



CARDIFF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY CYMDEITHAS ARCHEOLEGOL CAERDYDD

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Aug 2024/Sep 2024 Issue

CAS TRIPS 2024

Medieval Bridgend - Newcastle - May 23rd



The iconic entrance to the Inner Bailey

An ambitious start to the CAS Self-drive evening visits with a full programme of four locations, from the top of the hill at the Castle via the Church, St Johns House and finishing up at the Medieval Bridge.

Ian Hutchinson, Chair of Bridgend and District Local History Society introduced us to the

"New Castle" at Bridgend and its place in local history.



An impressive view over Bridgend from the Castle wall

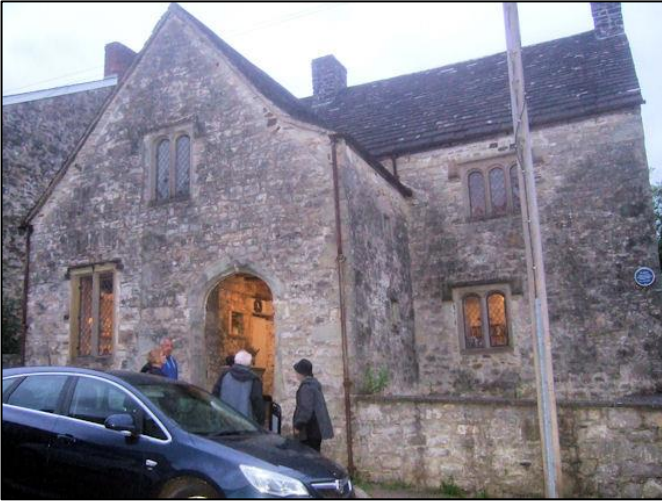
Medieval Bridgend - The Church - May 23rd



FEATURES

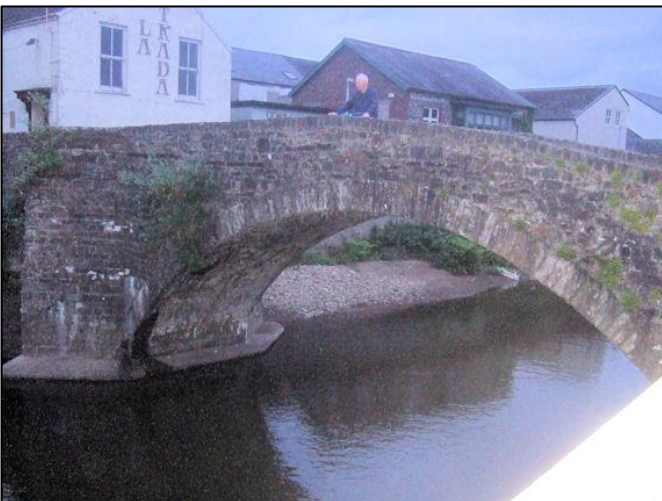
Next a brief visit to St Illtyd's Church to view the early carved stones on display inside where we were joined with Nancy Edwards for a brief update of current thinking regarding the stones.

Medieval Bridgend - St John's House- May 23rd



Strolling on further down the hill to St John's House, where we met Ian Price of the Friends of St John's, who took us in and showed us around. He also explained the important work carried out by the Trust.

Medieval Bridgend - The Bridge - May 23rd



Finally at the bottom of the hill, the Medieval Bridge and the walk back to the Car Park.

Monmouth Castle - June 6th

Next up was a visit to the Remains of Monmouth Castle, close to the centre of the county town of Monmouthshire, on a hill above the River Monnow and an unexpected look at the inside of the Regimental Museum. We examined the ruins of the 12th-century Great Tower and 13th-century hall - remains of this once-important castle.



Will Davies, Cadw Inspector and CAS's Chris Jones-Jenkins examine the Remains of the East Wall

The Castle was founded in the 11th century by Norman lord William fitz Osbern, and by the mid-14th century was in the hands of Henry of Grosmont, who modified the tower with large decorated windows whose outline can still be seen in the east wall.

The most notable event in the tower's history occurred on 16 September 1386, when King Henry V of Battle of Agincourt fame was born here, an occasion commemorated at Monmouth's Agincourt Square.

