

Royal Archaeological Institute Newsletter

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IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial

1

A Farewell

Address

2

Grants and

Awards

3

Research Grant

Reports

4

Dates for your

Diary

9

RAI Annual

Conference

2012

9

Online Access

to Journals

10

Miscellany

10

EDITORIAL • Katherine Barclay

This is a rather short edition. At the time of writing, news was thin, events had been cancelled, research reports were late, and expected items did not materialise. One of the more onerous tasks for the editor is to commission pieces from members, which almost always feels like pressing. I would be pleased to hear from members who would *like* to provide a short contribution about their favourite building, or who have suggestions for other subjects relevant to the Institute's business. On pages 10–12, with the usual information about subscriptions and addresses, there are new notices including additional quests for volunteers, as well as a request for members to provide an e-mail address if they would be willing to receive mailings digitally.

One of the Royal Mail postage stamps in the 'Britons of Distinction' series released in February commemorates the 100th anniversary of the birth of Alan Turing (for details of related events see <http://www.mathcomp.leeds.ac.uk/turing2012>). Perhaps best known as the Enigma code-breaker, he has also been called the Father of computer science. In 1936 he presented his idea of 'a single machine that can be used to compute any computable sequence' in a paper given to the London Mathematical Society. Although what was arguably the first programmable computer, Von Neumann's IAS, was not running until 1952, developments since have been what we might colloquially term exponential. In 1982 an early 'clamshell' laptop with a hinged screen cost more than \$8,000. In 2012, on February 29, Cambridge University computer scientists at the Raspberry Pi Foundation launched a powerful, credit-card sized computer, that sells for £22 and which is regarded as essentially disposable!

On page 11 there is a notice of a survey of IT use in archaeology that you might care to complete. It is being

conducted for the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The guidance notes include the following:

[this] ‘... assesses the visibility of different technologies over time. Some are very new and have little visibility (Technology Trigger). Some are highly visible though not in routine use (Peak of Inflated Expectation). Some prove disappointing, fall into a trough and vanish (Trough of Dissolutionment [sic]), others gain acceptance (Slope of Enlightenment) and reach the Plateau of Productivity where their use is mainstream’, with a sixth stage, ‘... the Slope into obsolescence, to cover technology you think has been productive but is falling out of use’.

Some of you may have noticed the recurrent concern for the future of our Institute and its

link to our adoption of up-to-date technology. Though there is no doubt that the trend is towards digitisation, and some believe that in five years’ time the printed journal will be obsolete, another view is that until there is a solution to the production of on-line illustrations (figures and plates) adequate for research purposes, especially large site plans and architectural drawings, hard-copy journals like ours which publish high-quality illustrations will retain their niche in the market.

Turing, A., 1937, ‘On computable numbers, with an application to the *Entscheidungsproblem*’, *Proc. London Math. Soc.* **s2-42 (1)**: 230–265. doi: 10.1112/plms/s2-42.1.230.

A FAREWELL ADDRESS • David J. Breeze

Three years have flashed by. One minute I am about to become President of the Royal Archaeological Institute, the next I am writing my valedictory address. What has impressed me in these three years? Primarily, the dedication and commitment of the team which effectively runs the RAI. The programme is composed by the Secretary, Gill Hey. She would soon know if she had not produced a successful programme for numbers attending lectures would fall. Yet, tonight, as I write this returning from Tim Tatton-Brown’s lecture, I can record an audience of 100! Gill’s work here, let me emphasise, is in addition to a) overseeing the running of the Institute and b) doing her full-time day job.

I write this address at the behest of Katherine Barclay. Twice a year, year in and year out, we receive an informative Newsletter prefaced by an equally informative editorial (with photographs provided in the main by Michael O’Brien): this is what Baden Powell

called ‘stickability’ and we are grateful that Katherine possesses that admirable quality.

Last year saw the creation of a new web-site, a task managed by Susan Greaney, who has also moved the Institute forward in pursuit of digital excellence: we are all in her debt. We are also greatly in debt to Andrew Williams, who has taken over as Treasurer. While in his last year before retirement as a GP, Andrew attended Council and other meetings in order to learn his new job, and hit the ground running when he formally took over.

The RAI is well-known for its tours, organised by Hedley Swain and Caroline Raison. These are informative and educational, introducing participants to unusual sites (and sights) and casting new light on old friends, as well as being immensely enjoyable social occasions. Long may this pair continue to direct our activities!

