

The Trowel

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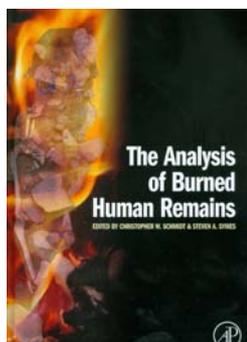
Staff news

Staff have been busy over the past few months not only delivering the myriad of modules we offer, but also working on upcoming publications, papers and other research.

Meggen Gondek was recently awarded a British Academy Small Research Grant for her research project Carbon Footprinting of Archaeological Research (C-FAR). In this project, Meggen will be examining the activities and materials archaeologists use when out in the field to develop a carbon calculator that can be used in other areas of archaeology. She'll be road-testing her theories this summer as an Honorary Research Associate with the SERF project run by the University of Glasgow whilst also conducting her own fieldwork on Pictish sculpture in the Perthshire region.

Following on from his popular BlueCoat Lunchtime Lecture, **James Pardoe** will be delivering a paper in early June on *Dilettantes & Tourists: Literary House Visiting in the Romantic Age* to the University of Manchester Museology Research Forum at the Manchester Museum. James will also be carrying out research at the new John Murray archive in the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh where he will be examining materials associated with Byron and Sir Walter Scott.

Howard Williams' latest research in mortuary archaeology is published in a chapter called 'Towards an Archaeology of Cremation' in the book: *The Analysis of Burned Human Remains* edited by Christopher W. Schmidt & Steven A. Symes (2008, Academic Press).



In May, Howard spent a week on the Baltic island of Gotland visiting Viking sites and museums as well as presenting a research paper at the University of Gotland. He is particularly interested in the world-famous Gotlandic Picture Stones.

Congratulations!

Lisa Brundle, 3rd year Single Honours Archaeology, is the 2008 winner of the Blue Coat Archaeology and Heritage Prize. Lisa joined **Michael Fletcher**, the winner of the University Prize for History, at the awards ceremony on the 16th of May.

Also honoured by the university was 2nd year Single Honours Archaeology student, **Bill Sheppard**, who was awarded the Ede and Ravenscroft Prize for Excellence and a Santander Award for Community Service for his volunteer work.

Well done to all our prizewinners!

Students in the field

Second year students went on a fun medieval fieldtrip in North Wales, exploring Offa's Dyke, Valle Crucis Abbey and the famous early medieval monument: the Pillar of Eliseg (pictured below).



Howard incorporated 3rd year students in the survey of over 120 gravestones of 19th and early 20th century date in Chester's Overleigh cemetery. The students used the data to write an analysis of Victorian mortuary commemoration for their 'Death and Burial' assignments. Howard hopes that the survey data accumulated by the students will be

augmented in future years and will be valuable for ongoing research in mortuary archaeology.



Recording Memorials in Overleigh Cemetery, Chester

Students in the news! The Halkyn Landscape Project

First year Single and Combined Honours Archaeology students have been spotted in several local papers after a successful week of fieldwork on Halkyn Mountain in North Wales as part of their coursework. Students carried out an intensive topographic survey of part of this nationally important mining landscape, recording and mapping out features such as mine shafts, trackways and waterways. Bravely battling the wind and fog, the students managed to survey a significant area that will form the basis of fieldwork for next year.

Module leader, Meggen Gondek, says: “The students worked really hard and have produced high quality results. They have increased our detailed knowledge of the nature and character of the mining landscape in this area and provided a real contribution to the archaeological record.”



Students working on Halkyn Mountain

Spotlight on work based learning with Chester Archaeological Services

For four weeks in April and May our 2nd year students have been unearthing secrets of Chester’s past in Grosvenor Park in the city centre. The

excavation is the department’s training dig for Single and Combined Honours Archaeology students. The dig is directed by the professionals from Chester City Council’s Archaeological service. Simon Ward, the site director, said: “The students uncovered fascinating evidence dating back to when the site was part of the grounds of Lord Cholmondely’s mansion, which was badly damaged during the Civil War.”



Students get their hands dirty in Grosvenor Park

New resources at the Department

The department has a newly created finds-store where we can store artefacts from excavations. These artefacts are used to help us interpret the sites we dig and are also part of our in-house teaching collection allowing students to gain experience in handling and identifying finds. Howard’s archive from his excavation of a medieval settlement and manor house at Stokenham, Devon as well as the data from the survey of Stokenham’s graveyard memorials (2005-2007) will be moved in this summer. Howard says: “The material needs to be looked at in more detail and I hope there are many keen students that might think about using this data in their dissertations.”

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