

Registered Charity (207237)

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS JULY–DECEMBER 2021



Henry VIII
(pale green background)
(1491-1547)

LIST OF ORDINARY MEETINGS

07 OCTOBER

Recent fieldwork on hillforts and other earthworks in Wales
by Paul Belford FSA

14 OCTOBER

Revisiting the Origins of Prehistoric Malta: Temples, landscapes and change: the work of the ERC Fragsus Project 2013-18.
by Professor Caroline Malone FSA

21 OCTOBER

'I took a man over & began to dig': Catherine Downes' excavation of Roman Warminster, 1786
by Dr Madeleine Pelling

28 OCTOBER

English Landscapes and Identities
by Professor Chris Gosden FSA

04 NOVEMBER *Results of Postal and Electronic Ballot

Khotan: A neglected Silk Road kingdom
by Dr Susan Whitfield

11 NOVEMBER *Results of Postal and Electronic Ballot

Beyond the debiles: writing dis/ability stories from skeletons
by Stephanie Evelyn-Wright

18 NOVEMBER *Results of Postal and Electronic Ballot

The shell middens of the northern and western coasts of the Arabian Sea (Pakistan and Oman)
by Professor Paolo Biagi

OUT OF LONDON MEETING IN YORK

TBC

02 DECEMBER

The Archaeological Heritage of Slavery in the United States
by Professor Theresa Singleton

09 DECEMBER

Rapa Nui's (Easter Island) archaeology and heritage: changing narratives and current issues
by Professor Sue Hamilton FSA

16 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY & PARTY

COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

This programme may be subject to change depending on any new regulations made by the Government. All events are scheduled to take place via Zoom and if restrictions ease we may be able to have attendance at Burlington House from September. Some lectures are still TBC due to cancellations as a result of travel restrictions.

ATTENDANCE AT BURLINGTON HOUSE

If regulations allow we may be able to have in-person attendance at our lectures and events. This will be kept under review and will be subject to any restrictions imposed by Government in response to COVID-19.

If attendance at Burlington House is permitted numbers at our lectures will be limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Registration for these places will be through our website. However all lectures will be live streamed either via Zoom or directly to our YouTube channel. Both our public and Fellows' lectures will be streamed and are open to anyone to join us online, numbers are unlimited.

Those attending Burlington House will be subject to temperature checks if required by law before being admitted. Hand sanitiser stations will be available at the Society.

BALLOTING PROCEDURES

Balloting resumed in October 2020. This has been achieved via online voting through the website and postal votes. In-person balloting is temporarily suspended.

The results of the ballots will be read at the beginning of the specified meetings and published online.

Online ballots close at noon on the date of the scheduled ballot

SIGNING AND GUESTS

Fellows and guests will be signed into the Attendance Book by a member of staff. While restrictions remain in place Fellows cannot bring guests to Burlington House.

CATERING

Unfortunately, we are not able to provide any catering facilities during this period unless restrictions change.

LIBRARY

The Library is open but access is restricted. A reduced opening will continue while necessary and booking will still be mandatory. For more information please contact the Library team by email library@sal.org.uk

The Society is taking every precaution to ensure the health and wellbeing of all our staff, Fellows, and visitors to Burlington House.

PUBLIC LECTURE

20 JULY | 13:00–14:00

The Royal Chapel in the Sixteenth Century: buildings and fittings

by Professor Maurice Howard Hon VPSA

The building of chapels at the royal palaces follows the more general picture of royal palace building, namely that they were constructed during the latter years of Henry VII and during the reign of Henry VIII and remained largely unchanged physically until the early 17th century, but the ceremonies within, the liturgy that was followed were amended in the course of the century to reflect the Crown's changing attitude towards reform. This lecture will be concerned only with the structure, the carapace of the royal chapel but the talk will emphasise the recent attempts to bring surviving chapels back to life by carefully reconstructing the soundscape and rituals for performance. That soundscape is about music and also about the sermons that were given, both these aural experiences fulfilling and in many ways explaining how building and fittings made sense to the congregation.

