



The Institute for Archaeologists

Finds Group Newsletter Autumn 2011

Welcome to the second edition of the new look Finds Group newsletter. I hope you enjoy it. A reminder that the 2012 Annual Conference will be held in Oxford from 18th to 20th April. The theme for the conference will be Partnership Working – creating effective networks throughout the historic, natural and built environments to maximise resources, increase public benefit and build a stronger sector. Please keep an eye on the IfA website for further details at: <http://www.archaeologists.net>.

If you wish to comment on any issue in this newsletter, or have suitable material for publication in the Spring edition, please get in touch. My contact details are on the back page. Stephen Brunning - Editor.

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

Continuing Professional Development Courses Spring/Summer 2012:

Saturday Day Schools at the University of Sussex, £35 each:

- 14 January: **Understanding Prehistoric Pottery** (Tristan Bareham)
- 14 January: **Drawing Pottery** (Jane Russell)
- 28 January: **Drawing Flint and Stone** (Jane Russell)
- 04 February: **Post-Roman Pottery** (Luke Barber)
- 11 February: **Drawing Metalwork** (Jane Russell)
- 18 February: **The Identification of Archaeological Metalwork, Stone and Post-Medieval Ceramic Building Materials** (Luke Barber)
- 10 March: **An Introduction to Flintwork** (Chris Butler)

Longer Courses

The Recording and Analysis of Artefacts and Pottery (X3155)

The aim of this course is to train students to be able to identify, record and interpret the main types of archaeological finds resulting from fieldwork (survey and excavation) in South East England. The course will introduce students to the main categories of finds from the Palaeolithic to c. AD 1700 i.e. those of stone, pottery/clay and metal. By the end of the course students should be able to undertake preliminary sorting of, and reporting on, assemblages of archaeological material. The aims of Specialist Reports for publication and archive will also be explained and discussed.

Course X3155: 12 Wednesdays 7-9pm and 4 Saturday day schools (ie as above), starting 11 January; tutors: David Rudling, Luke Barber, Chris Butler, Paul Saddleton and Jane Russell; 36 credits at either undergraduate Level 1 or 2). Fee: £570. Sally Christian Archaeology Bequest applications are available for this course to a

maximum of £250).

Drawing Archaeological Artefacts (X9548)

This course comprises four Saturday day schools and will cover the illustration of various types of artefacts that are likely to be found in the archaeological record. The course will look at how to produce illustrations of such artefacts as pottery, flint, metalwork and organic material. Each session will look at how artefacts were drawn in the past, the problems connected to each of the artefacts, as well as good and bad practices. This course is suitable for beginners and those with some experience, and would also be a good basis for those interested in drawing by digital methods - since the illustrative conventions are the same - however, please note that digital drawing is not taught on this course. Tutor: Jane Russell. Fees: £90 (full), £45 (concessions).

Summer Schools:

Ancient Crafts and Technologies (X9006)

A week-long course, 9-13 July, giving you the opportunity to explore ancient crafts and technologies from a hands-on point of view. Based at the Iron Age Activity Centre at Michelham Priory, Hailsham, East Sussex, we cover pottery, wood working, textiles, building technologies, boat building and flint knapping. Tristan Bareham and other tutors. Fees: £230 (full), £163 (concessions).

The Art of Flint Knapping (X90257)

Investigate flint tools from the Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age and produce your own replicas. The world of flint comes alive when you discover how the artefacts were made. Start with a raw lump of flint and produce the beautiful, fine tools of the Mesolithic. Make the hand axe of the Palaeolithic. Try out your skills in using the tools of the Neolithic. Two Saturday day schools, 28 July and 11 August, 10am to 4pm, at Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre, Amberley, West Sussex. Tutor: Robert Turner. Fees: £70 (full), £35 (concessions).

Contact: Centre for Community Engagement, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 9RF; T 01273 678300; E cce@sussex.ac.uk;
W www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/shortcourses

Diggers' Forum newsletter: Finds input - Chiz Harward

As you may know Finds Group members have been contributing articles to the Diggers' Forum newsletter over the last two issues (with very positive feedback from readers), we'd really like to continue this partnership so were wondering if any FG members have any suitable subjects they would like to share: it could be anything from a piece on a particularly intriguing find, a spotters guide to Delftware, or how you become a pottery specialist. Or maybe the top ten annoying things diggers do with finds! Anything that may inform, amuse or interest the Diggers' Forum membership of field archaeologists would be great, preferably with some pictures, length can be anything from 100 words to 1000!

To give you an idea of the format and scope you can read past DF newsletters at: <http://www.archaeologists.net/groups/diggers/newsletter> . Please contact Chiz Harward at diggers@archaeologists.net if you'd like to propose an article or discuss contributing.

