

The Trowel

Newsletter of the Archaeology Section, University of Chester
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Chester Archaeology Society Dissertation Prize 2012-2013

The Chester Archaeological Society has announced that the 2012-13 winner of the Dissertation Prize is **Jonathan Nash** for 'What impact do 21st century technologies have up on the interpretation of a heritage site by its audience?'

Other commended nominees were:

Sian Hibbert 'In what ways did the city of Chester benefit from a relationship with King Edward I?'

Clare Howard, 'Manchester and Nazism: The Year 1933 and the Failure of Liberalism'

Lauren Wilson, 'To View or not to View? That is the Castle Question: An analysis of the windows and their views from Conwy and Caernarfon Castle'

A big welcome to two new staff members!

This autumn we have been able to welcome two new staff members to the archaeology team.

Dr Adrián Maldonado joins us this year to cover Professor Williams who is on research leave. Adrián is an expert in early medieval burial and early Christianity in Britain and teaches both our undergraduates and masters students on aspects of death and burial, memory and medieval archaeology. He received the prestigious Martyn Jope Award from the Medieval Archaeology Society for his 2013 article on burial in Scotland.

<http://www.chester.ac.uk/departments/history-archaeology/staff/dr-adrian-maldonado>

Dr Barry Taylor joins us as a new permanent member of staff. Barry's expertise covers quaternary palaeoecology, plant macrofossil analysis and early prehistoric Europe. He brings another exciting scientific strand of teaching and research to the department, complementing our existing expertise in landscape archaeology and human osteology. Barry currently co-directs research projects at the Terminal Palaeolithic/early Mesolithic site of Flixton Island, the early Mesolithic site of Star Carr, and the early-late Mesolithic site of Flixton School House Farm, all in the eastern Vale of Pickering (North Yorkshire, UK).

<http://www.chester.ac.uk/departments/history-archaeology/staff/dr-barry-taylor>

New Archaeology Student Society!

The new head of the society, 2nd year SH student **Nathaniel Welsby** gives us the lowdown:

I set up the new student society to help students of different years get to know each other, to help new undergraduates and to expand on our experiences in lectures by trying to offer another practical aspect of our time here. The society is aiming to set up an 'experimental unit' in 2014 that would host a wide variety of activities for all of its members such as flint knapping, refits and so on. We are also planning on issuing some challenges (fun and archaeological!) to archaeology societies at other universities. So, if you have an interest you can find all the latest buzz or ask questions on our Facebook page [University of Chester Archaeology Society](#) or email me at 1213486@chester.ac.uk.



A few of our the society members at the 1st meeting, held at the Student Union.

Down the mines

The fieldtrips have been coming thick and fast this year for all of our undergraduates. James managed to get all his 3rd years around Whitley Castle in Cumbria in typical 'curse of Pardoe' weather without anyone sliding down an earthen bank! In October, Barry, James and Amy sent the entire second year down the mines. During the fieldtrip to the Great Orme Bronze Age Copper mines in Llandudno, the students had a guided tour, got to wear hard hats and saw some of the

raw materials and artefacts from the site. James then did a grand tour of the '3 castles of Hawarden' on the Gladstone estate (we promise it isn't the name of a pub).



2nd years descend into the mines at Great Orme.

Induction Week gets 1st years in at the Deep End



1st years opening test pits during Induction Week.

During our first year induction week we had our Single and Combined Archaeology students out in the field. Thankfully the weather co-operated and we were able to dig a series of test pits on university-owned land near the main campus. Each team was responsible for deturfing, excavating and recording, bagging finds and backfilling their test pits. Within a few hours students were introduced to many key concepts such as stratigraphy, recording and proper wielding of a mattock! It wouldn't have been possible without some excellent supervision by some of our very own final-year undergraduate and postgraduate students. We hope to continue our 'Parkgate Project' in the future. For now, the finds need washing and cataloguing – something else students can get their teeth into in the new year!

Staff News

Over the summer and autumn months we've all been busy.

Dr Amy Gray Jones is on partial research leave this year. She presented at the very first 'International Conference on Mesolithic Burials' at the State Museum of Prehistory in Halle, Germany. She also has been to Leiden University in the Netherlands to do some microscopy and to photograph cut-marked Mesolithic human bone for one of her next publications where she'll discuss evidence for defleshing and disarticulation of the body as part of funerary practices in the Dutch Mesolithic.

Dr James Pardoe is celebrating the publication of his article in *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science* (Sept 2013) on 'Interpreting UK Literary Houses through Post-Writer Histories.' He's also taken on new roles as Associate Editor for the *International Journal of Civic, Political, and Community Studies* and the *International Journal of Literary Humanities*. He's also been busy as this year's convenor of our Taught Masters programmes and giving guidance to postgraduate researchers at the university with his keynote session at the postgraduate research skills day on 'Managing your Supervisor.'

Dr Meggen Gondek spent another field season up in Scotland as part of her co-directed research project (REAP) with Dr Gordon Noble of the University of Aberdeen. REAP tackled a cropmark site of two large square enclosures and revealed evidence of likely later prehistoric settlement, the two large enclosures and the welcome surprise of two Pictish square barrow burials. You can see more information on the site blog: www.reaparch.blogspot.co.uk.

Visiting lecturer, **Dr Stephen O'Brien**, is celebrating the imminent publication of his co-edited volume "Warfare and Society in the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean: Papers arising from a colloquium held at the University of Liverpool, 13th June 2008." Included is Dr O'Brien's own paper "The Development of Warfare and Society in 'Mycenaean' Greece", derived from his PhD research.



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