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PUBLIC LECTURE

14 SEPTEMBER | 13:00–14:00

A Monstrous Regiment of Women: Queenship in Early Modern England?

by Professor Susan Doran

Henry VIII did all he could to sire a son and so prevent a woman succeeding to the throne of England, yet two queens regnant – Mary I and Elizabeth I - ruled England for fifty years from 1553 to 1603. This talk will first examine Tudor objections to female rule and explain how and why they were overcome. It will then discuss how changing gendered assumptions have affected the reputations of Elizabeth and Mary over time. Finally, it will consider the nature of queenship by looking closely at the two monarchs. Were they able to exercise the same prerogatives and powers as ruling kings? Could they fulfil their dynastic responsibilities without losing power to a husband? What kind of image could a queen project that combined power with femininity?

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PUBLIC LECTURE

05 OCTOBER | 13:00–14:00

Fighting Caesar: Britons in Gaul and Gauls in Britain in Caesar's Battle for Gaul

by Andrew Fitzpatrick FSA

Julius Caesar invaded Britain in 55 BC. One of the reasons that he gave for doing so was the aid that the Britons had given to the Gauls in almost every campaign during his long Battle for Gaul. This lecture will explore the nature of that assistance through the prism of a man whose grave was discovered at North Bersted, near Chichester. The mourners of this 30-45-year-old man laid him to rest with the honours of a warrior in one of the most well-furnished burials of this time found in Europe. But those honours were not of a British nobleman, but a Gaulish one. His body was covered by the carriage of a wheeled vehicle, not a chariot but a parade car, and a panoply of weapons was placed alongside him, including a striking, unique, helmet.

ORDINARY MEETING / EVENING LECTURE

07 OCTOBER | 17:00–18:00

Recent fieldwork on hillforts and other earthworks in Wales

by Paul Belford FSA

In the last few years the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) has undertaken a number of excavations on hillforts and linear earthworks in Wales. This work has been accompanied by a systematic programme of palaeoenvironmental analysis and scientific dating – including both radiocarbon dating and optically-stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating. As a result CPAT now has confirmed dates for the construction of Offa's Dyke and for the ramparts of Beacon Ring, a hillfort on the Long Mountain near the Welsh border. The results from Beacon Ring, which is part of a long-term programme of research and conservation partly funded by Cadw, represent the first OSL date for a hillfort rampart obtained anywhere in the UK. This lecture will consider the potential and limitations of scientific dating for earthworks in general, before discussing the case studies of Offa's Dyke and Beacon Ring in the broader context of linear earthwork studies and hillfort studies both in the UK and elsewhere.

HOW DO WE LEARN? A WORKSHOP ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK SYNTHESSES

08 OCTOBER

Jointly hosted by the Society of Antiquaries, Historic England and the British Academy, this day-workshop will review current development-generated fieldwork synthesis projects (e.g. New Visions of the Countryside of Roman Britain and English Landscapes and Identities). With the overall aim of further fostering such initiatives, as well as addressing the discipline's knowledge-production in a longer historiographical perspective, it will consider local, regional- and national-scale synthetic studies. Questions arising include whether archaeology is achieving what is now needed for research purposes and whether the mass of new information is changing the way we think about Britain's past. How essential is greater consistency in HER and specialist recording practices, the challenges posed by 'big-data' and, when we drill down in greater detail for regional/local studies, is current 'grey literature' adequate to the task?

CONFERENCE:

EXPERIENCING POLITICS AND POLITICAL CULTURE IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND, C. 1300-1815

09 OCTOBER | 9:00–18:00

Organised by Dr Laura Flannigan, Murray Tremellen and Jen Craddick

Popular imagination of late medieval and early modern Britain and Ireland has typically been dominated by famous monarchs, cunning ministers, and intrigue unfolding within the halls of power. Yet, as historians recognise, this period also saw the rise of political society, the 'public sphere', and more 'national' solidarities. What did this mean for the experience of politics across these isles? Experiencing Politics and Political Culture, a one-day conference to be held at Burlington House, London on 9th October 2021, aims to bring together scholars from all disciplines interested in understanding the ways in which politics and political culture were understood, interacted with, imposed, performed, dissented from and disrupted in Britain between the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries.

