

President's letter



Dear Members, Archaeology has been well and truly in the news recently with the reports of Leicester University identifying the remains of King Richard III. We haven't had a report of anything quite that spectacular in our Society's meetings, but our winter lecture series has certainly been a fascinating one, ranging from the utterly dry Atacama Desert to the spectacular waterlogged remains at Star Carr. If you have missed any of the lectures, then I am afraid you have missed a treat.

Over the next few months we have a full programme of lectures and excursions, which are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter. As the warmer weather comes, various fieldwork projects are also getting going again, including opportunities to excavate at Hornby at weekends (contact Erik Matthews), Binchester in July (contact David Mason), and surveying and excavation opportunities with the Heart of Teesdale project (contact Niall Hammond).

Also coming up in May is our Annual General Meeting at Hartlepool, when some Committee members will be stepping down, and we will be electing replacements. Please do get in touch with Belinda Burke or myself if you would like to contribute to the running of the Society by participating in the Committee, or if you think there is someone else who would make a good Committee member.

Although the programme is now arranged for the next few months, your Committee has already started to consider what we could be doing next winter, and we have even discussed some ideas for 2014 excursions. We always welcome suggestions for speakers, places to visit, or other activities, so do let us know if you have a good idea, and we will see what we can do about it.

Andrew Millard President

Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland



Chepstow Castle

Photograph Derrick Gwynne

For information on the Society's weekend excursion to Chepstow from 31 May to 4 June 2013, contact David Mason

The Lindisfarne Gospels



The Lindisfarne Gospels Durham exhibition takes visitors on a journey of exploration, learning how and why this masterpiece was created, its influence on medieval Europe and how artistic traditions from Britain and the Mediterranean mainland came together in North East England.

On show in Durham University's Palace Green Library, completely redesigned and refurbished for this event, will be fabulous artefacts wrought from precious metals

and minerals including gold, amber and silver and stone sculpture alongside medieval manuscripts including the St Cuthbert Gospel and the Durham Gospels. The centrepiece of the exhibition is the gospel book itself, written in honour of St Cuthbert and displayed alongside his treasures.

The exhibition will run from 1 July to 30 September, and there will be many events, including our lecture on 28 September, linked with it. For more information, visit www.lindisfarnegospels.com.

Binchester and the Future Make your views known. Have you enjoyed participating in the excavations at Binchester and would you like to see them continue? Would you like to see the site display and support facilities improved to modern standards so that Binchester can realise its full potential in educational, tourism and recreational terms?

If so, perhaps you could take the time to communicate your views and ideas to me by letter or email. Expressions of support will enhance the prospects of obtaining funding to make this happen.

Dr David Mason Archaeology Section Durham County Council, Room 36-43, Fifth Floor, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UQ

Local Area Partnerships

The Arch and Arch is a member of two Landscape Area Partnership Schemes funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund and who are working with local communities, Natural England, Durham County Council and other bodies to focus on the natural and historic environment of specific areas. Amongst many individual projects each partnership is running a series of community archaeology excavations and surveys in which members of the Arch and Arch can participate.

Limestone Landscapes Partnership

The Limestone Landscapes Partnership was launched in 2007 and covers a wide area stretching from South Shields to Hartlepool and inland to Ferryhill, all underlain by the distinctive Magnesian Limestone geology. The Partnership has the aim of 'working together in a landscape-scale partnership to make a positive difference to quality of life and to the unique environment of the Magnesian Limestone area'.

In 2012 a community archaeology project at Great Chilton explored a series of Iron Age features, visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs, and further defined by a geophysical survey. Excavation revealed several roundhouses and enclosures, with evidence for occupation over several generations, possibly dating back to 500 BC.

There will be a further season of excavation at Great Chilton this summer and, in future, community excavations at Hawthorne to explore a mysterious cropmark visible on air photographs; and at an early Christian cemetery at St Mary's, Seaham.

