



Royal Archaeological Institute Newsletter

No 42 August 2011

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EDITORIAL • Katherine Barclay

‘A clamour of conflicting interests hovers over the mildest meadow.’

One of the priorities of the Welsh legislative programme for the next five years is a Heritage Protection Bill for Wales that would strengthen the protection afforded to the historic environment, yet simplify procedures. In England, a controversial draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has just been published for consultation. More than 1,000 pages of current planning policy would be condensed to some fifty pages, and the UK Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) says that it preserves all the existing heritage protection principles. But opinions are polarised.

Shaun Spiers, of the Campaign to Protect Rural England responded ‘If it is not amended, there will be battles against development across the country that will make the public revolt against the sale of the forests look like a tea party.’ Supporting the draft, Joey Gardiner wrote online in the journal *Building*, that local councils would have to prove the adverse impacts of a development “significantly and demonstrably” outweigh the benefits in order to turn down planning applications. Opposing it, the National Trust’s Director-General, Dame Fiona Reynolds, said ‘The government’s proposals allow financial considerations to dominate, and with this comes huge risk to our countryside, historic environment and the precious local places that people value.’ In its reply, DCLG asserted that the crystal-clear protections in the draft NPPF fulfil the coalition’s commitment to protect designated places such as Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the historic environment.

Giving the 2011 Boydell Lecture, Sir Simon Jenkins noted that the Government’s clear expectation is that we move to a system where the default answer to development is yes and that consideration should be given only to heritage assets of ‘real

importance'. In the case, for example, of even a *designated* heritage asset, development may still be permitted that results in substantial harm to or total loss of significance if the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

The setting of the Richard Jefferies Museum, Coate Water Country Park, which unfortunately is *not* designated, is the setting too for many parts of his books. It is facing development to include a business park and 900 homes, and although following a significant opposition campaign the proposals have been rejected, the developers have appealed, and there is to be a public inquiry. Highlighting this case as the kind of conflict that would be even more likely if the draft NPPF becomes official policy, Jack Watkins wrote in the *Independent*, that 'officialdom, if it had its way, would like to parcel up the best parts of the countryside into "approved" areas, facilitating a developers' profitable free-for-all over the remainder, having thought it sold us the dummy that anything undesignated must therefore be without value.'

Sir Simon Jenkins said that '[NPPF] constitutes a clear presumption for any development, even if the green belts are protected. It is the sort of planning you get in a banana republic, where local corruption and pressure is all.' On the other hand, Liz Peace, chief executive at the British Property Federation, has said 'We will have no problem in giving the [NPP] framework our ringing endorsement.'

Meanwhile, north of the border, the Scottish Government has issued its updated advice on Planning and Archaeology, which sets out clearly the measures that should be taken to provide an adequate level of protection for archaeological remains without unnecessarily impeding development, with a simple but foolproof decision tree summarising the process.

The consultation will close on 17 October 2011. The full text of the draft National Planning Policy Framework and details of consultation workshops are available at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicyframework>

GRANTS AND AWARDS

AWARDS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF HERITAGE RESEARCH

The RAI is one of the co-sponsors (and co-founders) of the Awards for the Presentation of Heritage Research, along with English Heritage, Historic Scotland, Cadw, the Irish Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Northern Ireland Environment and Heritage Service. We contribute £750 towards the prizes, and specifically that of the £500 *Under-30 Prize*; the main award is worth £1,500 and there is a runners-up award of £500. These go to

the speakers who demonstrate the most interesting and high-quality research, and also give the most lively and entertaining presentation. The next awards will be made in February 2012. For full details and an entry form, see: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/training-and-skills/improving-practice/awards-for-presentation-of-heritage-research>

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AWARDS 2012

Aimed at identifying the most impressive, innovative and imaginative archaeological endeavours of the past two years, the

biennial British Archaeological Awards are a showcase for the best in British archaeology. Entries will be judged in the following six categories: Best Project, Best Community Project, Best Book, Best Representation of Archaeology in the Media, Best Discovery and Best Innovation. Details of the 2012 Awards have not been announced yet, but will be forthcoming within the next few months – nominations should open in November. Further details will appear on the BAA website www.britarch.ac.uk/awards when available.

BIENNIAL MASTER'S DISSERTATION PRIZE

The RAI holds two competitions for dissertations on a subject concerned with the archaeology or architectural history of Britain, Ireland and adjacent areas of Europe. In even-numbered years, the competition is

for the best dissertation submitted by an undergraduate in full-time education. In odd-numbered years, the competition is for the best dissertation submitted by a Master's student.