FEATURES



The evening ended with a very pleasant visit to the lovely memorial garden.

June 15th - A Day at Margam Country Park - Prehistory, Abbey and Castle.

The first of our three planned day visits covered the extensive grounds of the Margam Estate.



Meeting our guide for the day, Dr David Robinson, at the Margam Abbey car park, we first looked around the Abbey Church and listened to the story of the Cisterian Monks in Wales.



Margam Abbey Chapter House

The rest of the day consisted of a tour of the Chapter House, watching a wedding at the Orangery, an exclusive visit to the Mansell Chapel to view the effigies and finally a visit to the fire damaged Margam Castle upper rooms with the Friends Group.

Recently discovered Cup Marked Stone at Llanfabon - June 20th



Positioned in an out-of-the-way farmyard, the stone was discovered in June 2022 and investigations began later that year to have it scheduled, not only due to its size and the 93 cup marks on its surface, but also to assess its potential as a possible capstone of a burial chamber.

FEATURES

This was followed with a walk to revisit one of the cup marked stones on Eglwysilan that we viewed in 2022. Discovered in 2019 this stone was vandalised in 2023 and the culprit rightfully fined £4,500.

Aspects of the Gwent Levels - July 4th



The meet at the Polling Station Carpark at Undy

A native to the area, Jan Bailey (Chair Monmouthshire Antiquarian Association) led us around the two village/towns of Undy and Magor, illustrating their differing past histories and development. Located on the cusp of the Gwent Levels Jan related the fascinating stories she experienced as a child growing up in the area.



St Mary's Church, Undy

Castell Meredydd, Lower Machen & Buffet - July 18th



Met by Chris Bentham, a local archaeologist with a particular interest in the castle, and accompanied by Will Davies, Cadw Inspector, we were led through fields and lanes gaining access to the medieval Castell Meredydd. At the castle, aspects of its history, both ancient and more recent were discussed by our hosts.



This was followed by the customary annual CAS Buffet, this year held at the local United Services Club, in Forge Road, Machen. Enjoyed by over 20 people.



Caer Dig June 2024

At the same time as our Trips, Cardiff University's Dr Olly Davis and CAER Heritage were organising year Three of the digs at Trelai Park. Re-examining last year's finds at the Round House and a mysterious ritual site, traces of iron-working and a cremation urn were uncovered.

Over 1,500 people came to see the Dig, including more than 260 pupils from 11 schools, and more than 250 volunteers, including many CAS members.



A view of one of the trenches



Sian Davies happily sieving the spoil for finds.



Kim Iannucci taking a well-earned break



A post-hole revealed by John O'Sullivan

FEATURES



Anna Olshansky, on the right, joins the Dig

The trenches have now been filled in, but they hope to return next year.

