

Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society, Lecture Season 2015-2016

25th September 2015

Not confirmed as yet. To be announced

Please check with the Website for up-to-date information on the Topic and Speaker.

9th October 2015

Dr. Paul Garwood/Dr. Henry Chapman

Trent Valley Causewayed Enclosures Project:

Paul Garwood is Senior Lecturer in Prehistory at Birmingham University and Henry Chapman is Senior Lecturer in Archaeology and Visualisation again at Birmingham University. Both have appeared in television programmes Henry probably more so and he has been to the Society previously in 2008.

The talk Paul and Henry will present this evening follows the programme of investigative works at the Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure at Mavesyn Ridware as part of the Trent Valley Project: Rethinking the Early Neolithic in Central England.

23rd October 2015

Professor Colin Hazelgrove

Iron Age Stanwick North Yorkshire

Colin Hazelgrove studied Biochemistry at Sussex and Archaeology at Cambridge. He joined the School of Archaeology & Ancient History at the University of Leicester in 2005, having previously taught at Durham University, where he was a lecturer from 1977 and Professor from 1995. Colin's research focuses on the British and European Iron Age; on early coinage and currencies; and on the Iron Age to Roman transition in north-west Europe. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and was Head of the School of Archaeology & Ancient History at Leicester from 2006 to 2012.

Colin's talk this evening follows the recent further investigation carried out at Stanwick North Yorkshire and revisits the Iron Age site originally investigated in the 1950s by Sir Mortimer Wheeler updating that evidence and putting the site into the wider Iron Age context.

6th November 2015

Dr. Tom Brindle

The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain

Tom Brindle is Research Fellow on a Leverhulme Trust funded project investigating rural settlement in Roman Britain, led by Prof Mike Fulford (University of Reading) and Neil Holbrook (Cotswold Archaeology). The overall aim of this project is to use published and unpublished 'grey literature' reports to examine the intricacies of regional and chronological variation and distinctiveness within Roman rural settlement in Britain, south of Hadrian's Wall. This topic is the basis of the talk this evening and follows the request for permission from the project to use related data from The Society Transactions volumes.

Tom is a specialist in archaeological 'small finds' and coinage and before coming to Reading worked as Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, first in Northamptonshire and then in Staffordshire and the West Midlands. Aside from artefacts and coinage, Tom's research

interests also include the study of Roman rural settlement in Britain, landscape archaeology, and methodological approaches to the study of amateur metal detector finds. Completed in 2011, Tom's doctoral research utilised Portable Antiquities Scheme data as a landscape resource for the study of rural settlement in Roman Britain.

20th November 2015

Jonathan Goodwin

Tipping Street Stafford Investigation

Jonathan Goodwin is Senior Planning Officer (Archaeology/HER) at City of Stoke on Trent. The recently published volume XLVII of the Society Transactions was the monograph of Tipping Street Investigation and is the background for the talk this evening.

4th December 2015

The Annual General Meeting followed by

Michael Bellamy

The Listing of Buildings

Always unnaturally keen on architecture, he worked at the RIBA Drawings Collection, between school and university. After a degree at the Courtauld Institute and a spell in publishing, he joined the Department of the Environment and was involved in the national survey of listed buildings, firstly in Cheshire, and then in Suffolk in the 1980s. More recently 'his patch' has covered the northern Home Counties and the West Midlands. In addition to working for English Heritage and the new Historic England, he spent several years in the commercial art world and was a senior specialist in the Old Master Paintings Department at Christie's.

What considerations does Historic England take into account when recommending if a building should be listed? How do they assess if a structure passes the test of 'special interest', and does this vary with different periods, regions and types of buildings? Highlighting some recently listed building decisions, Michael Bellamy will give some insight into the factors which have shaped his advice and their outcomes.

19th February 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.

4th March 2016

Not confirmed as yet. To be announced

18th March 2016

Deirdre O'Sullivan

The Knight of St Bees

In 1981 an archaeological excavation at the priory revealed a vault with a lead coffin containing an astonishingly well preserved body - now known as the St Bees Man. He has been identified as Anthony de Lucy, a knight, who died in 1368 in the Teutonic Crusades in Lithuania. Although the body was over six hundred years old, his nails, skin and stomach contents were found to be in near-perfect condition. After his death the vault was enlarged to take the body of his sister, Maud de Lucy, who died in 1398. The effigies which are probably of both Maud and Anthony can be seen in the extensive history display which includes the shroud in which he was wrapped.

Although this is a fairly old excavation from 1981 it has been brought to light and aired again with the programme on Freeview TV's Yesterday Channel back in March and the talk will hopefully bring us up to date.

1st April 2016

Not confirmed as yet. To be announced

15th April 2016

Dr. George Nash

Walney Island Cumbria – A hidden Home Front

Dr George Nash is an Associate Professor at the Instituto Politécnico de Tomar (IPT) in Portugal and Visiting Fellow at the University of Bristol. In the Mação facility of IPT, George is responsible for teaching prehistory, material culture and theory, and supervises within the post-graduate school. George, who completed his doctoral thesis in Norway is also employed part-time for environmental consultants SLR and writes for television and radio, focusing on such diverse subjects as industrial and military archaeology, prehistoric mortuary practices, prehistoric and contemporary art.

During 2014 just off the coast of Cumbria on Walney Island, a system of World War 1 trenches were discovered and George's talk will bring the investigation of this well kept secret to life.

29th April 2016

Michael Guest

Vicars Choral of Lichfield Cathedral

Michael hails originally from Gloucestershire and studied medieval and modern history at The University of Manchester and Queens' College Cambridge. He subsequently pursued a career in secondary education teaching English and focusing on the pastoral curriculum within which he held senior posts in Staffordshire High schools. He developed an early enthusiasm for choral music and trained as a tenor through part time studies at the Royal Northern College of Music and the Birmingham Conservatoire. Since 1977 he has lived in or near Lichfield and is currently senior Vicar Choral at the cathedral. Since retirement from full time teaching he has returned to his academic roots and is due to complete postgraduate research at Keele University this autumn, offering a thesis on the history of the choral foundation of Lichfield Cathedral in the eighteenth century.

His talk will focus on the college and corporation of Vicars Choral as a study of eighteenth century musicians living and working within the Close and city during a colourful period in their long history.