In 2011 the RAI award will be for the best Master's dissertation on a subject concerned with the archaeology or architectural history of Britain, Ireland or adjacent areas of Europe. Nominations are made by University and College Departments. The winner will receive a prize of £500 and the opportunity for a paper based on the dissertation to be published in the *Archaeological Journal*. The chief criteria considered are (a) quality of work and (b) appropriateness to the interests of the RAI as reflected in the *Journal*. The award will be presented at the London meeting of the Institute on 14 March 2012.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE RESEARCH GRANTS

The Institute awards the following grants annually:

Tony Clark Fund Up to £500 for archaeological work and dating

Bunnell Lewis Fund Up to £750 towards archaeology of the Roman period in the UK

RAI Award Up to £5000 towards archaeological work in the UK

For an application form, please see www.royalarchinst.org or write to the Administrator @ RAI c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE

Closing date for applications: 11 January 2012. Awards announced in April 2012.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2011

AUTUMN DAY MEETING at Birmingham, Aston Hall and Back to Backs, Saturday 22 October, led by Hedley Swain. For details, please see the flyer included in this mailing.

FORTHCOMING in 2012 (details to be confirmed, but please check our website)

SPRING MEETING at the Cinque Ports, based in Deal, 11–13 May, led by Jon Coad

SUMMER MEETING at Liverpool and environs 7–14 July, led by Hedley Swain.

AUTUMN DAY MEETING at London Docks, 13 October, led by Hedley Swain.

MEETINGS NOTES

SPRING MEETING to Norfolk, 20–22 May, 2011 • David Sherlock

Golden Seraphs with Silver Wings was the title of a weekend studying some of the rood screens to be found in the churches of north-east Norfolk. A feast of screens was promised and we were not disappointed, some of the finest ones being rated amongst the best in the country. About thirty members attended the weekend, staying at the Premier Inn, Norwich. The following account of the meeting is based on the excellent notes which were provided by our guide for the tour, Dr Julian Litten FSA and on his comments during the actual visits.

Julian's introductory notes dealt with the rood screen under the following headings: its function and purpose, the rood screen in Norfolk, its fabrication and its painting and decoration. Whether it only blocked the chancel arch or extended northwards and southwards if the church had aisles, the rood screen was essential both as a barrier between clergy and laity, and as a kind of window on the holiest part of the church, the 'English iconostasis', as he called it. Screens were richly decorated both in their openwork and in their painted panels below. In Norfolk out of some seven hundred parish churches over two hundred still have screens or remains of screens. They were only rarely gated, but above them was a bressumer, a great beam, supporting the crucifixion scene, either painted on panels or carved in the round. Access to the rood for lighting candles or veiling figures was via stone stairs, normally within the thickness of the north wall. To make these screens at least seven craftsmen were required: carpenter, joiner, carver, artist (for the panels), painter (for the decoration), stenciller and gilder, though we have no documentary evidence for how all this was carried out.

On Friday afternoon, the first screen to be visited after a look at the wall paintings in St Gregory's, Pottergate, were the ten panels rescued from St James's, Norwich, now at St Mary Magdalene's, Silver Street, and now affixed to the south wall at a height much more convenient for close scrutiny than those we were going to see *in situ*. Thought to date to 1505, the panels introduced us to some quite obscure saints including Sitha (the patron saint of housework), Auguste, Blida and Walstan.

In the evening we were treated to an excellent illustrated lecture on 'Authorship and Creativity: Stylistic similarities of associated Norfolk rood screens' by Lucy Wrapson, conservator and research associate at the Hamilton Kerr Institute, Cambridge University, who joined us on the coach the next day.



At All Saints Edingthorpe (AB)

On Saturday we began with Trunch church screen, its inscribed middle rail dating it to 1502 and its saints, the conventional twelve apostles (with Paul for Judas). Here we were shown remains of the astonishingly rich decoration on the framing: one method known as tinning, where strips of metal, embossed in a mould, were applied to the woodwork with red lead, and then gilded; another known as piping, where blobs of plaster were applied to woodwork and gilded. There was a second screen closing off the tower at the back of the church and the famous font canopy carved with animals and scrolls, both also around AD 1500. We next made an unscheduled stop at Knapton church nearby, to see the astonishing roof of 138 carved angels, screen remains and other fine woodwork.

Edingthorpe church screen was the earliest on our weekend: late fourteenth century,

but repainted a century later. The church at North Walsham, where we stopped for lunch, also has remains of a large fourteenth-century screen.

The coved chancel screen at Barton Turf introduced us to Saint Appolonia (the patron saint of dentistry) holding her tooth in a large pair of forceps, and two- four- and six-winged angels celebrate the 'heavenly hierarchy', their wings often getting in the way of their clothing or armour. The screen at the south aisle includes Saint-Kings Edward the Confessor, Edmund, Olaf and Henry VI, who was popularly regarded as a saint and martyr and whose canonisation was under way until Henry VIII's break with Rome.

