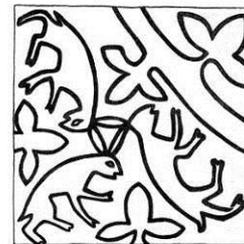


The Trowel

Newsletter of the Archaeology Section, University of Chester
Summer 2012 Issue 11



In this summer edition of *The Trowel* we round up all the new exciting developments in the archaeology section over the last 6 months.

New Masters Degrees

Exciting news! From September 2012, Chester is offering three brand-new Masters degrees in archaeology and heritage.

MRes in Archaeology offers an excellent opportunity to conduct original archaeological research into a chosen topic and become proficient in advanced research skills and project management.

MA Archaeology and Heritage Practice enables students to explore how the past is managed and interpreted in contemporary society.

MA Archaeology of Death and Memory is a unique course exploring the complex history of death and memory from the hunter-gatherer societies of the Palaeolithic to recent times.

For details see our website:

<http://www.chester.ac.uk/course-finder/postgraduate>

Welcome Stewart Ainsworth

The department has a wide range of archaeology honorary affiliates from the UK, Ireland, Europe and Scandinavia. We now welcome a special new appointment. Veteran landscape archaeologist, **Stewart Ainsworth**, formerly with English Heritage, joins us as Visiting Professor. Famous for his association with Channel Four's Time Team, **Professor Ainsworth** will make guest appearances on undergraduate programmes and is advisor for **Rachel Swallow's** doctoral research investigating castles in the Cheshire landscape.



Professor Stewart Ainsworth with Rachel Swallow exploring the landscape context of Aldford Castle, Cheshire.

Welcome (Again) to Amy Gray Jones

In the last edition of *The Trowel* we welcomed **Dr Amy Gray Jones** who joined us on a temporary basis. We are delighted to announce that Amy has this summer been appointed to a permanent position with us as Lecturer in Archaeology.

Amy has been busy teaching a range of subjects this year from burial archaeology to medieval Britain. Amy has presented her research at conferences at Durham University and the British Museum and is co-author of a significant new study on medieval burial: Connell, B., Gray Jones, A., Redfern, R. and Walker, D. 2012. *A Bioarchaeological Study of Medieval Burials on the Site of St Mary Spital: excavations at Spitalfields Market, London E1, 1991-2007*. MOLA Monograph 60.

This coming academic year, Amy will be applying her knowledge and expertise as a human osteologist, funerary archaeologist and Mesolithic specialist to her teaching, including a brand-new level 6 module on the archaeology of human remains.

Congratulations on your appointment Amy and welcome (again) to the archaeology team at Chester.

James 'Henry VIII' Pardoe

Dr James Pardoe has been busy delivering heritage modules to all year-groups as well as researching literary heritage. In the last edition of *The Trowel* we reported the excellent news that James successfully defended his doctoral thesis but now we have photographic evidence from his graduation. Congratulations James!



Dr James Pardoe (left) and a right royal despot (right).

Howard's End

A busy research sabbatical funded by the Leverhulme Trust has just ended for **Professor Howard Williams**. In addition to researching death and tombs, from January he was appointed Honorary Editor of the *Archaeological Journal*, the

prestigious journal of the Royal Archaeological Institute and is author of a new book chapter: 'Ash and Antiquity: Archaeology and cremation in contemporary Sweden' published in a Prehistoric Society Monograph entitled *Image, Memory and Monumentality: Archaeological Engagements with the Material World*.

Howard's recent fieldwork has included a graveyard survey at Kingskerswell (Devon) and excavations at Llangollen and Valle Crucis (both Denbighshire). Howard's research fun is now at an end and he is back to teaching, including his popular third-year module *Vikings*.



Chester students Heidi Archer and Karen Morrell surveying with Professor Williams at Kingskerswell churchyard, Feb. 2012.

Meggen Rocks

Meggen's research is rocking the archaeological firmament. Following another busy teaching year and writing about her favourite rocky topic - Pictish symbol stones - **Dr Meggen Gondek** co-directed the 2012 field season of the Rhynie Environs Archaeological Project (REAP), revealing jaw-dropping early medieval archaeology. The well-preserved buildings and destruction layers of a Pictish fort were uncovered close to one of those crazy symbol stones, including a superb set of rare metalwork finds.



Press photos of finds from the REAP dig, co-directed by Meggen and Dr Gordon Noble (University of Aberdeen).

Goodbye Anne

We are extremely sad to say goodbye to **Dr Anne Teather**, who has been a superb friend and colleague to both staff and students in the department over the past two academic years as Lecturer in Archaeology, and before that as a long-standing Visiting Lecturer. We wish Anne all the very best for her future. Farewell Anne!

Research Student News

Our growing community of research students have had a busy six months. **Jo Kirton** co-presented a paper at Cheshire Archaeology Day. Meanwhile

Rachel Swallow organised a session at the Leeds International Medieval Congress.

Rachel, Jon Coley and **Ruth Nugent** all presented their research at Leeds. They each presented at the dept's first-ever postgraduate conference. Likewise, **Alison Smithson** presented her research on nonconformist death and commemoration in North Wales and Cheshire.

Anna Davenport presented her research in forensic burial archaeology at two prestigious venues: the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge and the Society for American Archaeology annual conference in Memphis, Tennessee.

Points mean Student Prizes for 2012

Congratulations to our undergraduate students whose brilliant academic marks have won them prizes!

Heidi Archer: The David and Betty Evans Memorial Prize.

Andrew Radford: University Prize for Archaeology and Heritage.

Joseph Tong: The Rhys Williams Prize for Study in Archaeology.

Networking Runes

Dr Meggen Gondek and **Jo Kirton** - members of the international network on *Runes, Monuments and Memorial Carvings* - explored the region's early medieval stone monuments with two visiting academics. Jo and Meggen are organising the network's 2013 conference at Chester.



Visiting the Pillar of Eliseg, (left - right) Cecilia Ljung (University of Stockholm), Jo Kirton, Marjolein Stern (University of Nottingham) and Dr Meggen Gondek.



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