Highlights from the Magazines

British Archaeology Jul-Aug 2024

The Lost Henges of the Western Lake District
- The Giant's Grave Standing Stones

I've heard there's a Tunnel from the Pub that goes straight to the Nunnery

Britain's Early Prehistoric Potential

Bird's Eye View Archaeology - in praise of Drones

Anglo-Saxon Coinage - the Great Silver Revival

Art and the Antiquarians

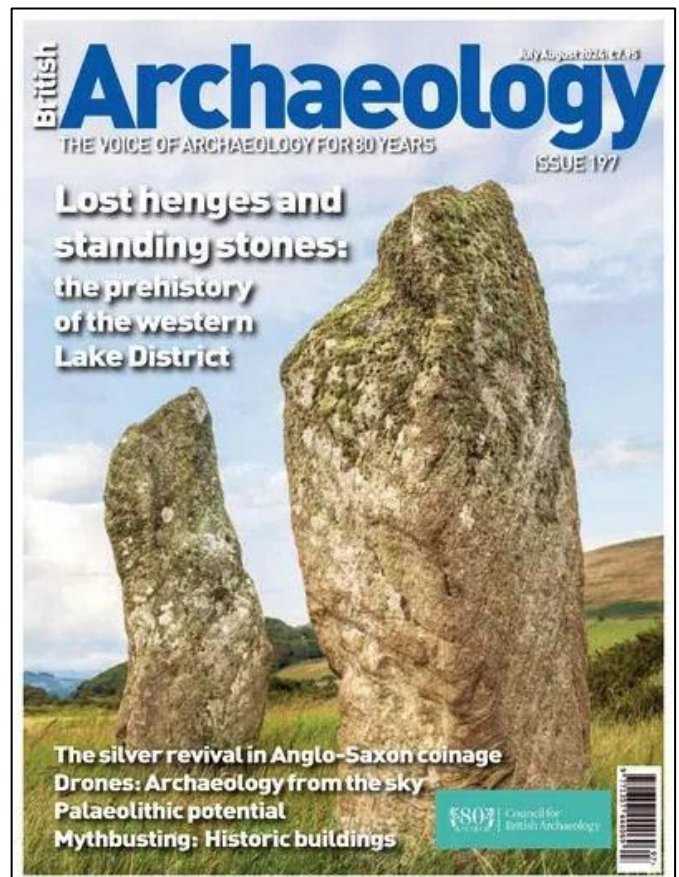
Burgi Geos Promontory Fort, Yell, Shetland

The Planning System

Turning 10 - Leeds Young Archaeologists Club celebrates a Decade of Inspiration

80 Years young and only just getting started

Does Archaeology have a Drinking Problem?



Current Archaeology Jul 2024



Science Notes: Tracing the Origins in medieval Europe's Revolutionary Coins

Seeing the Invisible - Stonehenge, Wiltshire

Must Farm Revisited - Extraordinary Insights into Everyday Bronze Age Life

Gone but not Forgotten - Personalising the Anonymous Medieval Dead of the Hospital of St John, Cambridge

Excavations over the White Cliffs of Dover - Uncovering the Second World War Story of Fan Bay & its Surroundings

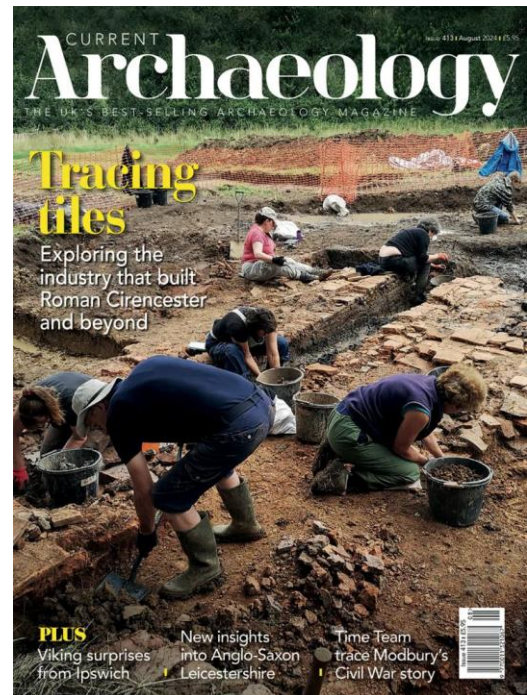
Rolling Stones - Walking the Bluestones of the Preseli Hills in Wales

Stepping Stones - Travelling on the Trail of the Stonehenge Bluestones

Perth Museum

Odd Socs - The British Society of Master Glass Painters

Current Archaeology Aug 2024



In the Pipeline - Besselsleigh Deserted manor & Village

Signs of the Times - Tracing Bone and Antler Working in Early Medieval Ipswich

Building Roman Cirencester & Beyond - Roman Tile Production in the North Wiltshire Countryside - Minety Kiln

Eye-Opening Insights - Exploring an Anglo-Saxon Settlement & Beyond - Eye Kettleby, Leicestershire

Science Notes: New Research reveals Link between Red Squirrels & Leprosy in the Medieval Period

Exploring Modbury's Martial Past - Time Team trace a Civil War Story in a Devon Market Town

Secrets from the Sky - Exploring Monumental Discoveries from Neolithic Ireland

Lives in Our Landscape at Maidstone Museum

FEATURES

Ness of Brodgar - Past, Present & Future at the Orkney Museum

OddSocs: The Trevithick Society

World Archaeology Jun-Jul 2024



Uncovering Beaumont Abbey, Tours, France

A Lost Monument Re-Emerges - The Dolmen of Guadalperal, Spain

Roman Villas in Limburg, Netherlands

Digging Benin City, Nigeria

Seeing Beneath the Surface - Unravelling Prehistoric Submerged Settlements in the Balkans