Each year for the last 167 years, the Institute has published a journal and for the last five years this most important activity has been in the safe hands of Patrick Ottaway. We thank him for maintaining the high standards of the journal, and indeed moving us forward, not least into more colour, and for the joy of bringing so much splendid work to our attention in both the Journal and the Report of the Summer Meeting. Last year, we welcomed Howard Williams to the post of assistant editor and we wish him well when he steps up to be editor later this year.

Working with all these colleagues, and the many more who serve on Council and committees, who act as judges for our prize essays (no small task) and undertake the wide range of actions which keep the RAI moving forward has been a great pleasure. Their knowledge, experience and wisdom are freely placed at the disposal of the Institute to its great benefit and I thank them on your behalf.

Lastly, I should like to thank Sharon Gerber-Parfitt. Sharon came into the post of administrator rather precipitately and at a difficult time when lots of changes were underway. She rose – and continues to rise – to the challenge.

And there are indeed challenges ahead. Our investments have lost some of their value,

but we can do little about that. We have, however, lost many members (and for a variety of reasons). This is not a new trend. There is a real challenge ahead for us to determine the role of a general society in the days of specialisation. The Institute has established a group to review the options and offer suggestions for the way forward. This discussion runs parallel to discussions with other National Societies, many of whom are in a similar situation.

I confess that when I demit office I will miss the comradeship and friendships formed over the last three years. Members attending the monthly meetings and excursions will readily appreciate the friendly atmosphere and that is also apparent at committee meetings. I shall also miss the events which the society is preparing to mark a truly remarkable occasion, the Diamond Jubilee of our Royal Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. Preparations are in hand for a special lecture programme, a new addition to our web-site, and historical activities with royal connections. Watch this space! In the meantime, I offer my sincere thanks to all the officers for their work on behalf of the Institute and to all the members for their continuing support for the RAI.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AWARDS

The Institute is represented on the Advisory Panel of the British Archaeological Awards by Dr John Schofield. The 2012 British Archaeological Awards will be presented on 9 July at the British Museum, and will again form the opening event of the CBA's

Festival of British Archaeology, a huge UK-wide celebration of archaeology with more than 650 events attended by more than 250,000 people, which gains huge national TV, radio, newspaper and magazine coverage each year. Full details on the criteria for each award, and how to attend the ceremony, can be found on the Awards website at www.britarch.ac.uk/awards.

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

Please download an application form at <http://www.royalarchinst.org/grants>
or write to the Administrator.

Closing date for applications: 4 January 2013. Awards announced in April 2013.

RAI CHENEY BURSARIES

In 2011, the Institute was again pleased to support a student with the award of a bursary from the bequest of the late Frank S. Cheney, established to enable students to participate in RAI events or other conferences or meetings. This assisted the student to attend 'Britain at 3000 BC', the Neolithic Studies Group Autumn meeting at the British Museum.

An allocation is available annually from which individuals can apply for a maximum sum of £200. Please check with the Administrator, admin@royalarchinst.org.uk that money remains in the yearly fund before applying. Full terms can be seen at www.royalarchinst.org/grants.

RAI MASTER'S DISSERTATION PRIZE

This is a biennial prize of for the best dissertation by a graduate student at a British university on a subject concerned with the archaeology or architectural history of Britain, Ireland and adjacent areas of Europe. The winner for 2010–2011 was Matilda Duncker of UCL Institute of Archaeology, for her dissertation *Egyptianizing Funerary Architecture in Victorian London: The*

Consumption of Bereavement. Ms Duncker was presented with the award at the meeting of our Institute held on 14 March 2012.

RAI RESEARCH GRANTS, 2012

Research grants for 2012 have been awarded to the following projects:

Eleanor Blakelock: Sedgeford iron project (Tony Clark Fund)

Nick Card: Excavation at Ness of Brodgar, Orkney

Vicki Cummings: Building the great dolmens

Murray Cook and Fraser Hunter: Strathdon material culture review

Brian Davison: Sulgrave Castle (Corinne Bennett legacy)

Rachel Pope: Kidlandlee Dean landscape project

RAI RESEARCH GRANT REPORTS

NESS OF BRODGAR • *Nick Card*

In 2011 excavation continued to clarify many aspects of this multi phase deeply stratified Neolithic complex.