Catfield church screen (1420s-1440s) has sixteen figures, all sadly defaced. In 1985 it was partly cleaned and conserved by Pauline



Southern half of the screen at chancel, St Michael & All Angels, Barton Turf (MO'B)

Palmer, as far as money would allow. Fifteen saintly kings and one saintly queen are depicted.

The extraordinary survival of the wooden tympanum dominates the screen of c. 1500 at Ludham. It survived because it was covered (in canvass) with the royal arms of Elizabeth, now to be seen on its east side. On the tympanum beside the figures of Mary, Christ and John are Longinus, the Roman soldier, Mary Magdalene and a seraph at either end. A painted inscription on the screen below asks us 'to pray for the soul of John Salmon and Cecily, his wife, who gave fourteen pounds... in 1493.' The panels show the four doctors of the early church and eight other saints including (?) Henry VI, and is similar in style to that at Trunch.

Ranworth, the 'cathedral of the Broads', was the high point of the day, including a first,

probably, for the Institute, namely a rector who sang beautifully for us the short Christmas plainsong verses painted on the cantor's lectern of c. 1480, before introducing us to the Ranworth antiphoner of about the same date, kept at the back of the church, and expounding movingly on the screen and associated woodwork, complementing the eight sides of notes which we had had from Julian (in contrast to the three sentences provided by A. B. Whittingham for the Institute's last visit here in July 1979). The screen, one of the finest in all England, of great beauty and delicacy of detail, shows Flemish stylistic influence, a reminder that Ranworth was once a small port. The screen extends right across the church, with projecting panels closing off the north and south altars, where angels above the saints are holding, as it were, the cloth of honour



Admiring the back of the Ranworth screen (MO'B)



Outside the monastery of St Ignatius, Norwich (AB)

behind the altar, and their eyes gaze out to where the celebrating priest would have held the elevated Host. Besides the twelve apostles there are panels of SS Felix, Thomas of Canterbury and George, while the south or Lady Chapel has the Virgin Mary, Mary Salome and Mary Cleophas with their respective children, flanked by St Margaret.

Our last visit of the day was to Burlingham St Andrew to see its screen of 1536, inscribed with the names of the donors, John and Cecily Blake. Tudor-style shoes and costume confirm the date of this the latest dated screen in Norfolk. Beautifully painted saints survive (with remains of 'tinning' such as we saw at Trunch) but their faces were mutilated at the Reformation. The earlier screen from the now ruinous church of Burlingham St Peter forms the tower screen at the west end of St Andrew's.

On the Sunday, Hungate Museum was unfortunately closed so a choice of visit was made, to Norwich Blackfriars or St Andrew's Hall, before our final visit to the Cathedral, where we inspected the retablo of Bishop Henry Despenser (c. 1342–1406), an exceptional piece depicting five scenes from Christ's Passion and Resurrection, richly moulded and gilded in International style. It may have been commissioned by the bishop to commemorate the suppression of the peasants' revolt, which he led.

Thanks again to Julian Litten and Lucy Wrapson for their excellent explanations and for answering questions throughout the meeting, and to Caroline Raison for organising it.

[see below for a special-offer book co-edited by Ann Ballantyne and Pauline Palmer]

REPORT OF THE 157th SUMMER MEETING AT LISBON AND ENVIRONS, 18–25 June, 2011 • Vivienne Coad

The anniversary of the battle of Waterloo marked the arrival of forty-four members of the Institute at Lisbon, an appropriate date for a visit which was to include Torres Vedras.

The trip began on a grey, damp morning in Heathrow's crowded Terminal 3 with the challenges of self-service check-in but, as the plane headed south over the mountains of northern Spain with the promise of 22° C in Lisbon, the members of the party were in excellent cheer. Our descent began along the Tagus estuary then, as we wheeled over the sea, there were expansive views over the bay to the city, under a clear blue sky. A brief coach ride took us to the Citadela Cascais hotel and, whilst some members immediately ventured out into town to shop or explore a small party headed straight for the hotel swimming pool.

A warm, sunny Sunday marked our arrival in the town centre of Cascais. We were even trumpeted by an exuberant fire service band. Our guide, the town archaeologist Severino Rodrigues, who had nobly given up his Sunday morning to be with us, had some job being heard. He persevered with good spirit and walked us through narrow, cobbled streets, past houses with their distinctive ceramic tile decoration to view the excavated foundations of a sixteenth-century merchant's house and the site of the 'new well' (post 1755 earthquake) now marked by a circle of cobbles. In what had been a fishing town it was fascinating to peer, behind an unlikely door in the wall, at the remains of a Roman fish tank, used presumably for the preparation of garum, a sort of Roman fish paste. We were led around the perimeter of what had been the small medieval castle area to the museum housed in the extraordinary former mansion

of the Counts of Guimarães, a building exhibiting an array of styles from neo-Gothic to Moorish. Here we were introduced to Portuguese prehistory and our guide explained that it was in caves near Cascais, that the earliest evidence of prehistoric occupation in Portugal had been found in the late nineteenth century. Among the beaker finds, limestone votive sandals and small bone rabbits drew particular comment. Our tour of Cascais ended with the fort, with its late medieval core and subsequent two periods of build to give it the distinctive angle bastions of the seventeenth century.