Encircling the Empire - How Rome's Frontier Network was chronicled

Being a Greek Spy back at Butrint, Albania

The Iron Age People of the Iberian Peninsula

John Walker Hayes (1938-2024)

The Other Pompeii - Common Lives in the Shadow of Vesuvius

Identifying Cultural Groups in Gravettian Europe

Object Lesson - Bronze Age Lipstick

Ancient Egypt May-Jun 2024



An Intrepid Lady Traveller - Amelia Edwards Ventures A Thousand Miles up the Nile in 1873

Dating the Dead - Chronology & Context at Saqqara's Sacred Animal Necropolis (Professor Paul Nicholson & Dr Henry Bishop-Wright - See CAS 2024-25 Lecture Programme)

Cooking Recipes & Drink Preparation in Ancient Egypt

Burial Practices in Alexandria - Recent Excavations at the Graeco-Roman Tanis Street Cemetery Site

Unveiling Ancient Egyptian Black Coffins

FEATURES

Kamal & Erman - Two Prestigious Names in the History of Egyptology

Rediscovering Egypt Part 2 - The Harrogate Collection in Swansea

A Cylindrical Conundrum - Golden Objects Discovered in the Tombs of the Napatan Kings & Queens

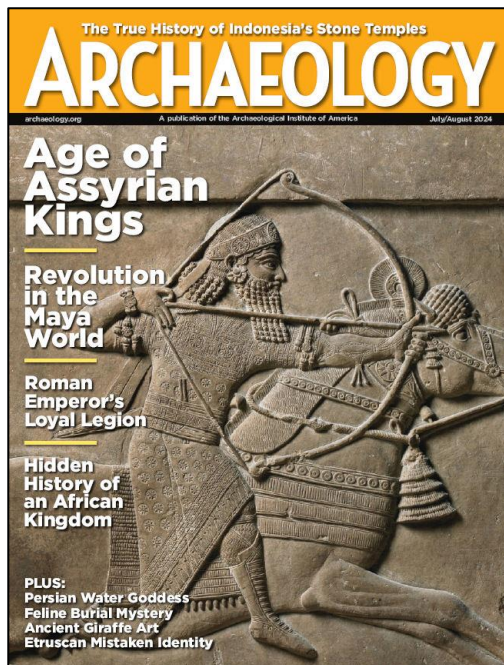
Lapis Lazuli

The Temple of Hibis at Kharga Oasis

Object Highlight - Statuette of Khufu

And in America:

Archaeology Jul-Aug 2024



Chumash Painted Cave, State Historic Park, California

A Dynasty Born in Fire - How an Upstart Maya King Forged a New Social Order amid Chaos

Java's Megalithic Mountain - Across the Indonesian Archipelago, People Raised Immense Stones to Honour their Ancestors

The Assyrian Renaissance - Archaeologists Return to Nineveh in Northern Iraq; One of the Ancient World's Grandest Imperial Capitals

Making A Roman Emperor - A Newly Discovered Monumental Arch in Serbia Reveals A Family's Rise to Power in the Late Second Century AD

Rise and Fall of Tiwanaku - New Dating Techniques are Unraveling the Mystery of a Sacred Andean City

A West African Kingdom's Roots - Excavations in Benin City, Nigeria, Reveal a Renowned Realm's Deep History

Artifact - An Etruscan Hanging Oil Lamp

Quiz

1. The name given to small pieces of stone used in mosaics
2. Egyptian site of the Great Pyramids and the Sphinx
3. The Fosse Way and Watling Street are two examples of these
4. Irish county, location of the Ceide Fields archaeological site
5. Collection of tales of Welsh mythology and folklore
6. A famous one could be found at Delphi
7. Bull god worshipped in ancient Egypt
8. Son of Genghis Khan, who sacked Kyiv in 1240

EVENTS & LINKS

9. Glyn ..., *British Archaeologist*, author of *The Idea of Prehistory* (1962)

10. Name of the kingdom sacked by the Assyrians around 640 BC

Future Events

Day Visits

August 3rd- Churches and Castles at Ewyas Harold and Kilpeck.