If you would like to get involved, contact Dr David Mason. Partnership website www.limestonelandscapes.info

Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership

The Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership was launched in 2010 and is concerned with the landscape of Mid Teesdale, covering an area along the Tees Valley and River Greta from Eggleston to Winston, including Barningham, Bowes and Barnard Castle. This is an area sandwiched between the Yorkshire Dales National



A large Roman building of 2nd- to 3rd-century date recently revealed during building works at Greta Bridge where Heart of Teesdale hope to undertake a community archaeology project
© Archaeo-Environment

Park to the south and the North Pennines AONB to the north and west but it is equally exceptional and has in particular inspired artists such as Girton, Hearne and Turner, by whom works are currently on display in a memorable temporary exhibition at the Bowes Museum ('Rokeby: Poetry and Landscape: Walter Scott and Turner in Teesdale' Sat 26 January to Sun 28 April). Heart of Teesdale has so far been involved amongst other things in the restoration of Barningham Lime Kiln, rediscovering Teesdale folk music, and researching the history of the ancient parish of Gainford with a view to inclusion in the Victoria County History of Durham.

Heart of Teesdale has plans for the geophysical survey of the Roman fort and marching camp at Greta Bridge, and further proposals for projects on Scargill Castle and prehistoric sites on Barningham Moor.

If you would like to get involved, contact Niall Hammond, Partnership website www.heartofteesdale.net

The excavation of an Iron Age roundhouse at Great Chilton in October 2012

©Archaeological Services Durham University



Hornby Castle fieldwork

Work is on-going ready for the commencement of Season 4 at Hornby Castle at the end of March. We hope to complete trench 3, where our operations were curtailed by last year's summer weather, and continue with trench 4.

Our aim will be to recover more evidence of the curious apsidal stone building in trench 3, which predates the 14th/15th-century building we have been investigating, and also to uncover some of the context of the timber surface which the timber column supporting the roof of the 14th-century structure had been piled into. Trench 4 has been located some distance to the west of where we have previously been working, with the intention of locating an outer wall for our building which, on present evidence, seems to have been of a significant size. Early indications from October last year seem favourable.

Over the closed season, work has been on-going to process the excavated finds from Season 3. Particular highlights include a key for a medieval padlock or chest, significant quantities of boat nails and also imported vessel glass of medieval date. A heavily-decayed human incisor tooth was also recovered from the medieval levels!

Particular thanks go to Professor Roberta Gilchrist of Reading University for her assistance in interpreting the context of the horse's skull that was found buried under the 14th-century floor in trench 3. A connection with an apotropaic practice associated with castles in Germany and the Baltic Region has been suggested.

Erik Matthews **Fieldwork Officer**



Horse head burial
from the early
14th century
Photograph
Belinda Burke

The Buildings of England County Durham

Work has just started on the revision to Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's *Buildings of England* volume on County Durham. Former Durham City Conservation Officer, English Heritage Historic Buildings Inspector and current AASDN Committee member Martin Roberts is the revising author, and has begun his five years of research and site visits in Teesdale.

The volume covers the old historic County Durham, before the 1974 boundary changes. Earlier editions appeared in 1953 and 1983 and Martin hopes this third revision, which will be about 60% larger, will appear in 2018. Work in 2013 will also include Wear Valley and Darlington. This edition will be published by Yale University Press.

If you are not on the Society's e-mail list, and would like to receive regular updates on relevant local events and fieldwork opportunities, please e-mail archandarch.dandn@durham.ac.uk

Books

Roman Chester

Fortress at the Edge of the World

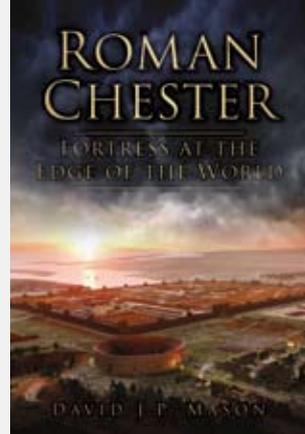
David J P Mason

2012 The History Press

Paperback

256 pages, 159 figures, 42 colour plates

ISBN 978 0 7524 6876 1



This very readable volume details the results of many years' excavation in the legionary fortress of Deva and its associated civil settlements, placing it within the wider context of the history of Roman Britain and the Roman Empire. This book is a welcome addition to the bookshelf, and will bring back happy memories for those who accompanied David on the excursion to Chester in 2012.