A full programme and booking is available on our website.

JOINT LECTURE WITH THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND

11 OCTOBER | 18:00–19:00

Searching for the ice age pioneers: Excavations at Rubha Port an t-Seilich, Isle of Islay, Scotland by Professor Steve Mithen FSA, FSAScot

We are delighted to be hosting the first of what we hope will be an annual lecture with The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Our thanks to Professor Mithen for accepting our invitation to speak. This lecture will be online only.

Located on a small terrace on the east coast of the Hebridean island of Islay, excavations at Rubha Port-ant-Seilich (RPAS) are providing new insights into the earliest stages of British prehistory. Excavations began after foraging pigs exposed flint artefacts and have now exposed one of the most favoured places utilised by Mesolithic foragers in Scotland. They repeatedly returned to make camp on the terrace between 9200 and 6000 years ago, the site providing a gateway to the Hebridean archipelago with its diverse range of hunting, gathering, and fishing opportunities. The Mesolithic foragers may, however, have been following in the footsteps of ice age pioneers. Amidst the Mesolithic stone artefacts is a tanged point diagnostic of the Ahrensburgian culture that dates to the end of the ice age, along with debris from a style of tool making quite different from that of the Mesolithic. These finds suggest an ice age Ahrensburgian campsite might remain in place below the Mesolithic deposits, which would be the first for Scotland. This lecture describes the discoveries and on-going excavations at RPAS, and considers their implications for the earliest prehistory of the far NW of Europe.

ORDINARY MEETING / EVENING LECTURE

14 OCTOBER | 17:00–18:00

Revisiting the Origins of Prehistoric Malta: Temples, landscapes and change: the work of the ERC Fragsus Project 2013-18.

by Professor Caroline Malone FSA

In 1966, the Society of Antiquaries published the monograph “Skorba” by David Trump FSA revealing new insight into the early occupation of the Maltese islands and the emergence of the astonishing Temple Culture. The radiocarbon dates opened the debate on megaliths, dating, placing the prevailing traditional views of Mycenae and Stonehenge firmly in context for the first time (Renfrew 1973). More than fifty years later, new work, examining the first human occupation of the archipelago and the impact people had on the fragile landscape of Malta, has been the focus of a major ERC funded project, FRAGSUS, that engaged a large interdisciplinary international team of scholars. This lecture will present the results of this research.

ORDINARY MEETING / EVENING LECTURE

21 OCTOBER | 17:00–18:00

‘I took a man over & began to dig’: Catherine Downes’ excavation of Roman Warminster, 1786

by Dr Madeleine Pelling

In 1786, Catherine Downes was travelling through Warminster when she heard about the discovery of an ornate Roman mosaic in a nearby field. Employing a local man, she set off to excavate it, later writing up her findings which, together with detailed sketches of the site, she afterwards sent to the Society of Antiquaries in London. This paper explores the opportunities open to women engaging in early archaeological practice and asks how we might recover their oft-invisible contributions to otherwise all-male institutions of knowledge. Her account of the Warminster excavation appeared first in the society’s journal, *Archaeologia*, before, along with the sketches mentioned by Warner and now lost from the historical record, forming the basis of Plate 43 and its accompanying commentary published in the Society’s multi-volume series *Vetusta Monumenta* in 1788.

ORDINARY MEETING / EVENING LECTURE

28 OCTOBER | 17:00–18:00

English Landscapes and Identities

by Professor Chris Gosden FSA

This lecture will present and discuss the results of a large project on the history of the English landscape from the setting up of field systems in the middle Bronze Age (c. 1500 BC) to Domesday Book (AD 1086). In order to look at issues of continuity and change, regional differences and identities a large digital database was amassed with close to 1 million entries drawn from the major digital records on English archaeology. As a Big Data project, part of aim was to amass and assess data across England and over 2500 years to see what sorts of new stories it was possible to tell about England’s past. We came up with the term ‘characterful data’ to describe archaeological information, as evidence takes on the character of all the processes of fieldwork, recording and curation. In addition to giving an overview of our approach and some of the results, this lecture will end with reflections on the possibilities of future work with data at this scale.