A picnic lunch on the coach was followed by some free time in Belém. Some made a bee line for the flea market whilst others walked purposefully to the promenade to view the striking monument to Henry the Navigator and the sixteenth-century tower of Belém. We re-assembled for a visit to the monastery of Jerónimos, our introduction to a style of architecture new to almost all of us. The Manueline style (named after King Manuel I, 1495–1521) is characterised by a rich and fantastical use of decoration and the cloister with its conjugation of symbols clearly exemplified this. The archaeological museum incorporated in one wing of the monastery included a treasure room containing remarkable interlocking gold spirals from the Bronze Age, Iron Age torcs and Roman gold jewellery.

The final visit of the day was to our first Chalcolithic or copper age site, the settlement at Leceia. We were met here by the excavator João Luis Cardoso, Professor of Archaeology at the Open University of Lisbon, who had kindly given up his Sunday afternoon to give us a comprehensive tour. This complicated defended settlement includes bastioned walls, successively



Tower of Belém (MO'B)

reinforced in the early third millennium BC. Our tour ended in the museum, an added bonus for the industrial archaeologists among the group as it was housed in an old gun powder works. There we admired an impressive model of the settlement and finds from the excavations.

Another dawn heralded a scorching day out in Lisbon. We had been told that in the Middle Ages the journey from Cascais to Lisbon would have taken four days, because of the several small river crossings. Ours took less than an hour (even in Monday morning

traffic). We watched an enterprising cyclist, shrewdly hitching a ride behind one of the city's old trams to save his legs.

In the Praça do Comércio we were met by our guide Tânia Manuel Casimiro, a development archaeologist doing post-doctoral research at the New University of Lisbon. She explained that we were in the 'new town' planned after the 1755 earthquake and steered us up one of the grid of streets laid out then, the now pedestrianised Rua Augusta. Our first destination was the Convento do Carmo



Welcomed to Lisbon by José Morais Arnaud, APA President (MO'B)

where we were welcomed by José Morais Arnaud, President of the Association of Portuguese Archaeologists. This he explained had formerly been the Royal Association of Architects and Archaeologists, founded not long after our own Institute in 1863. Staging was being erected within the ruined nave for an evening event and the museum had been opened especially for us. The President told us that the move to establish a museum here arose as a result of shock over the use of the ruined nave as stabling for horses by the National Guard in the nineteenth century. This museum, the oldest in Portugal, is housed within the ruined nave and roofed east end chapels of the monastic church. It contains objects gathered from all over Portugal, including the spectacular tomb of King Fernando I (1345–1383), with its strange morphology, and a fourteenth-century inscription from the former Oporto synagogue, built outside the town walls.

A picnic in Praça Dom Pedro IV and a rejuvenating coffee were followed by a walk to the cathedral, the Se. Here excavations in the fourteenth-century cloister have revealed a fascinating stratigraphic sequence from the eighth century BC onward. Roman and Moorish features were exposed, but there is no evidence it seems for the mosque which underlay the cathedral. Uphill again we marched to the Roman theatre opened specially for us by Lídia Fernandes, Archaeologist at the City Museum. The remains here include parts of the rows of benches and proscenium with fragments of an inscription to the emperor Nero. Our final visit of the day involved a further uphill climb through skinny alleys. A few members opted understandably for a bumpy bus ride instead. Soaring views were the reward when we reached the castle, Castelo de São Jorge. From the ramparts we could see the city spread out in front of us, the contrast between the grid of the new town and the



Excavation of C11th Moorish building, Sintra (MO'B)

narrow alleys winding up to the castle being particularly marked.

The following day Tânia joined us on the coach as we set off for the World Heritage Site of Sintra. The morning heat in Cascais gradually gave way to cooler air as our driver negotiated the sinuous uphill road through lush wooded slopes with eucalyptus, rhododendron and outcrops of granite boulders until finally we had a glimpse of Castelo Dos Mouros. Here we were met by Maria João Sousa, the site archaeologist. She took us past Moorish grain silos and the twelfth- to fourteenth-century church, much reconstructed as a romantic ruin in the nineteenth century, to view the excavations carried out in the area between the church and castle wall. These on-going excavations have revealed a number of burials, indicating quite a large community here. Recent excavations just inside the castle wall have demonstrated that the wall is of

twelfth-century, Christian period date (as an eleventh-century Moorish building immediately underlies it) and not, as previously supposed, from the Moorish period. We were then let loose to explore the wall walks which offered fine views to the Palácio da Pena (which we were not to visit) and the Palácio Nacional. Here we assembled after a break for refreshment and shopping in Sintra. The sheer variety of decorative detail at the National Palace, in particular, the Manueline wall tiles and wall and ceiling painting with motifs such as magpies, mermaids and doves, was dazzling. More restful on the eye were the shady, inner courtyards affording attractive views of the surrounding countryside.