Price £18.99, but Arch and Arch members can collect their copies direct from David Mason at County Hall for the discounted price of £15, e-mail david.mason@durham.gov.uk

Hadrian's Wall A Life

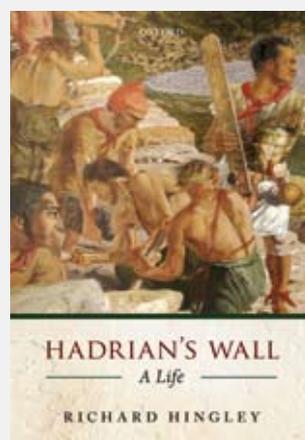
Richard Hingley

2012 Oxford University Press

Hardback

416 pages, 109 illustrations

ISBN 978 0 19 964141 3



This book addresses a world-famous ancient monument, providing new perspectives about its history and significance. Constructed on the orders of the emperor Hadrian during the 120s AD, the Wall was maintained for almost three centuries before ceasing to operate as a Roman frontier during the 5th century. It is the most well preserved of the frontier works that once defined the Roman Empire.

While the Wall is famous as a Roman construct, its monumental physical structure did not suddenly cease to exist in the 5th century. This volume explores the after-life of Hadrian's Wall and considers the ways it has been imagined, represented, and researched from the 6th century to the internet. Illustrated with over 100 images, the book shows the changing manner in which the Wall has been conceived and the significant role it has played in imagining the identity of the English, including its use as a symbolic boundary between England and Scotland. The author discusses the political, cultural, and religious significance of the Wall and how scholars and artists have been inspired by the monument over the years.

Price £75. Available from The OUP Bookshop, 116-117 High Street, Oxford OX1 4BZ

Martin is keen to hear from anyone who has corrections to the second edition, additional information or has any suggestions for new buildings to be included. If so, please contact Martin at his new email address, martin.fleece@gmail.com, or write to him at Old Fleece House, 20B Front Street, West Auckland DL14 9HW.

Celebrating the life of Brian Dobson

Our former President, Brian Dobson, will be remembered with affection by many of our members, and we intend to publish a conventional obituary of Brian in a future volume of *Durham Archaeological Journal*, and also

some less formal reminiscences from those who knew him. If you have any information, anecdotes or photographs that you would like to see included, please send them to Andrew Millard or Maureen Smith.

Programme spring to autumn 2013

All lectures will be held at Elvet Riverside, Room 141 New Elvet, Durham, at 2.30 pm unless otherwise notified. Everyone is welcome to attend. For further details please contact the society or visit our website. Prior bookings for excursions is essential

- Saturday 11 May **AGM Hartlepool Historic Quay**
For details, contact Secretary Belinda Burke
- Saturday 18 May **History Fair Yesterday belongs to You**
Society stall at County Hall, Durham
- Friday 31 May
to Tuesday 4 June **Weekend excursion Chepstow**
led by **Dr David Mason**
- Thursday 13 June
6.00 pm **Understanding the past through archaeological finds found by the public**
Dr Michael Lewis Deputy Head, Department of Portable Antiquities and Treasure, British Museum
Joint event with St Cuthbert's Society, Durham University Archaeology Society and County Durham Archaeology.
This will take place in **Room D110**, Dawson Building (Archaeology and Anthropology Departments), Durham University Science Site, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE
- Saturday 15 June **Excursion Melrose Abbey and Newstead Roman Fort**
- Saturday 20 July
3.30 pm **Understanding Bodiam Castle Professor Matthew Johnson** Northwestern University, Illinois
To be followed by a reception at St Mary-le-Bow. **Prior booking required**
- Saturday 3 August **Excursion Whitley Castle, near Alston**
with **Stewart Ainsworth**
- Saturday 21 September **Excursion Hornby Castle and Middleham Castle**
with **Erik Matthews**
- Saturday 28 September **New perspectives on the archaeology of Anglo-Saxon Lindisfarne**
Dr David Petts Durham University
A lecture to celebrate the presence of the Lindisfarne Gospels in Durham
- Saturday 26 October **Landscape to lostscape The archaeology of West Heslerton, the Vale of Pickering and its hinterland**
Professor Dominic Powlesland Director, Landscape Research Centre, Yedingham
- Saturday 23 November **Roman Wales Dr David Mason** Principle Archaeologist, Durham County Council
- Saturday 7 December **Members Meeting Bowes Museum**
Details to follow

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