed Britain's first true industrial canal, Britain's first mainline, inter-city passenger railway and the country's first industrial suburb based on steam power'. The site is thus considered as a complete and integral urban landscape that includes an outstanding architectural ensemble of buildings, structures and archaeological remains.

Monuments of the Industrial Revolution interest *Mike Nevell*, in particular the archaeology of the canal warehouse in the North West. Warehouses in the Castlefield Basin, Manchester, the terminus of the Bridgewater canal, are epitomes of type 1 classic canal warehouse, a model for canal basins across the country. Thus a typological study of building

types will be invaluable in demonstrating 'Outstanding Universal Significance', the basis for WHS inscription.

Kate Clarke has shown us that Conservation Based Research is the key to management of the historic environment (see *Informed Conservation*). The National Trust is one body that takes this to heart. Working for them, *Oliver Jessop* specialised in the survey and analysis of eighteenth-century buildings, particularly from formal pleasure grounds such as Stowe. Later in Edinburgh he researched development of the New Town and high status Georgian architecture. Recent building projects include recording water filtration houses in Bingley and Huddersfield; survey of the Dema Glass Factory in Chesterfield; and survey of Crookes Methodist Chapel, the Cornhill Works and Neepsend Rolling Mills all in Sheffield. Forthcoming projects are to record the surviving architecture of the Peak Forest Tramway and the Cromford and High Peak Railway in Derbyshire, funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, along with a proposal to combine existing historic archives to aid the conservation and interpretation of the buildings of the Sheffield cutlery trades.

The National Trust for Scotland cares for over 1100 standing structures, all of which require ongoing maintenance and repair. In the Trust's North East Region alone, the area for which *Shannon Fraser* has a remit, 45 essential buildings projects were carried out last year. One of the Trust's aspirations is to



Dema glassworks, Chesterfield. Photograph: Oliver Jessop

carry out Historic Building Surveys for all of its properties, to produce a 'biography' of the building, though, with severely restricted resources, such surveys are generally only commissioned in advance of major repair or development projects.

What we see here is how archaeology and in particular buildings archaeology aids economic and regeneration strategies. As archaeologists we must all celebrate the fact that the world is beginning to take notice of what we have to say, and that informed conservation about the importance of the historic environment can and must contribute to wider regional strategies.

With all the proposed changes to heritage designations and the PPGs, there has never been a better time to join the IFA Buildings Special Interest Group. Membership is free to all IFA members and a small cost is charged to non members. Contact Jonathan Smith (jonathan.smith@hertsc.gov.uk). We are looking for contributions to the next newsletter. Please contact Phil Thomas (archaeological.surveyor@cathedral.org.uk) with your contribution. Deadline: 20 February 2004. We look forward to welcoming new members and your contributions.

Robina McNeil
robina.mcneil@man.ac.uk

Cleaning a retaining wall containing reused architectural blocks at the Cornhill Works, Edward Street, Sheffield. Photograph: Oliver Jessop

The 1830 railway station and warehouse, Liverpool Road, Manchester, part of the proposed World Heritage Site. Copyright: English Heritage NMR



This time I am going to talk about an embarrassing problem that may affect your site; yet no one is going to mention it, least of all your customers. It's called link rot. You spend much time and money on designing and writing your website, with graphics and lots of links to other pages, internal and external. Then what happens? You forget about it, other things occupy your time. Meanwhile all those handy links you have put in have changed. You move your pages around; add in new pages and graphics. What's worse those external URLs have moved or disappeared. Before you know it you have a serious case of link rot. Users find more and more dead links, to their frustration.

The very least you can do is put up a nice ~404 not found page. See for example <http://www.archaeologists.net/notfound.html>. The picture of Stonehenge on the page is to force Internet Explorer to show this page instead of its default page.

A better solution to link rot is Xenu's Link Sleuth™. This can check your pages and find broken internal and external links. Best of all it is free. It is for Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP platforms and can be found at <http://home.snafu.de/tilman/xenulink.html>.

Directories

This not coincidentally brings me to the subject of directory resources for archaeology. There seems to be a gap in the market at the moment for a good list of British archaeological resources, especially the commercial units. CBA's listing pages have not been updated for a while and are showing plenty of dead links.

ARGE – (Archaeological Resource Guide for Europe) at <http://odur.let.rug.nl/~arge/> is also having problems. Searching by country constantly throws up errors. Martijn van Leusen emails that they are having problems with the software and with the lack of system maintenance. Even worse, the European section of ArchNet (<http://archnet.asu.edu/>) has not been updated since January 2002 and still contains an advertisement for the EAA in Esslingen. Also they do not automatically include commercial sites in their listing. Weirdly it has a section for United Kingdom & Scotland (UK) (sic) and a separate section for Wales.

Online Publishing

On a more optimistic note online publishing seems to be a growth area. There is a new Scottish publication initiative called Scottish Archaeology Internet Reports (SAIR) at <http://www.sair.org.uk/>. SAIR is a joint project by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, with the CBA and Historic Scotland. SAIR is only a pilot at the moment and has published six reports so far in Adobe Acrobat format. A decision will be taken this year whether to continue with the pilot. One comment from their press release "Access to SAIR will, initially at least, be free". Does this mean there will be a future charging policy?

By the time you have read this, CBA will have held a conference on electronic publication of journals, at the Society of Antiquaries. I hope to report on this next time.

