

# STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## LECTURES for SEASON 2016-2017

23rd September 2016

**Andy Boucher**

### **Recent Excavations and Investigations at Hereford Cathedral and the Cathedral Close**

Andy Boucher is Director at Headland Archaeology and is based in Hereford. Archaeology for Andy has been wide ranging with myriad projects. He has an extensive knowledge of scientific techniques used on site and is also a recognised expert on geophysical surveys. The subject for the talk this evening covers the recent works carried out at Hereford Cathedral and in the Close where nearly 3000 medieval burials were discovered.

7th October 2016

**Professor Gary Sheffield**

### **The Morale of the British Army in the First World War?**

Gary Sheffield is Professor of War Studies at Wolverhampton University previously at Birmingham University and his talk this evening is a different take on World War 1 in that it is looking at the evidence relating to the morale in the British Army and the 'Lions led by Donkeys' line that has been used a few times over the years.

21st October 2016

**Dr Simon J Harris**

### **Agincourt**

The talk this evening is about Agincourt. Simon has previously presented the talk at the Staffordshire History Day but we will be privileged to hear about new research and material since then. Simon is currently an honorary research fellow at Keele University, and freelance researcher working on various projects. He has worked on several important national research projects at the universities of Durham, York, Liverpool, Bordeaux and Keele. Current interests are on patterns of military service in the first half of the fourteenth century and on the editing on medieval records. Simon is also chairman of the Ranulf Higden Society, and a trustee of the Chetham Society.

4th November 2016

**Dr John Hunt**

### **Faith and Society in medieval France:**

### **Looking at churches in the High Saintonge**

The Saintonge in south-western France, most readily defined by the medieval diocese of Saintes, is a region renowned for the survival of hundreds of Romanesque churches, many richly decorated with sculpture. With particular reference to the *Haute-Saintonge*, we will consider the character of these buildings and what they convey about the life, culture and mentalité of local society, especially in the eleventh and twelfth century.

**18th November 2016**

**Dr John Wilcock**

**Staffordshire Salt Industry**

John Wilcock is Emeritus Honorary Fellow at Staffordshire University, previously Reader in Computing. During the 1960's and 1970's he was an early pioneer in applying computers to Archaeology. John has a very wide range of interests and the talk this evening will cover the British Salt Industry with the emphasis on Staffordshire.

**2nd December 2016**

**The Annual General Meeting followed by**

**Kevin S Colls**

**New Place Stratford Upon Avon**

Kevin is a professional archaeologist working for the Centre of Archaeology at Staffordshire University as the lead Archaeological Project Manager. He has directed and published archaeological projects throughout the United Kingdom and Europe and hold over 15 years' experience in professional development-led archaeology. Specialist subjects include field archaeological field techniques, urban archaeology and forensic archaeology, with a project portfolio that includes major archaeological excavations in many of the UK's urban centres including London, Birmingham, Manchester and Bristol, archaeological survey and remote sensing on Scottish Islands, and rural archaeological surveys in central Greece.

The talk this evening will cover the high profile excavation work at New Place Stratford Upon Avon, this being the final residence of William Shakespeare. Also being covered is the work undertaken with Shakespeare's grave at Holy Trinity Stratford.

**17th February 2017**

**Dr Caroline Sturdy Colls**

**Forensic archaeological approaches to the German Occupation of Alderney of the British Channel Islands.**

Very few people are aware that the Holocaust occurred on British soil. This is because the history of the Occupation of Alderney, an island located in Channel Islands 60 miles south of the English coast and 8 miles from France, is not widely known. In June 1940, the British government decided that Alderney was too difficult and expensive to defend. This led to the evacuation of

the island's 1500 inhabitants and paved the way for a period of occupation by the Germans that would last until the 16th May 1945. During this period, thousands of workers were sent to Alderney from across Europe. Individuals from 27 different nations – including Jews and political prisoners - were forcibly interred in within a network of labour camps and the SS camp, Lager Sylt. The purpose of their transportation to the island was to facilitate the construction of heavy coastal and anti-aircraft batteries, tunnels, bunkers and earthworks along the Atlantic Wall. This talk will discuss a programme of historical and forensic archaeological work that has sought to re-examine Occupation of Alderney in order to re-evaluate the crimes perpetrated there. It will outline how the remains of the camps and mass graves have been located and recorded, and how the history of the Holocaust on British soil is being rewritten as a result.

Dr Caroline Sturdy Colls is an associate professor of Forensic Archaeology and Genocide Investigation at Staffordshire University. Her research focuses on the investigation of Holocaust and contemporary conflict sites. Dr Sturdy Colls is also the Research Lead and co-founder of the Centre of Archaeology at the same institution. Her most recent monograph, *Holocaust Archaeologies: Approaches and Future Directions* was published by Springer in March 2015.

**24th February 2017**

**Dr Roger White**

**A Clash of Arms: The Romans in the West Midlands**

Roger White has visited us on previous occasion the most recent was a talk about Wroxeter Roman City.

This evening's talk is centered on the West Midlands and the Roman occupation thereof.

**17th March 2017**

**Sarah Arrowsmith**

**Mappa Mundi: Hereford's Curious Map**

Sarah Arrowsmith is the Education Officer at Hereford Cathedral and is responsible for communicating the history and archaeology of the Cathedral and its environs to the visitors and schools in particular. She has also become an author having written a volume about Mappa Mundi, once seen as an example of cartographic naivety, in fact provides an extraordinary insight into the Medieval world view and is the subject of the talk this evening.

**31st March 2017**

**Beryl Holt**

## **Brocton German Prisoner of War Camp**

Beryl's talk "Broctonlager" tells the story of Brocton German Prisoner of War Camp on Cannock Chase from April 1917 until it closed towards the end of 1919. Using original documents from the Imperial War Museum, the National Records of Scotland and Staffordshire Record Office together with many letters, newspaper reports and the unpublished diary of the Camp Commandant, she has compiled an account of the daily lives of the prisoners, of the Commandant and his family.

Beryl came to Staffordshire from South Yorkshire with her husband 50 years ago and immediately wanted to know more about the area. She joined Berkswich History Society when it was formed in 1992 and has been Chairman of the Society for 8 years. The research has always been based on the Parish of Berkswich, which includes Brocton, hence the desire to discover what she could about the PoW Camp.

**21st April 2017**

**Deidre O'Sullivan**

### **The Christian Monastery on Lindisfarne**

Deirdre O'Sullivan is Lecturer in Medieval Archaeology at Leicester University and her research work has been extensive and includes Christian Archaeology of Cumbria (MPhil), the Dissolution and Friaries. Fieldwork projects include St Bees (last season talk), Lindisfarne and Post Medieval pottery manufactory at Ticknall Derbyshire.

The subject of the talk this evening is the Christian Monastery on Lindisfarne (Holy Island) and will include the earlier work with the emphasis being on the current further work and research being undertaken.

**5th May 2017**

**Jon Goodwin**

### **Excavations at Three Hanley (Stoke on Trent) Pottery Factories**

Jonathan Goodwin is Senior Planning Officer (Archaeology/HER) at City of Stoke on Trent. The recently published volume XLVIII of the Society Transactions included the report of the extensive investigation and is the background for the talk this evening.