Led by David Whithead (Past President of the Woolhope Club)

August 24th - A Walking Tour of Medieval Bristol.

Led by Robert Jones (retired Bristol City Archaeologist)

actual date of the meeting is dependent on the reopening of the Severn Tunnel following repair works.

Links to Websites



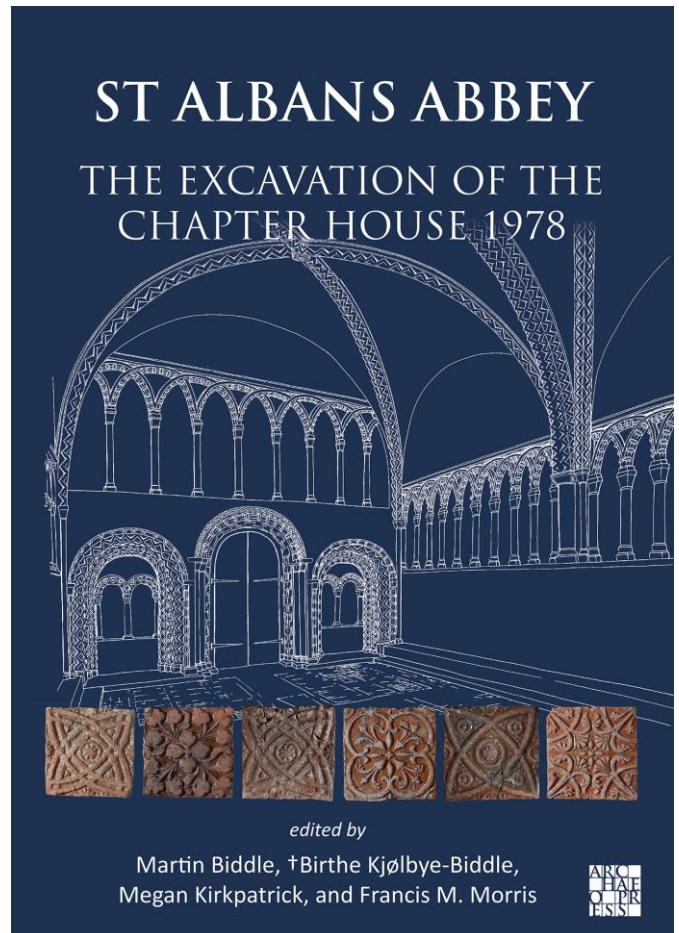
The Pick from Open Access downloads from Archaeopress:

St Albans Abbey: The Excavation of the Chapter House 1978

Excavations at the site of the medieval chapter house of St Albans Abbey in 1978 uncovered fragments of decorated floor tiles of the Anglo-Saxon abbey and associated burials, along with the magnificent floor of relief-decorated tiles of the medieval chapter house, and the

graves of 16 known figures of the late 11th-to 15th-century abbey.

St Albans Abbey is one of the greatest of medieval England. The origins of the medieval abbey lie much further in the past, in the time of Roman Verulamium, and the early history of the abbey is that of the martyrdom of Alban, whose burial is associated with the area of the abbey itself. The creation of memorial churches over the graves of saints outside the walls of Roman cities is commonplace in the world of late antiquity. One has only to think of St Peter's or St Paul's without the Walls in Rome, but in Britain no single case is yet known, other than St Albans.



This book is about the excavation in 1978 of the site of the medieval chapter house of St Albans Abbey, a building second in importance only to the abbey church itself. The excavation took place in response to the impending

EVENTS & LINKS

construction of a new chapter house, on the exact site of its medieval predecessor, demolished following the suppression of the abbey in the sixteenth century.

Enigmatic finds had long revealed that this early Christian site on the hill, now dominated by the great mass of the Norman abbey church, is one of the most important for the study of the history of early England. In just four short months, excavations uncovered fragments of the decorated floor of the Anglo-Saxon abbey and associated burials, along with the magnificent floor of relief-decorated tiles of the medieval chapter house, and the graves of sixteen known figures of the late eleventh-to fifteenth-century abbey, including eleven abbots.