Mark Bell
markb@arch-web.co.uk

New members

Paula Smith

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members. We hope you will all enjoy the full benefits of IFA membership, and hope to hear from you in the future.

| ELECTED | Member (MIFA) | Associate (AIFA) | Practitioner (PIFA) | Student | Affiliate |
|-----------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | Ciara Clarke | Jens Auer | Lynn Averill | Bryan Atkinson | Peter Darby |
| | Kate Cramp | Brigitte Buss | Graeme Carruthers | David Barrowclough | Cheryl Gallimore |
| | Chris Day | Martin Cook | Helen Clough | Zoe Bevans | Bill Manners |
| | David Divers | Paul Fitz | Russell Gant | Eleanor Collier | Fay Parsons |
| | Hilary Murray | Anne Haour | Thomas Goskar | Lynn Earley | Andrew Smith |
| | Jennifer Proctor | Jonathan Kenny | Cecil Hewett | Elise Fraser | Ian Waterfield |
| | Tim Robey | Graham Roberts | Andrew Hood | Ronald Gurney | Phillip Watson |
| | Andy Shelly | Simon Underdown | Sarah Lean | Tregenza Hall | |
| | Chris Stevens | Sallianne Wilcox | Clare Maxfield | Stephanie Haithwaite | |
| | Lesley Zienkiewicz | | Alison Nicholls | Victoria Olesky | |
| | | | David Parry | Gary Saunders | |
| | | | Andrew Peachey | Kate Wardell | |
| | | | Philip Poucher | Kirstine Watts | |
| | | | Katie Rees | | |
| | | | Jonathan Smith | | |
| | | | Fiona Wooler | | |
| TRANSFERS | Member (MIFA) | Associate (AIFA) | Practitioner (PIFA) | | |
| | Kevin Beachus | Jane Bray | Ruth Leak | | |
| | Martin Newman | | David Lock | | |
| | Sally Randell | | Katie Rees | | |
| | Robin Taylor-Wilson | | Claire Strachan | | |

Members news

David Gaimster (650) MIFA

David Gaimster, best known of course as IFA's Hon Editor, will be taking over the General Secretaryship of the Society of Antiquaries of London in February 2004, overlapping with Dai Morgan-Evans, who retires in March. David is currently Senior Policy Advisor, Cultural Property Unit, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, where he is leading the policy team on the portable heritage, including measures against the illicit trade in cultural property, in particular guiding the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act through Parliament. Before he was seconded to DCMS he was an Assistant Keeper in the British Museum (1986–2001). He also lectures at Royal Holloway College London and is a Hon. Research Fellow at the Institute of Archaeology, University College

London (from 2000). Off duty, he is the president of the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology; Managing Editor for *The London Archaeologist* and Chair of the British Archaeological Awards Book Prize.



David Gaimster (at IFA's AGM party)

More members news



Kate Geary

Kate Geary

Exeter is filling up. Kate Geary (1301) AIFA, Chair of our highly-active Wales/Cymru Group, has moved there, to work with the sites and monuments record of Devon County Council. Previously, she was working for Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. She has just resigned chairmanship of Wales/Cymru Group, leaving Fiona Gale hold the fort there until an election is possible.

Nicola Powell

Nicola Powell (1475) AIFA, previously of TVAS but best known as Secretary of the IFA Finds Group, has just been appointed Finds Liaison Officer for Devon, based at The Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter. Nicky took up the post on 1 December. She says she is keen to encourage her fellow FLOs to join the group as a forum for sharing and developing best practice in all aspects of finds work. 'The metal

detectorists of Devon are a sociable and friendly group.' she says, 'although not officially in post yet, I've already been invited to a Christmas bash!'

Annette Hancocks

Annette Hancocks (1261) MIFA, has just moved from Birmingham Archaeology to become post-excavation manager for Cotswold Archaeology. There, she is taking on responsibility for about a dozen publication projects, including several large pipeline schemes for Transco. These crossed areas of gravel in and around Beckford, so Cotswolds' publication programme has expanded fast. Annette is Treasurer of IFA's Finds Group, and another active member.



Annette Hancocks

flint and small finds specialist (offering reports on Roman, medieval and post-medieval finds of lead, bone, copper alloy, iron and stone, as well as prehistoric flint artefacts). Most importantly however she is continuing to build up our *Jobs Information Service*.

Lynne Bevan

Lynne Bevan (1028) MIFA, has also left Birmingham Archaeology. She is finishing off her PhD ('Prehistoric rock art in Valcamonica, northern Italy') and is working as free-lance worked

services, a job he continued working at until ten days before he died.

As IFA's Secretary he was much concerned with modernisation and how we projected ourselves outside the profession. He was a leading member of the team that created our corporate image (including logo), and was also much concerned with Equal Opportunities, producing Standards documents, and also with MSC schemes. His widow, Lynne, recalls how proud he was of his time with IFA and all that was achieved. Tim Darvill, Chair at that time, remembers him warmly in those years and Pete Hinton, then a Council member, was impressed by his energy, vision and efficiency – 'he certainly moved our Institute, and our profession, up a gear'.

There is a celebration of Jonathan's life at Huddersfield Town Hall on Sunday 7 December, 12 noon, where all who knew him will be welcome.

Jonathan Drake (10) MIFA

We were very sorry to hear that Jonathan Drake, who played a prominent role as Secretary of IFA from 1988–1991, died of cancer on 30 September, age 45. His archaeological life had begun in the summer holidays at the age of 12 when he worked as a 'bucket boy' for Miss Owles, the Ipswich Museum archaeologist. He later wrote up the notebooks of Basil Brown on the Castle Hill villa site in Ipswich as part of his

degree at Peterhouse, Cambridge. After graduating in Archaeology he dug around Britain with English Heritage's Central Unit, and also worked in Belgium, Cyprus, France, Italy Turkey, and Honduras. He then took his interest in archaeology into different directions, becoming head of museums at Southampton, later taking over the policy-making role for arts and leisure there. In 1997 he moved up to Kirklees to be head of cultural



Photograph by Lynne Drake, in their garden last summer

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