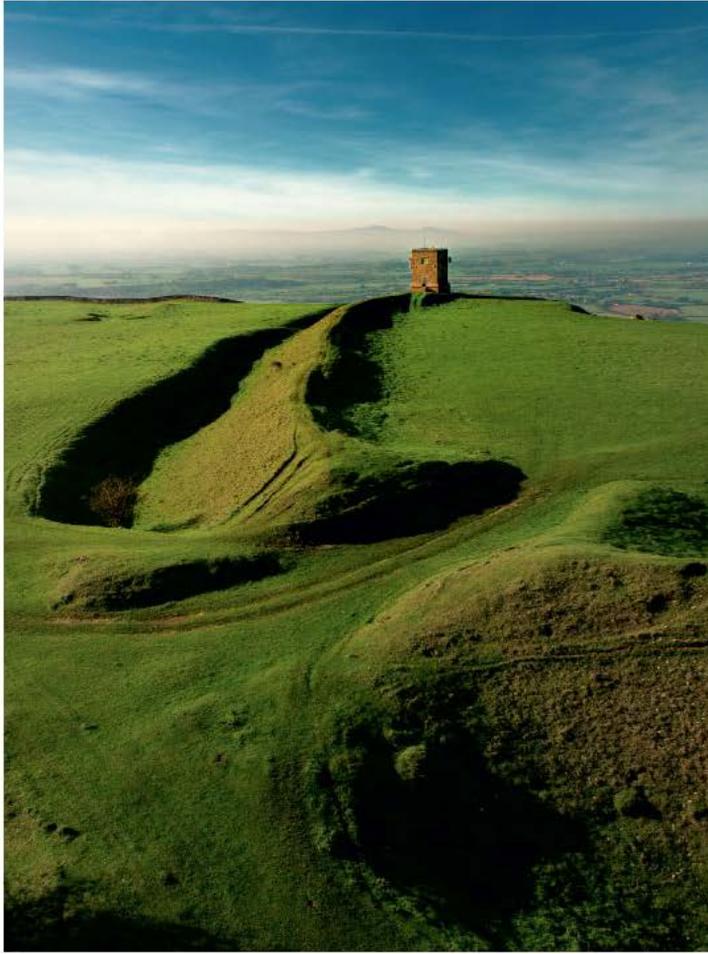
Central chamber of Structure 10 (H A Whymark)

Work within Structure 10, the monumental building (c. 25 × 20 m), concentrated on its interior. This revealed that this structure had a much more complex history than previously envisaged. Although exhibiting a cruciform plan in its later life, its original plan was a square with rounded corners, much like the later houses at Skara Brae and Structure 8 at the Barnhouse settlement. However, the stonework within this early phase is quite possibly some of the finest Neolithic construction in north-west Europe, with extensive use of pick dressing. Although one stone ‘dresser’ had previously been recognised opposite the entrance passage it would now seem likely that Structure 10 potentially had four dressers, one on each wall. This may support the idea that dressers had a more esoteric religious function, as reflected in Structure 10 itself. In its later phase of use, one corner of Structure 10 revealed evidence for a production area for pigments that had previously been

discovered on the walls of some of the other structures on the Ness. Outwith Structure 10 the massive bone deposit that represents a final decommissioning of the building was further studied as part of a British Academy project, ‘Smart Fauna’, by Dr Ingrid Mainland. This confirmed that it consists of mainly cattle tibia from perhaps hundreds of individuals.

Relating to an earlier phase of the site, another large structure (14) was revealed to accompany Structures 1, 8, and 12. This building was also divided internally by a series of opposed stone piers along its internal wall faces.

Refinement of the geophysics confirmed that the monumental wall around the complex did fully enclose it, and also indicated another large structure, c. 30 × 25 m, within the walled enclosure and potentially with opposed entrances.



Main entrance to Kemerton Camp (A Stanford, Aerial-Cam)

NEW LIGHT ON KEMERTON CAMP • *Derek Hurst and Gaynor Western*

Kemerton Camp, on Bredon Hill in south Worcestershire, was originally excavated in 1935–7 by Thalassa Hencken. It was especially notable for the discovery of a large number of human remains associated with weapons, on the ground surface in the main entrance way to the hillfort. This was termed the ‘massacre’ deposit, and, clearly marking the dramatic end to the hillfort occupation, it was dated by Hencken to the first half of the first century AD. The current research is re-examining the site archive, following its recent assessment (available at

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5284/1000167>), and scientific dating has been applied to this site for the first time.