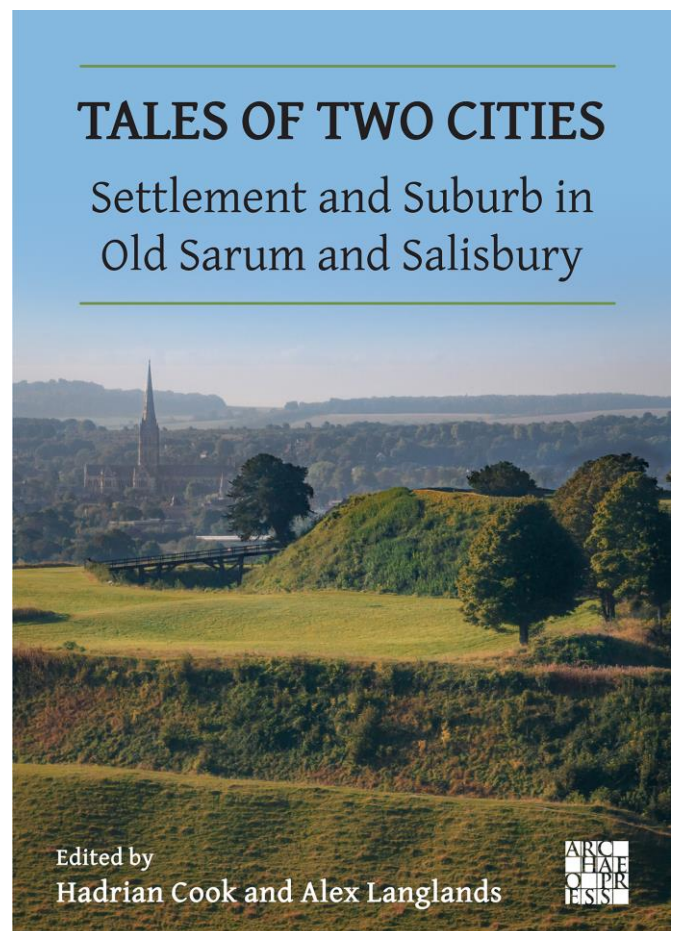
<https://www.archaeopress.com/Archaeopress/download/9781803277080>

Tales of Two Cities: Settlement and Suburb in Old Sarum and Salisbury

Telling the story of Old Sarum and Salisbury, from the mid-10th century to the start of the 20th, this book brings together the most up-to-date thinking on the archaeological evidence, and, through analysis of the rich documentary record, provides a fresh take on the story of this most illustrious cathedral city in the heart of southern England.

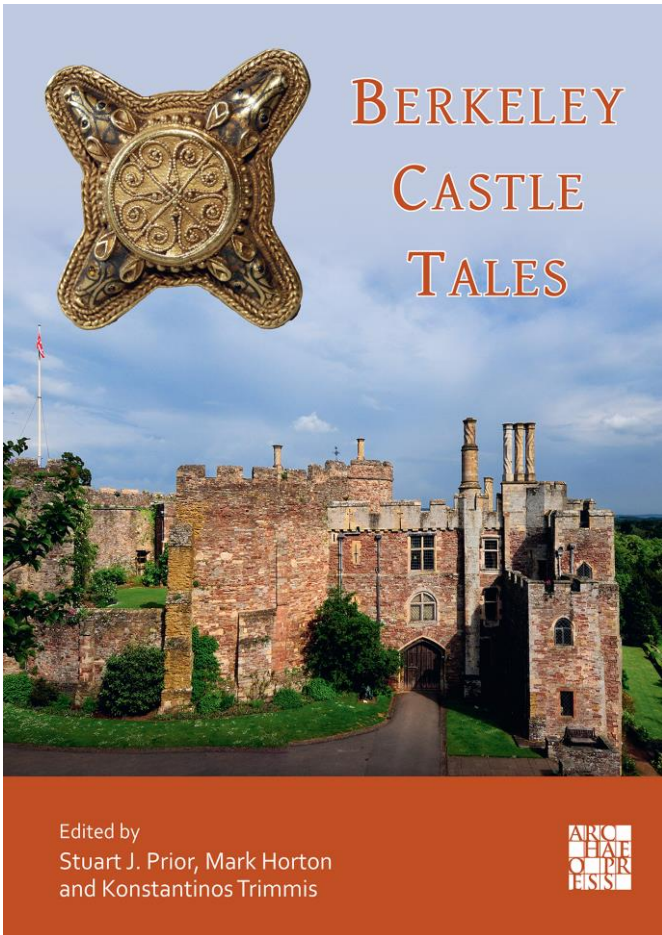
Tales of Two Cities tells the story of Old Sarum and Salisbury, from the middle of the tenth century to the beginning of the twentieth. The volume brings together the most up-to-date thinking on the archaeological evidence for both medieval cities, and through analysis of the rich documentary record, charts the developments in the city settlements and their dependent suburbs. For the first time, the archaeological evidence for Old Sarum and its suburbs is brought together in synthesis to