Advocacy Bulletin - Tim Howard

In recent months IfA advocacy effort has been largely focused on localism and the reform of the planning system in England. Having submitted evidence to the Public Bill Committee on the Localism Bill earlier in the year, the Bill is now continuing through Parliament and IfA staff have been active in responding to related consultations (for instance, with regard to the proposed Community Rights to Buy and to Challenge), in briefing colleagues and Parliamentarians and in promoting amendments to the Bill.

The main concern in this regard remains the effect that neighbourhood planning (including Neighbourhood Development Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders) will have upon the historic environment and ensuring that there will be adequate safeguards to ensure that heritage assets are properly considered and protected in the neighbourhood planning process.

In tandem with the Localism Bill, Government is seeking to streamline the planning process in England, amongst other things, by introducing an overarching National Planning Policy Framework to replace 1600 pages of existing policy (in PPGs and PPSs) with a little over 60 pages of the Framework. Peter Hinton and Tim Howard have been heavily involved within the sector in lobbying to ensure that there is no loss of protection for the historic environment when PPS5 is replaced by the Heritage Chapter of the Framework. IfA submitted its formal response (<http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/NPPFFinal.pdf>) to the Department for Communities and Local Government's consultation well in advance of the closing date (17 October) and has used the intervening period to promote the Institute's case to Government, the sector and others. Tim Howard has prepared detailed recommendations for changes to the draft National Planning Policy Framework which have been sent to ministers and civil servants in the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and were the subject of a constructive meeting between IfA and DCLG on 3 October. We have argued strongly for policy which places the historic environment at the heart of sustainable development rather than simply being subordinated to economic growth (important as that is). As drafted, it is feared by many that the permissive nature of the majority of the document (for instance, the 'Del Monte' clause in paragraph 19 provides that the default answer to an application for permission should be 'yes') may override much of the protection which remains in the Heritage Chapter.

Much of our time recently has also been spent in supporting local authority historic environment and archaeology services whose very existence is in many cases under threat in the current economic climate. We have already made submissions to a number of authorities making clear the crucial role of such services and supporting colleagues whose posts are at risk (see, for instance, <http://www.archaeologists.net/news/110926-ifa-defends-archaeology-sandwell>) and, sadly, expect further work in this respect. In addition to authority-specific correspondence, we have been working with The Archaeology Forum to take strategic action to help protect local government services: the Forum has written to the Tourism and Heritage minister John Penrose, and has drafted a letter to the Decentralisation minister Greg Clark to follow up on Radio 4's 4 October *Making History* debate featuring CBA Director Mike Heyworth.

IfA has been active elsewhere in the United Kingdom. Peter Hinton has helped members of the Northern Ireland Archaeology Forum prepare for a ministerial meeting, focusing on cuts to Northern Ireland Environment Agency's archaeology team and on the potential to increase public benefit from commercial archaeology with reform to Planning Policy Statement 6. Furthermore, his letter to Jimmy Deenihan T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (along with many other representations), expressing concern about the proposal to deal with inconsistent listing of recent structures by removing all post-1700 buildings from the Record of Monuments and Places appears to have produced the desired effect and a 'clarification' of policy in this regard.

In Scotland, IfA has responded to consultations relating to a number of matters including

- the Historic Environment (Amendment)(Scotland) Act 2011
- permitted development
- marine policy and licensing

while in Wales responses have been submitted in relation to the creation of a Register of Historic Battlefields in Wales and the importance of pre-application discussions in planning. Following the announcement of Welsh Government's Legislative Programme IfA staff and Welsh practitioners hope soon to meet with Cadw officials to discuss the likely scope and potential of a Welsh Heritage Bill.

The input of members is vital to IfA's advocacy work. If there is any consultation or policy issue about which you feel IfA should be making representations, please do contact Tim Howard (tim.howard@archaeologists.net). Publicly available consultation responses submitted on behalf of the IfA are available on the IfA website at <http://www.archaeologists.net/advocacy/consultations/2011>

Glasgow Museums' Archaeological Archiving Project - Cheralynne Hyde, Archaeology Inventory Assistant.

The Archiving Project began in July 2009 at Glasgow Museums Resource Centre in Nitshill. At the beginning of the project the museum held around 450 boxes of excavated material spread over many stores.

This quantity has increased to in excess of 1600 boxes due to the backlog of assemblages being called in. Over the decades objects have been deposited in various states of packaging and levels of supporting information, from finds packed in coffee bags with the site archive written on them, to washing baskets full of Verreville pottery from rescue excavations in the 1970s. All need to be recorded and repacked in various ways to ensure their long term survival.

The aims of the project are to repack the objects into archive stable material, gather the documentary archive to support the assemblages, enter or enhance the object entries on our collections management database then store them according to their Local Authority Area in our state of the art open storage facility.