Our final visit of the day was to the extraordinary Convento dos Capuchos, a complete contrast to the opulence of the palace. Here were narrow low cells, a tiny refectory, chapel and infirmary, all with

ceilings, doors and window surrounds of cork for insulation. Some members were bent almost double negotiating the low passages and doorways. As we boarded the coach some were heard to remark what a variety of sites we had enjoyed at Sintra, all different but sharing a wonderful setting.

Irene Grossman joined us on Wednesday for the two-hour journey northwards to Tomar. The drive through a landscape of gentle hills, vines and villages was enlivened by Irene's commentary, drawing our attention at one point to the umbrella shaped pine trees (which produce our culinary pine nuts) at another to the second and third lines of Wellington's defence in the Peninsular wars. Arriving in Tomar we walked past the castle walls to the Convento de Christo, the earliest surviving part of which is the original templar church, the Charola Rotunda. Externally this is still of twelfth-century date but the interior is embellished with the rich heady decoration of the sixteenth century. From the fifteenth century, substantial additions were made to the convent, including the cloisters and palace buildings, and the complicated sequence of buildings was difficult to take in, particularly as our visit was necessarily short. The extraordinary west window with its bewildering mix of maritime motifs, held up as an exemplar of Manueline art, was, Irene explained, more likely to be a nineteenth-century insertion, as there are motifs not found in any other Manueline work and the opening cuts two floor levels.

From Tomar we moved on to Batalha Abbey, built 1388 onwards to fulfil a vow made by King João before the Battle of Aljubarrota. We were reminded of more recent battles as our visit coincided with the changing of the guard at the tomb of the unknown warrior. The rich detail of the exterior did not prepare us for the austerity of what one member described as the almost

English interior with its soaring nave columns. By contrast, the cloister arcade was a feast of flamboyant Manueline detail.

Alcobaça, our final destination of the day, lies amid fruit orchards and some of the party took the opportunity to sample delicious plums and cherries. The Cistercian abbey founded here in 1153 has the largest church in Portugal and its interior impressed with its wonderful, clean spaces and unencumbered vista along the narrow side aisles. Here the famous but ill-fated lovers King Pedro and his mistress Inês de Castro were buried, her tomb surrounded by the carved heads of her executioners. It was rare to see a refectory still with its pulpitum and the vast tiled kitchen chimneys looked almost modern in style. At the end of a long day it was rejuvenating to sit in the square opposite the abbey, sipping welcome drinks and enjoying the little pastéis de nata (custard tarts), a Portuguese speciality.

Michael Kunst, our guide met us at Torres Vedras on Thursday morning. The museum was closed until 10am because of the feast of Corpus Christi so we made an extra visit to a Copper Age Tholos, the Tholos de Barro. For some this was an opportunity to wild flower spot and to enjoy the scent of wild marjoram and oregano whilst the military historians were able to enjoy a view to the line of hills which were utilised by Wellington as part of his defensive barrier against the French. Unfortunately it did not prove possible to visit any of those defences but an excellent exhibition on the Peninsular War at the museum in Torres Vedras was a compensation. At the museum Michael had laid out a most informative display of artefacts from his excavations at Zambujal, together with panels showing the building sequence of this defended Copper Age settlement which we were to view later in the morning. His comprehensive and detailed explanation of the development of



The Copper-age Tholos de Barro (MO'B)

this site included exciting evidence of the earliest known use of bell beakers, cutting-edge research tying in the development of bell beakers within a tight stratigraphic framework. The site itself with its walls and towers, evidence of a sequence spanning the early to mid third millennium BC, was most impressive.

After a morning of prehistory, the early afternoon visit to the Rococo extravaganza of the Royal Palace of Queluz, the favourite summer residence of the royal family in the mid eighteenth century, was a complete contrast. Some of us were seduced by the fine porcelain and silver whilst, for others the glimpse into the musical entertainment of the age was fascinating. In one room, the Hall of the Ambassadors, the ceiling decoration comprised a painting of a musical recital with the royal family. The rooms did

however have a slightly down at heel appearance, no doubt the result of inadequate funding.

The last stop in the afternoon was the Gulbenkian Museum, a beautifully laid out series of rooms displaying an eclectic collection which had something to entice us all. The Art Nouveau collection of jewellery by Lalique was a particular favourite.