explore its rise in the eleventh century, its heyday in the twelfth and the rapid decline from the thirteenth century onwards. The ceramic, zooarchaeological and environmental evidence is assessed for both cities, alongside a comprehensive overview of the archaeological evidence for medieval Salisbury. How this new and visionary city took shape in the thirteenth century is analysed through chapters that examine its churches, its mills, its majestic marketplace and its innovative watercourses. Chapters on Old Sarum's suburbs are matched by explorations of the medieval and later suburbs of Salisbury; Tales of Two Cities provides a fresh take on the story of this most illustrious cathedral city in the heart of southern England.



<https://www.archaeopress.com/Archaeopress/download/9781803277592>

Berkeley Castle Tales



Presents results of 15-year-long excavations and landscape research at Berkeley Castle. Combining archaeological results with information from the castle's 20,000 historical documents, the project adds greatly to our understanding of the changes that accompanied the arrival of the Normans, with the erection of a castle on the former minster site.

Berkeley Castle Tales presents the outcomes of the 15-year-long University of Bristol excavations and landscape research at the Berkeley Castle estate in South Gloucestershire. The project, which in 2016 won the prestigious Current Archaeology award for the Archaeology Project of the Year, aimed at writing, through material culture and extensive archival and geophysical research, the narrative behind the construction of Berkeley Castle, the

corresponding town, and the area of the Severn valley that overlooks the borders with Wales. By combining the results of archaeological fieldwork with information contained in the castle's impressive collection of 20,000 historical documents, the project adds greatly to our knowledge and understanding of the early medieval period and the subsequent changes in landscape and society that occurred with the coming of the Normans, with the erection of a castle on the former minster site. Throughout the publication the advances that the Berkeley Castle project offered to archaeological practice, to excavation and geophysics methodology, and to the community and public archaeology are evident, since the editors intend the volume to be a milestone not only for the study of a castle landscape but also for archaeological method and practice.

<https://www.archaeopress.com/Archaeopress/download/9781803275680>



Secrets of Wytch Farm - Time Team (Dorset) 2024

by Peta Knott, Maritime Archaeological Society

Time Team heads to Wytch Farm, in the shadow of Corfe Castle, Dorset, where Derek and Lawrence discovered two Iron Age burials back in 2021. They've called in the full team to investigate. Was this a cemetery, and how long have people been living here? Where were they living, and, above all, what were their livelihoods?

Will we uncover the secrets of Wytch Farm? We have just three days to find out!

EVENTS & LINKS

This talk will outline the breadth of maritime archaeology, highlighting a variety of site types from the UK and overseas, particularly those on which the presenter has personal experience. It will also provide heritage practitioners and history enthusiasts with some practical tips on how to share the excitement of all aspects of maritime archaeology with anyone who cares to listen.