Based on the new osteological analysis which discovered examples of weapon-related trauma consistent with violent death, three separate individuals were selected for dating, incorporating at least one example with peri-mortem trauma, and with all originating from Site ‘E’, the location of the ‘massacre’ layer, and from different parts of this deposit. The resultant radiocarbon dates are consistent with the three individuals dying at the same time, so confirming the theory that the bone deposit was the product of a single



Garn Turne: the capstone has fallen (to the right) pulling over the uprights (A Stanford, Aerial-Cam)

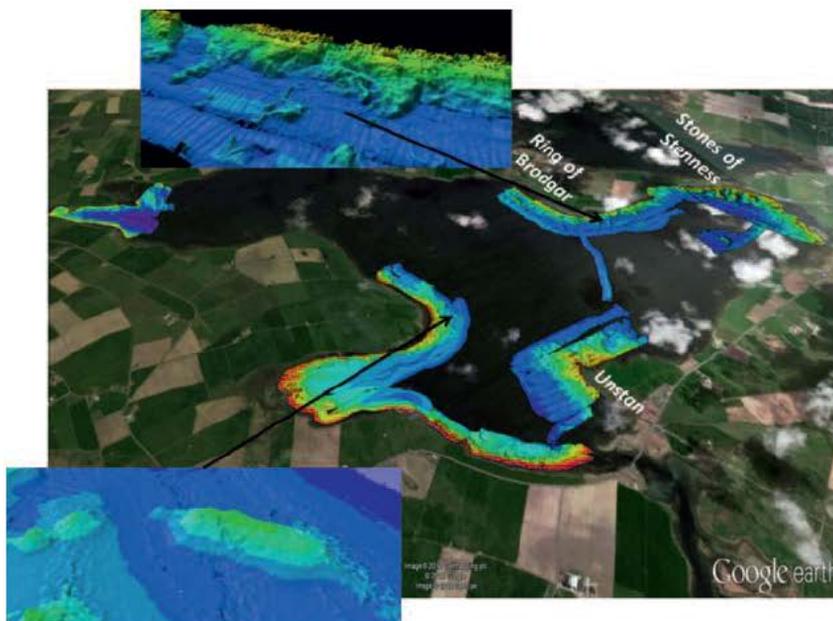
event, and the dates have calibrated to the period of *c.* 170–50 cal BC (95% probability). This date span is also now potentially much more compatible with a modern view of the dating of the pottery (as noted during the recent archive assessment). As a result the new scientific dating has potentially made an extremely significant contribution towards providing a more precise chronological framework for this major site, highlighting the importance of obtaining independent dating for similar assemblages. We hope to continue with research on the remainder of the finds, and then compare these data with evidence from analogous sites across the country.

**BUILDING THE GREAT DOLMENS:
EXCAVATIONS AT GARN TURNE,
PEMBROKESHIRE • Vicki Cummings and
Colin Richards**

Dolmens are one of the most iconic monument types from the Neolithic of Britain and Ireland and yet they are the least

understood. These sites have seen virtually no modern excavation, and at those sites that have been excavated, the focus has been on the chamber, which informs us how these monuments were used but not how or when they were built. This is extraordinary, as dolmens employ some of the largest stones ever quarried, hauled and lifted by people in prehistory. Indeed, the largest dolmen has a capstone that is over 150 tonnes. The ‘Building the Great Dolmens’ project has been set up in order to investigate the construction processes at these monuments.

In summer 2011, we opened a trench at the site of Garn Turne in Pembrokeshire. Garn Turne is a dolmen which appears to have collapsed during construction: it was therefore an ideal site for our specific research aims. Here, the 80-tonne capstone has fallen backwards, pulling over its supporting uprights. Our excavations revealed an enormous pit in front of the now-collapsed dolmen, which is from the



*The areas of survey in the Loch of Stenness, Orkney: detail of potential features
(R B, © 2012 Google, © 2012 Getmapping plc, © 2012 GeoEye)*

quarrying of the capstone. This pit had been backfilled with the debitage produced from shaping the capstone and the uprights, the first evidence for this from any dolmen. There are also numerous examples of hammerstones which would have been used to dress the capstone. Layers of charcoal have also been uncovered which will enable us to date the construction process. So much archaeology was uncovered at the site that we will be returning in 2012 in order to complete our excavations here.

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF THE LOCH OF STENNESS, ORKNEY • *Richard Bates, Martin Bates, Sue Dawson and Caroline Wickham-Jones*

The Loch of Stenness, Orkney, is located to the west of the World Heritage sites of the Ring of Brodgar and Stones of Stenness. The loch was targeted for investigation as a potential drowned palaeo-landscape based on preliminary results from a series of sediment cores acquired in 2008. These showed inundation by the sea to have occurred

between 2000 and 1500 BC thus indicating the possibility of an archaeological footprint relating to sites and monuments on the present seafloor. In addition, photographic evidence suggested that certain loch-shore earthwork sites might continue into the water.