Friday promised temperatures of 37° C for a foray further south. Luckily we were in air-conditioned comfort. Our first treat of the day was travelling over the longest suspension bridge in the world, the Ponte 25 de Abril, named after the date of the 1974 revolution, and we enjoyed glorious views of Lisbon and Belém in morning sunshine. The first stop, the Igreja de Jesus, Setúbal, the earliest known building of the Manueline



The standing stones of Almendres (MO'B)

style, was a tour-de-force of intertwining vegetative columns, spiralling upwards, a motif echoed in the ribs of the chancel vault. A divided font provoked much comment also.

Heading inland we observed numerous storks nesting in pylons and quantities of cork oak, cut or marked up for cutting.

The world heritage site of Évora was next and here we were left to wander by ourselves. The most substantial Roman temple remains in Portugal were hard to miss but the circular Roman bath, tucked away beyond the reception area of the municipal offices, took some finding. Those who sought out the ossuary were struck by its macabre quality. Others found the calm of the sixteenth-century university cloister with its characteristic tile decoration more

restful. A few of the party stayed on to explore the narrow lanes of the town more fully while most climbed aboard the coach again, together with our guide Mario Carvalho, to visit two extraordinary megalithic sites. The first, the standing stones of Almendres, is the largest megalithic monument in Portugal. Dated to the mid sixth millennium BC, it comprises a horseshoe arrangement of about 95 standing stones, some decorated with anthropomorphic symbols. Mario explained the problems of erosion and vandalism here and the ill-siting of car parking immediately above the monument. Access to the second site, the dolmen at Zambujeiro, involved the coach driver gamely negotiating a dirt road and then members walking about half a mile to the site. This, in the heat of the early afternoon, was a considerable challenge but

despite the discomfort of the trek the reward was certainly worth it. The imposing dolmen, stripped of its mound in the 1960s–70s excavations, comprises a burial chamber and entrance passage composed of huge stones. It has remained exposed since the excavations, protected only by a temporary roof and its long term preservation is of considerable concern. We could not have wished for a more imposing site to mark the end of our excursions.

Over the week we had all been struck by the friendliness and courtesy of the Portugese. Our hotel staff had been

unfailingly helpful and all our guides had gone out of their way to make our visits informative and interesting. They almost invariably began with an apology about their English and yet spoke with impressive fluency. We had been introduced to a new style of architecture, Manueline and a new terminology for pre-history, the Chalcolithic. The huge variety of sites had simply whet our appetites for a further exploration of a country new to most of us and a week blessed with unbroken sunshine, rare for an Institute's summer meeting, had added to the feeling of well being. A sunny and successful foray.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE LECTURE PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACTS: 2011/12

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month from October to May at 5.00 pm in the Rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BE. Tea will be served before each meeting at 4.30 pm. Non-members are welcome but should make themselves known to the Secretary and sign the visitor's book.

2011

12 OCTOBER

*The Giants of Wessex: Silbury Hill,
Marlborough Mound and Hatfield Barrow*

JIM LEARY

Over the last few years the three giant round mounds of Wessex have seen some form of archaeological work. In 2007 and 2008 Silbury Hill was the focus of a multi-million pound project which included opening and retracing the 1968 tunnel into the heart of the Hill. Last summer saw excavations at Marden, one of the largest Neolithic henge monuments in Britain, which provided evidence for the now demolished mound known as the Hatfield Barrow – said to have

been as much as 15 m tall. Whilst, last autumn coring work through the Marlborough Mound produced four radiocarbon samples, which this year revealed for the first time that the mound is prehistoric in date and broadly contemporary with Silbury Hill and Marden henge. This lecture will describe the findings of each project, and explore a variety of ways of understanding these enigmatic monuments.

9 NOVEMBER

Protecting England's Underwater Heritage

MARK DUNKLEY

For an island nation, it is impossible to separate our maritime heritage from the

remains of our historic highs and lows on land. Much of our wealth came directly from the fruits of the sea or was the result of trade and military endeavour across it.

With a wealth of sites and monuments recorded offshore, English Heritage is devising new approaches to managing the country's maritime cultural heritage in response to more holistic and integrated practices, supported by new legislation, policy and guidance. Changes to the ways in which England's maritime heritage is enjoyed, understood, valued, and conserved are in progress.

This lecture will explain some of the innovative ways in which English Heritage is protecting the maritime past for the future.

14 DECEMBER

Norfolk Medieval Graffiti Survey

MATTHEW CHAMPION

Despite the recent popularity of studies that highlight the relationship between individuals within medieval society and the church as both building and institution, one major corpus of evidence remains relatively little examined. Despite archaeological interest in the subject dating from the late nineteenth century, pre-reformation graffiti, in the form of both textual inscriptions and images, has remained, until very recent years, largely overlooked. In January 2010 the Norfolk Medieval Graffiti Survey was established with the aim of undertaking the first systematic large scale survey of surviving pre-reformation graffiti inscriptions in the UK. The work undertaken by the NMGS and the discoveries it has made have already begun to change our perceptions of the interior of the medieval parish church.