Day 1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mp7O9R-oV98>

Day 2:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKMaeuWGwSI>

Day 3:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7Ipo_K5iyY



The Nubian Pharaohs of Egypt

by Professor Aidan Dodson FSA

For a few decades during the 8th to 7th centuries BC, there was a remarkable reversal of the age-old imperial domination of Nubia by Egypt. In the wake of the fragmentation of the Egyptian state during the 8th century, the Kushite state that had evolved in Nubia since Egyptian withdrawal at the beginning of the 11th century expanded northwards, ultimately absorbing the south of Egypt, including Thebes itself. Having established themselves as overlords of the various regional rulers in Egypt, the Nubian pharaohs led a national revival in Egypt, until an Assyrian onslaught drove them back into Nubia, where their

composite of Egyptian and Nubian culture would survive into the 4th century AD.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ijo7fAQNEY>



Avebury: Rethinking a Henge and its Landscape

by Joshua Pollard, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Southampton

Avebury is one of the great monuments of prehistoric Europe. It is often overshadowed by its more famous cousin, Stonehenge, and has not received the same level of archaeological attention, with the last major excavations at Avebury taking place during the 1930s. However, work within the wider landscape has been ongoing and the results of some of that fieldwork are presented here, with particularly the 'Living with Monuments Project' that has sought to understand the relationship between settlement and monument creation during the region's Neolithic. Seeing Avebury through the lens of settlement offers new insights, as does analogy with events at other major Neolithic monument complexes. Emphasis is placed on how Avebury came into being, on its connections (local and long-distance), and on the curious character of Neolithic monumental metamorphosis.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_n8SQ7dytQ

EVENTS & LINKS

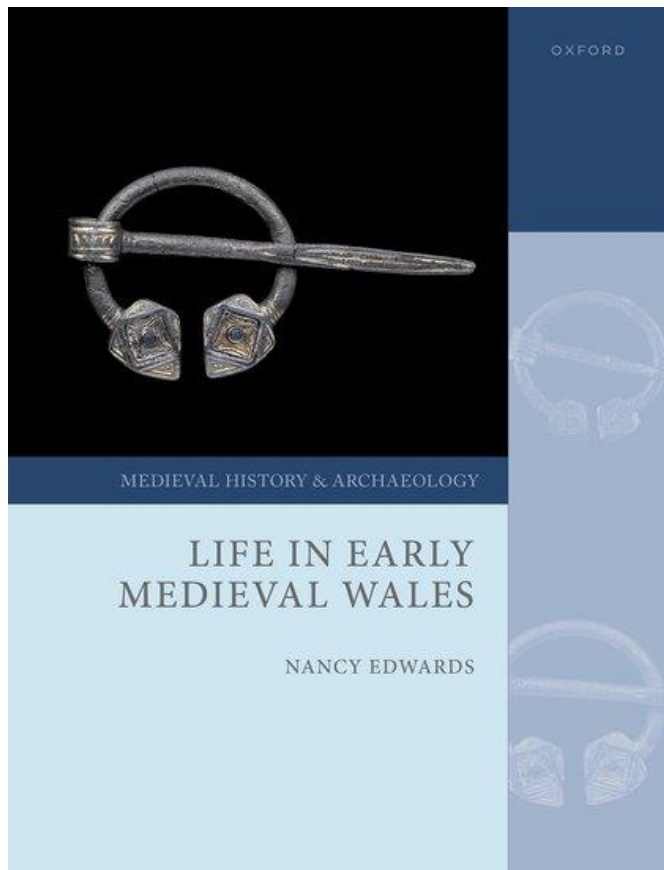


The Honourable Society
of Cymmrodorion

From Roman Britain to Early Medieval Wales: An Archaeologist's View

By Nancy Edwards FSA FBA FLSW
Professor Emerita in Medieval Archaeology,
Bangor University

A talk outlining Nancy's latest book:



- Uses archaeology and other evidence to uncover how people lived in late Roman and early medieval Wales and how their lives changed over time
- Draws comparisons between Wales and the rest of Britain and the wider medieval world
- Includes discussion of the evidence of archaeological 'grey literature' reports and other data not readily available

[Press Picture-in-Picture mode icon and then "F" for full screen - a little tricky but well-worth it]

<https://www.cymmrodorion.org/talk/from-roman-britain-to-early-medieval-wales-an-archaeologists-view/>

Answers to Quiz

1. Tesserae 2. Giza 3. Roman Roads 4. Mayo 5. Mabinogion
6. Oracle 7. Apis 8. Ogadai 9. Daniel 10. Elam