

# The Trowel

Newsletter of the Archaeology Section, University of Chester  
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Issue 15



## Academic Prizes Announced

We are very pleased to announce the winners of this year's academic prizes:

**Lauren O'Toole** (Single Honours Archaeology) – University Prize for Archaeology and Heritage  
**Christian Adams** (Combined Honours Archaeology with Geography) - The Rhys Williams Prize for Study in Archaeology  
**David Laverty** (Single Honours Archaeology) – The David and Betty Evans Memorial Prize

A big congratulations to our winners. We'd also like to congratulate all our final year archaeologists and wish you the best of luck and great success. Keep in touch!

## Big Developments for Archaeology

We're very excited to report our archaeology provision and expertise continues to grow at Chester!

Work is due to begin on our new environmental archaeology lab in June, which complements our existing teaching lab and finds workroom. The Beswick Annexe on the Chester campus is due to be transformed with bespoke lab space and equipment– just in time for our new 3<sup>rd</sup> year Environmental Archaeology module next year.



*Dr Patricia Murrieta-Flores, our most recent addition to the staff.*

In January we welcomed a new, sixth, archaeologist to the Department. **Dr Patricia Murrieta-Flores** joins us for a three-year position as a Senior Researcher on the [Past in its Place](#) project involving researchers at the Universities of Exeter and Chester. She is an expert in GIS and a range of computer applications in archaeology and heritage. You can check out her personal webpage *Spatial Tech* at <http://spatialtech-humanities.com/>.

Recently the Department also interviewed for a new archaeology lecturer covering the Iron Age – Roman periods – we'll be introducing them in the next newsletter!

## Staff News

**Dr Barry Taylor**, a director of the renowned Star Carr project, reports on their great continued success. The 2014 Star Carr publication made it to the finals of the British Archaeology Awards for Best Archaeological Book (winner announced on 14<sup>th</sup> July). The project also won *Current Archaeology's* award for 'Research Project of the Year!' Work continued at Star Carr in 2014, with a group of Chester students digging alongside the team. Both Barry and **Dr Amy Gray Jones** also continue their work at Flixton Island this August giving our students an opportunity to investigate a Palaeolithic site.

**Professor Howard Williams** has been busy on his research leave over the past year. He has seen several publications emerge including an article in the prestigious *Archaeological Dialogues* (volume 21:1) on 'Monument and material reuse at the National Memorial Arboretum'. He has also been busy working on his new blog *Archaeodeath* <http://howardwilliamsblog.wordpress.com/>. A new e-book all about archaeo-blogging has also appeared to which he has contributed: Meyers, K. and Williams, H. (2014). *Blog Bodies: Mortuary Archaeology and Blogging* in D. Rocks-McQueen and C. Webster (eds) *Blogging Archaeology*. [http://issuu.com/digtechllc/docs/2014\\_blogging\\_archaeology\\_ebook/3?e=8289633/7618852](http://issuu.com/digtechllc/docs/2014_blogging_archaeology_ebook/3?e=8289633/7618852)

**Dr James Pardoe** is now a Visiting Professor at University of Bydgoszcz in Poland and has been visiting Poland in April and June to lecture on heritage issues. He's also off to Portugal to give a

paper on authenticity, commodification and sustainability for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Heritage and Sustainable Development. The globe-trotting will continue in September as he will be delivering a paper on literary heritage at the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

**Dr Meggen Gondek** saw the publication of a major co-authored paper based on the REAP project on Rhynie, Aberdeenshire in the December 2013 volume of *Antiquity*. REAP also graced the cover of the April 2014 issue of *Current Archaeology* magazine and was the focus of a feature article in that volume.

**Dr Adrián Maldonado** was invited to give the prestigious Groom House Museum's Annual Academic Lecture, which will result in publication in their series. His paper is based on his most recent research: *Dying a Pict: barrows, carved stones and the landscape*. We are also very pleased to report that Adrián will be staying on with us for another year covering for Dr Meggen Gondek who will be on maternity leave.

### Postgrads go from Strength to Strength

PhD student **Rachel Swallow** is celebrating the impressive achievement of being selected as one of three winners of the Runner Up (long article) category out of a pool of 1000 contenders for The British Association for Local History award for best long article. Her piece highlights her recent interdisciplinary work on Cheshire's castle landscapes: 'Landscape of Power: Aldford castle, Cheshire' in *Cheshire History Journal*, No. 52, 2012/2013.

Our Taught Masters in Archaeology and Heritage students have been entering into their project and placement phases over the past few months. These have included working with local organisations such as [Big Heritage](#) and the [Cheshire Military Museum](#) focusing on activities such as collections management, museum education and helping to develop and run pop-up exhibitions and museums.

MRes student **Chris Matthews** successfully delivered several weeks of geophysical survey working with local community volunteers for his research on Pen-y-Corddyn Mawr Hillfort over Easter. Details can be found on the Project Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/projectpyc> .

### Courses in the Field

Springtime always brings the annual fieldwork season into our modules. This year our three annual projects all continued with the first years surveying at Halkyn Mountain, the second years

excavating in Grosvenor Park in Chester and the final year Death and Burial students conducting survey in Overleigh Cemetery in Handbridge.



*Getting to grips with the total station at Halkyn (image courtesy of Lorna Jenner).*



*Work in Grosvenor Park continued this year, focusing on the remains of a medieval building.*

More information about our fieldwork can be found on the Dig Blog (<http://www.univchester-parkdig.blogspot.co.uk/>) and also on our Departmental Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/histarchchester>).



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