2012

11 JANUARY

A hillfort at war? Excavations at Fin Cop, Derbyshire

CLIVE WADDINGTON

In recent years Iron Age hillforts have frequently been seen as monumental symbols of status conveying the power, prestige and social standing of their occupants rather than as true defensive constructions with a serious martial purpose. This view has been based largely on the results of landscape and metric survey of a variety of sites, some of which may not warrant the appellation 'hillfort'. Allied to this perception have been accounts of the Iron Age that have effectively 'pacified' the period and which have even portrayed society as being 'egalitarian'. Although such views seem at odds with much of the physical evidence and classical accounts of the time, clear evidence for the violent sacking of a hillfort during the Iron Age had not been forthcoming until the recent excavations at Fin Cop. The Fin Cop excavations and subsequent analysis of the material will be described during this talk and the implications for hillfort studies and accounts of the Iron Age will be discussed.

8 FEBRUARY

'The Death, burial and tomb of Henry VIII'

TIM TATTON-BROWN

In the *Archaeological Journal* (Vol. 51) for 1894, Alfred Higgins published a very long and important article, entitled: 'On the work of Florentine sculptors in England in the Early Part of the Sixteenth Century with Special Reference to the Tombs of Cardinal Wolsey and King Henry VIII'. This article, which was used by Sir William St. John Hope in his great architectural history of Windsor Castle, published all the

documentary evidence for Henry VIII's tomb but assumed that it was always being made at Windsor. Work by recent scholars has shown that the tomb was not taken to Windsor from Westminster (a renaissance workshop in Dean's Yard) until the 1560s, and that Wolsey never intended to have his tomb at Windsor.

This lecture will briefly reassess the evidence and will also look at the documented evidence for the site of Henry VIII's (and Jane Seymour's and Charles I's) burial vault in St George's Chapel, which is apparently wrongly marked on the chapel floor.

14 MARCH

The Comeback Species: recent developments in Neanderthal studies

WIL ROEBROEKS

Over the past decades our knowledge of our closest relatives, the Neanderthals, has increased at an amazing pace. In two decades, archaeological studies have upgraded them from obligate scavengers to competent hunters, adapted to a wide range of environments where they used fire as a tool to prepare food and produced artificial glues to haft their stone tools. Genetic data suggest that many modern humans are the proud owners of a Neanderthal genetic heritage. At the same time, we have also learned some interesting lessons about the variability within the archaeological record of modern humans. It is time to take stock of these developments and the resulting new Neanderthals.

11 APRIL

Stranger in a Strange Land: the Anglo-Saxon settlement at West Halton (Lincolnshire) in its Bronze-Age setting

DAWN HADLEY

Between 2003 and 2009 excavations in the village of West Halton (north Lincolnshire) sought to elucidate the nature of Anglo-Saxon occupation on the village green, where the remains of buildings, a curvilinear ditch and a square-ditched enclosure have been excavated. These Anglo-Saxon remains were adjacent to a mound that had long been thought to have been a post-medieval feature, but the recent excavations revealed it to be of Bronze-Age date, and to have been reused for burial in the seventh century. The remains of a second barrow were identified during excavation. This paper reports on the results of the excavations as it seeks to set the site in its broader context.

9 MAY

The President's lecture

A step too far: why was Hadrian's Wall built so far north?

DAVID J. BREEZE

Various factors governed the location of Roman frontiers. The northern frontier in Britain is particularly interesting for it ebbed to and fro. It settled on the line of Hadrian's Wall, but why? Geography, history, politics, social structure, economics? Perhaps all played a part. The location of Hadrian's Wall will be placed in its wider setting.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2011/12

RAI members are invited to attend the meetings of the British Archaeological Association.

2011

- 5 OCTOBER *Birkbeck training excavations in Syon Park: the Bridgettine Abbey and the formal gardens of Syon House* by Harvey Sheldon
- The lecture will be preceded by the Association's Annual General Meeting
- 2 NOVEMBER *Creating and recreating the tombs to the Dukes of York in Fotheringhay Church* by Jenny Alexander and Sofija Matich
- 7 DECEMBER *Piety, politics and prestige: the friars and their patrons in late medieval Ireland* by Colmán Ó Clabaigh

2012

- 4 JANUARY *Gifts and the Richard II Inventory* by Jenny Stratford
- The lecture will be followed by the Association's Twelfth-Night Party (booking required)
- 1 FEBRUARY *Monumental and multi-lingual inscriptions in the city of Ani* by Tony Eastmond
- 7 MARCH *Medieval building stone* by Tim Tatton-Brown
- 4 APRIL *The George Zarnecki Memorial lecture and reception: Inventing Romanesque sculpture: patrons, artists, masons and art historians* by Sandy Heslop
- 2 MAY *Imagining passion in Paris: A new study of the wall paintings of martyrdom in the Sainte-Chapelle* by Emily Guerry
- The lecture will be followed by the President's Reception

Meetings are held at 5.00 pm in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. Tea will be served before each meeting at 4.30 pm. Non-members are welcome to attend occasional lectures but are asked to make themselves known to the Hon. Director on arrival and to sign the visitors' book.