The archaeological survey first reviewed aerial photographic records, satellite images, historic maps and local knowledge, followed by a visual inspection of the shoreline to design a detailed land and marine geophysical archaeological survey. The land geophysical survey was targeted on the Peninsula of Unstan where an incomplete ring or circular feature was identified extending into the loch. Electromagnetic and electrical imaging geophysics were used to map the feature and to determine its depth extent. The imaging showed a ground disturbance associated with the feature; however this did not appear to be deeply founded, with its base above the bedrock

outcrop on the west side of the peninsula. No evidence was found offshore.

A multibeam sonar survey was conducted in September 2011 and February 2012. Both surveys were compromised by poor weather conditions (summer work is impractical due to nesting birds); however a number of useful results were acquired. The area immediately to the west of the Ring of Brodgar showed a large (100m diameter)

circular structure. To the north of the loch at Voy, small diameter (<30m) submerged mounds were mapped at 50–60m from the present shoreline. To the west side of the loch a long (50 × 20m), smooth sided, 2.5m high mound occurs in 4m water depth approximately 200m from the shore. Future work will include diving and further survey to help interpret these features.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2012

SPRING MEETING 11–13 May at Deal, Walmer, Sandwich and Richborough, based in Deal, led by Jonathan Coad (details with this mailing)

SUMMER MEETING 7–14 July at Liverpool and environs, led by Hedley Swain (details with this mailing)

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

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

CONFERENCE 28 September–1 October, at Newcastle upon Tyne: Legacies of Northumbria (see below)

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

LEGACIES OF NORTHUMBRIA: RECENT THINKING ON THE FIFTH TO FOURTEENTH CENTURIES IN NORTHERN BRITAIN

This non-residential conference, sponsored by the RAI and the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, will be held at Newcastle upon Tyne, from 28 September–1 October at Neville Hall, the Mining Institute, NE1 1SE. There will be an optional coach trip at extra charge on Monday 1 October to the early medieval sites of North Northumberland. Bringing together academic, commercial and local archaeologists, lectures will showcase new research and explore a number of themes including: the legacy of Rome and

the prehistoric north during the formation of fifth- and sixth- century chiefdoms, the Golden Age of Northumbria, Northumbria in the Viking Age, and the role of Northumbrian culture in the high medieval period. The keynote lecture on Friday, by Professor Rosemary Cramp, will be followed by a reception.

The conference fee is £80 to include abstracts, tea or coffee and on Saturday 29, lunch. A full speaker listing can be viewed at www.royalarchinst.org. Please contact admin@royalarchinst.org or christopher.ferguson@arch.ox.ac.uk for bookings and further information.

ONLINE ACCESS TO JOURNALS

We are pleased to announce that volumes **161** to **167**, for the most recent years of the *Archaeological Journal*, are now available online for ordinary members to download through our website. Each article is available as a PDF, as well as shorter contributions and reviews. If you would like to access the journals, please contact the administrator with your e-mail address. You will be sent a username and password, which you can use to log-in to the 'members only' area of our website using the boxes at the top of the page. Once logged in, you will be able to change your password to something more memorable, and to access the journals.

For non-members and associate members, these same seven volumes will shortly be available on a pay-per-view basis through the CBA's ArchLib website (<http://archlib.britarch.net/>).

Later this year, volumes **1** to **120** (for 1844–1964) of the *Archaeological Journal* will be made freely available to all through the Archaeological Data Service. This will be an invaluable resource of 120 years of research – look out for further news in the next newsletter or on our website.

MISCELLANY

Members' e-mail addresses. The price of first and second class postage is due to rise shortly by at least eleven per cent. The costs of printing and distribution account for a large part of our expenditure for the printed matter that ordinary members receive.

Council is considering making more information digitally available, either by e-mail or by members logging on to the secure area of the Institute's website. If you would be willing to receive information digitally, please send your e-mail address to admin@royalarchinst.org

Sponsored student/young person's membership. The RAI Master's Dissertation and Tony Baggs Undergraduate Dissertation winners receive membership of the RAI as part of their prize. In addition, we now have seven student members who have been sponsored. Second- or third-year degree students, nominated by their archaeology department, are being offered membership of the Institute for two years,

sponsored by existing members. If you can help us to expand the scheme, please contact the Administrator at the address above.