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PANEL SESSION: INTERTWINED HISTORIES

29 OCTOBER |

Organised by Danielle Wilson Higgins, Communications and Events Manager and Dr Linda Grant, Governance Officer

In 2020 we saw a shift in the way Society views and engages with contested heritage and histories and as a result of that we have been doing some internal reflection and work on addressing our own contested heritage as it relates to our Fellowship, collections and history. In June 2021 we held the first event in our Intertwined Histories series ***Intertwined Legacies The Legacies of Colonialism and Empire*** which was well attended and received.

This panel session will focus on UK histories and confirmed speakers include Dr Michael Taylor author, *The Interest: How the British Establishment Resisted the Abolition of Slavery*, Professor Miri Rubin on the contribution of Jewish communities in the medieval and/or early modern period. Dr Linda Monkton FSA, Historic England speaking about her work on inclusive heritage and Josephine Beaton taking a grassroots look at multicultural UK history in the classroom. Further speakers will be confirmed closer to the date. Each speaker will present a position point which will then be followed up by a Q&A. We hope this event will be engaging and informative and provide a platform for further discssion around contested heritage and intertwined legacies.

A follow up session in February 2022 will focus on an international perspective.

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PUBLIC LECTURE

02 NOVEMBER | 13:00–14:00

The First Pharaohs of Egypt

by Professor Aidan Dodson FSA

Egypt was unified around 3100 BC, and the following five centuries – the first three dynasties – saw the establishment of most of the key facets of the Egyptian state, which would endure for three millennia. This lecture gives an overview of not only what we know of the history and monuments of this formative era, but also the way in which succeeding Egyptian generations remembered their remote ancestors, and how the period was rediscovered by modern archaeology.

ORDINARY MEETING / EVENING LECTURE

04 NOVEMBER 17:00–18:00

Khotan: A neglected Silk Road kingdom by Dr Susan Whitfield

This lecture will consider Khotan's place in the history of the eastern Silk Road, in particular its role as a trading hub and a leader in new technologies (sericulture and paper-making). It will look at the history of the archaeology and discovery of sites in Khotan, using some examples to discuss further how little we understand about this oasis kingdom. This research was largely funded by a Leverhulme Emeritus Fellowship (August 2018-August 2020) and the British Academy Stein-Arnold Exploration Fund and will result in a book-length history of Khotan, in progress at the time of this lecture.

ORDINARY MEETING / EVENING LECTURE

11 NOVEMBER 17:00–18:00

Beyond the debiles: writing dis/ability stories from skeletons by Stephanie Evelyn-Wright

This talk describes a project that explores impairment and disability in Roman Britain through the study of human skeletal remains. The lecture showcases data obtained from the 3rd-4th century AD cemetery site of Alington Avenue, Dorset, UK. The project has multiple stages to the process, starting with identifying actual people with impairments through their skeletons, understanding these individuals' likely biomedical symptoms and differences, and then contextualizing these within a social and physical context. This process required the integration of disparate data sets including archaeological, ancient historical, osteoarchaeological and clinical. Initially, the fictive narrative writing style allowed the author to better combine the different data sets together. It was discovered, however, that this style of writing is especially helpful when exploring the experiential aspects of palaeopathology. The fictive narrative style also makes research more accessible to a wider audience, something that is particularly important in a study about disability, a discipline embroiled in a long fight for improved accessibility. The talk will conclude therefore, with a short reading of one fictive narrative from a series of three, presenting a fictive scene set at Alington Avenue.