Glasgow Museums now holds over 140 excavated assemblages, ranging from the Mesolithic to a PoW camp from the Second World War. Before the project we did not have a complete list of our excavated holdings and no system setting the

standard for recording and storage requirements.

We also offer space and facilities for researchers to access our holdings and we hold 'Archaeology Uncovered' workshops for children aged between 7 -14 to come and access the collection and have a go at their own experimental archaeology.



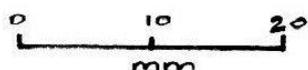
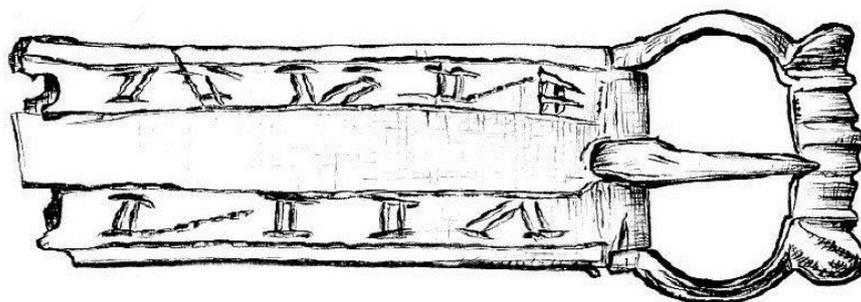
*Processing and repacking the objects
(photo by the author)*



*Our repacked and standardised system for storage
(photo by the author)*

MEDIEVAL BUCKLE (PAS RECORD CORN- CCE175) - Anna Tyacke, Finds Liaison Officer for Cornwall, Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Cast copper alloy single-looped oval buckle frame with ornate outer edge and a narrowed and off-set pin bar to which a plate and pin are attached. The ornate outer edge is made up of four lobes, divided by four transverse ridges, the central two furnishing a notch for the pin. The copper alloy pin is cast and tapers to a point. The plate is made up of a folded piece of copper alloy sheet and has two broken rivet holes at the end, the rivets having been lost. The plate is engraved with two parallel bands and within the upper band, there is incised the word 'AVIE' and within the lower band, 'I I I A'. There are also two deliberate scratches, or rocked tracer lines, between the I and the E of AVIE and the first two I I of I I I A, which may be trying to transform them into a retrograde 'N' or an 'M' which would then spell 'MIA', short for MARIA. Similar examples with missing or illegible inscriptions on the database are BUC-C61B87 and SF-0B21E1.



The buckle frame is 19 mm long and 22.5 mm wide and 5 mm in thickness. The pin is 19 mm long and 4 mm wide and 2 mm in thickness and the plate is 48 mm long, 17.5 mm wide and 2 mm thick.



Found in the summer of 2007 in Phillack parish by Steven de Grey while metal detecting.

Buckle plates with this type of inscription are discussed by J. Mills in R. Ivens (ed) 1995, p.336 with reference to one excavated at Tattenhoe in Buckinghamshire (no.7). Parallels cited include those from Seacourt, Oxfordshire (Biddle 1963, p.167, fig. 28, no.16); Billingsgate, London; and Mancetter, Warwickshire. A composite strap-end decorated in the same style has been excavated at Westbury, Buckinghamshire (Mills in Ivens (ed) 1995, p.352, no.171).

Whitehead (1996) illustrates a similar example, engraved with the words AVA LEV, on page 23, no.100, which is dated from c.1250-1400.

Egan & Pritchard (2002) illustrates an example of an ornate oval frame and plate on page 77, fig.46, no.314, which is dated from c.1270-1350.

References:

- Biddle, M, 1963. [The deserted medieval village of Seacourt, Berkshire](#), Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society, Oxoniensia, Vol.26/27, pp.70-201, p.167, fig.28, no.16.
- Egan, G and Pritchard, F, 1991. [Dress Accessories](#): Medieval Finds from Excavations in London: 3, p.77, fig.46, no.314.
- Ivens, R: Busby,P and Shepherd N, 1995. [Tattenhoe and Westbury. Two deserted medieval settlements in Milton Keynes](#) Aylesbury: Bucks Archaeological Society Monograph Series No 8, pp.336 & 352, nos.7 & 171.
- Whitehead, R, 1996. [Buckles 1250-1800](#) Chelmsford: Greenlight Publishing, p.23, no.100.

TAFAC (Tayside and Fife Archaeological Committee) is pleased to announce the long awaited publication of the Perth High Street excavations in a series of four fascicules.

Publication timetable:

Fascicule 1 Excavation, history and excavated buildings (September 2011)

Fascicule 2 Ceramics, metalwork religious and wooden objects (late 2011)

Fascicule 3 Leather and textiles (mid 2012)

Fascicule 4 Environmental remains and miscellaneous finds (September 2011)

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