New Books. John Schofield (formerly of the Museum of London) has recently published two books about the archaeology of London. *St Paul's Cathedral before Wren* (English Heritage, 2011) is an archaeology and history of the cathedral and its churchyard from Roman times until the building of the Wren cathedral from 1675. This is the first time such a report has ever been compiled; the archaeological discoveries go back to the time of Wren. The second book, *London 1100–1600: the archaeology of a capital city* (Equinox, 2011), is a survey of the achievements of archaeologists in London and its environs working on the five centuries after 1100, and over the last 40 years. It draws on the considerable number of monographs which have now been produced by the Museum of London and other archaeologists. Until the

end of June the publisher is offering a 25% discount on both hardback and paperback editions (so £45 hardback and £18.75 paperback). Order online at www.equinoxpub.com and enter the code LONDON (be sure to use capitals) when prompted.

‘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.

Survey of IT usage in the heritage sector. The Information Management Special Interest Group (IMSIG) of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) is carrying out a survey, twenty-five years on from the publication of IfA’s previous survey on ‘Computing in British Archaeology’. Unlike the earlier one, which targeted organisations, this survey is looking for individual responses from those using IT in the heritage sector and those in the IT sector who have been involved in heritage projects. Results of the survey will be presented and discussed at the IMSIG’s session at the IfA conference on 18 April in Oxford (for details, see IfA’s website, <http://www.archaeologists.net>). The survey which is at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/IMSIG2012> should take 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

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. Members’ standing orders to the Coutts account should be cancelled since it was closed in January 2010. Payment for subscriptions may now be made by direct debit or cheque only. For a membership form or direct debit instructions, please see <http://www.royalarchinst.org/membership> or contact the Administrator

Gift Aid. Members who pay the standard rate of tax and have filled in the gift aid form have gained for the Institute a substantial sum. Despite previous notices of encouragement, it is still the case that less than a third of members have yet arranged for the Institute to receive gift aid. 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.

Conference. The Council for British Archaeology South Midlands Spring Conference entitled ‘Community Archaeology’ will be held on Saturday 21 April 2012 from 10.30 till 4 pm at St Edburg’s Church Hall, Old Place Yard, Bicester, OX26 6AU. Tickets are £8 for members of CBA South Midlands, £12 for non-members, and are available from David Ingham, 1a Stamford Lane, Warmington, Peterborough, PE8 6TW

The RAI office

The RAI no longer has an office in London, but the Administrator will usually be at the Society of Antiquaries on the second Wednesday of each month from October to May, between 11 am and 3 pm. The telephone number for the Administrator is [REDACTED], the email is admin@royalarchaeolinst.org and the postal address is RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE.

National Planning Framework. The revised report should have been published by the end of March, but too late for further discussion in this edition, with the Lords Introduction possibly in May.

Humour and Archaeology. Following the session on archaeology and humour held at the Theoretical Archaeology Group's 2011 conference, a workshop on 'Humour and the Individual in Site and Museum Archives' is being planned. This will further explore themes from TAG, including the presence of humour and anecdote in site archives, especially historically, the increasing absence of personal anecdote from archives during their formalisation for digital format, the place for informal records such as diaries, audio and visual recordings, site songs and

communal memories, and the role of humour in interpreting and communicating archaeology to different audiences.

The workshop will consider such 'marginal expressions of individuality . . . not only because they tell us something about the way projects developed but also because they remind us of what fuels archaeology – togetherness, thirst, lust and dreams' (Duncan Brown, TAG 2011). Papers presented at the workshop will explore the subtleties of humour and how to preserve and continue such memories to avoid an homogenised view of archaeological practice. To attend this free event, which will take place on 26 May 2012 at the UCL Institute of Archaeology, London, register at <http://humourinarchaeology.eventbrite.co.uk/>

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED – PLEASE WILL YOU HELP?

Publicity. The RAI would like to set up a network of volunteer members, who would on an occasional basis put up posters and distribute membership leaflets in their place of work, department, staff common room or other suitable location. Posters and leaflets would be sent by the Administrator in a maximum of two packs per year (e.g. a general member's benefit poster with a set of membership leaflets; a conference poster). If

you would like to help, please contact the Administrator stating the organisation you would be able to cover, and your postal address.

Tea before lectures. We would also like to start a rota of volunteers to serve teas before RAI lectures. Please contact the Administrator if you would be willing to help.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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NEXT ISSUE Copy for the next issue must reach the editor by 15 June 2012 for publication in August 2012.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.royalarchinst.org