ORDINARY MEETING / EVENING LECTURE

18 NOVEMBER 17:00–18:00

The shell middens of the northern and western coasts of the Arabian Sea (Pakistan and Oman) by Professor Paolo Biagi

The research carried out since the beginning of the 2000s in Sindh and Las Bela in Balochistan (Pakistan) have shown that shell middens do exist also along the northern coast of the Arabian Sea, a territory still nowadays very rich in fish resources. This talk summarizes the data at our disposal regarding the peopling of the two coasts of the Arabian Sea between the end of the 8th millennium BP and the Bronze Age, when a complex urban civilization made its appearance in the region. This overview discusses the problems regarding fishing during aceramic Neolithic and Bronze Age raised during almost fifty years of research, many of which are still partly unsolved. The project in Las Bela is still underway with the patronage and financial support of the Society of Antiquaries of London and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE, Rome). basis of Plate 43 and its accompanying commentary published in the Society's multi-volume series *Vetusta Monumenta* in 1788.

ORDINARY MEETING / EVENING LECTURE

25 NOVEMBER | 17:00–18:00

OUT OF LONDON MEETING IN YORK

We hope that we will be able to hold this lecture in York this year and details will be confirmed closer to the date.

ORDINARY MEETING / EVENING LECTURE

02 DECEMBER | 17:00–18:00

The Archaeological Heritage of Slavery in the United States

by Professor Theresa Singleton

Archaeologists have studied slavery in the United States for more than a half century. These studies have unearthed countless findings on slave living conditions, material possessions, religious practices, and most recently, the possible African ethnicity of enslaved individuals, among other topics. Yet, despite this scholarship and its growing inclusion in the broad academic literature on slavery, museum exhibitions, historic sites, and popular publications, efforts to protect slavery sites from destruction or redevelopment projects remain on-going struggles. It can take decades for some slave-related sites to achieve the local, state, or national recognition they deserve. This presentation will summarize archaeological findings from slavery sites in the United States and discuss the challenges to protect them for future generations.

ORDINARY MEETING / EVENING LECTURE

9 DECEMBER | 17:00–18:00

Rapa Nui’s (Easter Island) archaeology and heritage: changing narratives and current issues

by Professor Sue Hamilton FSA

Rapa Nui is renowned for its colossal statues and the apparent dramatic end of this tradition. The lecture presents the multi-scalar fieldwork of the Rapa Nui Landscapes of Construction Project: the complex social, ideological and ecological interfaces of Rapa Nui’s prehistoric past; and its intermingling with a living but eroding heritage, on an island-wide scale

CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY / EVENING LECTURE

16 DECEMBER | 17:00–18:00

Join us for a selection of papers on a wide range of themes.

Papers TBC.

*Fellows Event: Open to Fellows & their invited guests.

CHRISTMAS PARTY / MULLED WINE RECEPTION

16 DECEMBER | 18:00–19:30

Subject to Covid-19 restrictions. Further information will be announced closer to the date.

*Fellows Event: Open to Fellows & their invited guests.

HENRY VIII ONLINE EXHIBITION

We have just launched our dedicated online exhibition site with the first show ***Henry VIII: Defender of the Faith?*** opening on the 29 June.



500 years ago this year, King Henry VIII (r.1509-47) was named 'Defender of the Faith' - the title awarded by the Pope for his defence of the Catholic Church against the threat of Martin Luther.

This exhibition offers a new perspective on Henry VIII (ruled 1509-47), the power that he wielded and his personality and passions, drawn from the collections of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

We have gathered rarely-seen portraits, manuscripts, objects and books, including royal proclamations enforcing the Reformation and the inventory of his possessions drawn up on his death, to illustrate and to question the controversial life of Henry VIII.

Few English rulers have had such a dramatic impact, in their own time or as remembered by later generations. For better and for worse, this is Henry VIII as you have probably never seen him.

This exhibition has been curated by our Museum Collections Manager, Kate Bagnall alongside Dr John Cooper FSA and Professor Maurice Howard Hon VPSA.

To find out more and visit our new dedicated exhibition site visit:
www.stories.sal.org.uk

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Our Event Programme may be subject to change depending on changes in restrictions.

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For more information & to book any of our events, visit
www.sal.org.uk/events/

COUNCIL TO ANNIVERSARY 2022

Martin Millett, PhD (President), Chair

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Rosemary Sweet, MA, DPhil



Society of Antiquaries of London

Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE

For more information on our events please visit:
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