MISCELLANY

Publication News

The next volume of the *Archaeological Journal*, vol. 167, will be ready for despatch in the second half of September.

English Panel Paintings 1400–1558 A Survey of Figure Paintings on East Anglian Rood-screens

by Audrey M. Baker Ph.D, FSA, ed. Ann Ballantyne and Pauline Plummer

The art of East Anglia was pre-eminent during the late thirteenth and the first half of the fourteenth centuries. Its illuminated manuscripts rivalled in quality those

produced in London and Paris and as the diocese of Norwich became, for a while, one of the greatest centres of book production that has existed in any country, at the same time some particularly beautiful wall paintings and sculptures were being created in the churches of this increasingly prosperous region. Published mid September 2011, further details + contents can be found at www.archetype.co.uk. Price £45.00, **pre-publication price £35.00** + postage (UK £5.00, Europe £8), if ordered pre-paid with a visa/mastercard /cheque by 24 November 2011 from: Archetype Publications, 6 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 5HJ, Tel 44 207 380 0800, Fax 44 207 380 0500, info@archetype.co.uk

The Frontiers of Imperial Rome
by David J. Breeze

At its height, the Roman Empire was the greatest empire yet seen with borders stretching from the rain-swept highlands of Scotland in the north to the sun-scorched Nubian desert in the south. But how were the vast and varied stretches of frontier defined and defended? Many of Rome's frontier defences have been the subject of detailed and ongoing study and scholarship. This wide-ranging survey will describe the varying frontier systems, describing the extant remains, methods and materials of construction and highlighting the differences between various frontiers. Professor Breeze considers how the frontiers worked, discussing this in relation to the organisation and structure of the Roman army, and also their impact on civilian life along the empire's borders. Details at www.pen-and-sword.co.uk. RRP £25.00, **offer price £20.00** + postage (UK £4.00, Europe £8), online voucher code: 117807, from: Pen & Sword Books Ltd, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2AS, Tel. 01226 734222.

'Free' Back Issues of the *Archaeological Journal*. The Institute is giving away back issues of the *Archaeological Journal*, Indexes, Summer Meeting Reports, and selected off-prints and monographs. Recipients will be expected to pay packaging and postage costs. The items are available in limited numbers and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. To see the list of volumes and/or to place your order, select the Back Issue Order Form from the website at <http://www.royalarchinst.org/documents/backissue.doc> or contact the Administrator direct for a faxed or posted copy.

Timber Castles Conference October

2012: Call for Papers. In October 2012, to mark twenty years since the publication of Higham and Barker's *Timber Castles*, the Castle Studies Group is planning to organise a day conference examining the latest work on timber castles primarily in the UK, but also internationally. If anyone is currently undertaking or has recently done work on sites which had major phases of timber construction and would like to be considered to give a paper at the conference, please contact Jeremy Cunnington at jeremy.cunnington@btopenworld.com or Flat 3, 46 Ferme Park Road, London N4 4ED, Tel. 020 8348 6208.

Subscriptions

The current rates are: Ordinary member, £40 and Associate or Student, £20, with discounts when paid by direct debit; Life member, £750 or £525 if aged over 60.

Subscriptions to the Institute made using direct debit are collected via the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). When communicating with a member to acknowledge receipt, CAF use the term 'donation'.

Gift Aid: Members who pay the standard rate of tax and have arranged for the Institute to receive gift aid on their

subscriptions have gained for the Institute a substantial sum. Under this scheme, if you are a taxpayer, the government will refund to the Institute, 25p in the pound of the value of your subscription. If you would like to help, please ask the Administrator for a form or download it from our website, where it is the second page of the membership form. Despite previous notices of encouragement, it is still the case that less than a third of members have yet signed up.

The RAI office

The telephone number for the Administrator is [REDACTED], the email is admin@royalarchinst.org and the postal address is RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries,

Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE. The RAI no longer has an office in London, but the Administrator will usually be at this address on the second Wednesday of each month from October to May, between 11 am and 3 pm.

Sponsor a Student/Young Person's Membership of the RAI

In a limited pilot scheme, second- or third-year degree students under 26, nominated by their archaeology department, are being offered membership of the Institute, sponsored by volunteer existing members. In 2011, there are five such members. If you can help us to expand the scheme, please contact the Administrator at the address above.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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NEXT ISSUE Copy for the next issue must reach the editor by the end of January 2012 for publication in April 2012.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.royalarchinst.org
