



## Church Archaeology

We do hope that members enjoyed the latest journal. The editors are keen to invite constructive feedback from members.

The editors have decided that the next issue will also be a double volume (numbers 7 & 8) in order to catch up with the year and so that new members can receive their copy of the journal that same membership year rather than having to wait. A great deal of work goes into the preparation of each volume and so the committee would like to thank the editors for taking on the added workload of another double issue.

## Back Issues of Church Archaeology

The Society has a number of back issues of Church Archaeology available and so the decision has been taken

to sell them off. This is an opportunity for new or recent members to complete their collection. The price of these is £10 each for members, or £15 each for non-members. Please contact Geraint Franklin by email: [geraintf@netarch.co.uk](mailto:geraintf@netarch.co.uk); or by post: Society for Church Archaeology, Council for British Archaeology, 111 Walmgate, York, YO1 9WA, stating which volume(s) you wish to buy. Details about the contents of each volume is available on our website [www.britarch.ac.uk/socchurcharchaeol](http://www.britarch.ac.uk/socchurcharchaeol)

## Ann Hamlin Bequest

In the newsletter last year we reported that committee member Ann Hamlin had passed away. We have recently been contacted by her solicitors and told that Ann left a sum of money to the Society. We are extremely grateful for this and we are currently discussing how best this should be used. One potential idea is to create a trust in her memory.

## 2005 Newsletter

Contributions for next year's newsletter would be most welcome. We would like to hear of any relevant conferences, courses, or fieldwork taking place around the UK and Ireland. If you would like to contribute material please contact the editor in early 2005 preferably by email: [archaeological.surveyor@cathedral.org.uk](mailto:archaeological.surveyor@cathedral.org.uk); or by post: Newsletter Editor, Society for Church Archaeology, c/o Council for British Archaeology, 111 Walmgate, York, YO1 9WA.

## Foreword from the Chair

Dear Member,

Welcome to the annual newsletter.

The annual conference on 'The Archaeology of the Early Medieval Celtic Churches', to be held jointly with the Society for Medieval Archaeology is now booking. There are still places left but please send your booking form in as soon as possible. The closing date for receipt of booking forms is July 23rd and after that accommodation cannot be guaranteed.

The conference is not only an opportunity to hear a wide variety of lectures on new research but also to visit some notable churches in north Wales. Penmon, the site of a later medieval Augustinian priory, is one of the most complete Romanesque churches in the region and also has early medieval sculpture.

Llanfaglan, now owned by the Friends of Friendless Churches, has early medieval origins in the form of an inscribed stone. The building is mostly later medieval, but has a more or less complete set of 18th-century furniture and fittings. Clynnog was one of the most important monastic churches in early medieval north Wales and once housed the relics of St Beuno. The fabric is mainly Perpendicular but there is also earlier evidence including an early medieval sundial.

We are now actively planning the annual conference for 2005. This will be held on the weekend of 1st–2nd October 2005 at Bede's World, Jarrow and the theme will be 'The Archaeology of the Anglo-Saxon Church'. Details will appear in the February mailing but do note the dates in your diary.

We hope that you have enjoyed the double issue of Church Archaeology (Vols 5–6) which came out in April. The editorial team have now begun preparing the next volume which we hope will

also be a double issue in order fully to catch up on the backlog. The editorial board has recently met and it has been decided that the next issue will have more room for news items and the roundup will be amalgamated with these. As ever we welcome suitable articles and news items for the journal which should be sent to David and Evelyn Baker at the Society's address.

We are very grateful to Ian Scott who has been the Society's Treasurer for the last 5 years, and to Jon Finch, who has also served on the committee for the last 5 years, for 3 years as Secretary and then as Publications Officer. We are now beginning the task of finding a replacement for each of them. If there are any members who might be interested in taking on either role, and would like to discuss potential responsibilities, please could they contact me at [n.edwards@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:n.edwards@bangor.ac.uk)

*Nancy Edwards*

# events diary

## 14 June – 5 September

Research/Training excavation at St Leonards Hospital, York.

Chance to dig in the Roman legionary fortress and medieval Hospital. Training for beginners upwards and activities for under 16s. Open to visitors. Contact Kurt Hunter-Mann, tel. 01904 663029 [stleonard@yorkarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:stleonard@yorkarchaeology.co.uk) for further details.

## 23–25 July

The **Church Monuments Society** is holding its Silver Jubilee Symposium from Friday 23rd July to Sunday 25th July 2004 at the University of Lincoln. The symposium will consist of a series of lectures on monuments and there will also be visits to local churches at Belton, Norton Disney and Caythorpe. Full details and a booking form are available from Mark Downing FSA, 9 Kestrel Drive, Sundorne, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. SY1 4TT. Tel: 01743 247977. Email: [mark@military-church-monuments.co.uk](mailto:mark@military-church-monuments.co.uk).

For further information please email: [churchmonuments@aol.com](mailto:churchmonuments@aol.com), visit <http://www.churchmonumentsociety.org> or write to: The Church Monuments Society, c/o The Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. W1J 0BE.

## 27 July

**Ecclesiological Society** AGM & lecture: The destruction of East Anglian church interiors by the puritan William Dowsing and his colleagues during the English Civil War, by Trevor Cooper. Doors open 6.10, lecture 6.30, AGM follows. Refreshments before and after. All welcome. No admission charge. St Anne's Church Centre, Dean Street, Soho, London W1 (on the west side of Dean Street, not far from the junction with Shaftesbury Avenue).

## 4 September

Study day (Church Monuments) at Bottesford Church, Leicestershire. **Church Monuments Society**. Cost £11. Contact Mark Downing, 9 Kestrel Drive, Sundorne Grove, Shrewsbury, SY1 4TT

## 9–12 September

SOCIETY FOR CHURCH  
ARCHAEOLOGY —  
2004 CONFERENCE

The Archaeology of the Early Medieval Celtic Churches  
Venue: University of Wales, Bangor

The 2004 **Society for Church Archaeology** conference will be on the Archaeology of the Early Medieval Celtic Churches c 400–1100 and will be a joint conference with the Society for Medieval Archaeology. It will be hosted by the University of Wales, Bangor. The aim of the conference is to build up a picture of new work on the archaeology of the early medieval Celtic churches and examine how it relates to the current state of knowledge and current debates and to compare and contrast the nature of the archaeological evidence in the different Celtic areas. It is also important to try and determine how the churches in the Celtic areas developed and changed over time and how this is manifested archaeologically. The main areas it is hoped to examine

# society news

## 2003 Winchester Conference

The Society would like to thank all those who attended the annual conference last September. The support and enthusiasm of members went a long way in contributing to the success of the weekend.

A great deal of positive feedback has been received from participants regarding the choice of speakers and papers delivered, the field trips and general organisation of the

event. This is most encouraging. The committee are aware, however, that there was some disappointment over the unavoidable cancellation of the conference dinner last year owing to lack of numbers and financial constraints. We do appreciate that the dinner provides a valuable opportunity for members, the committee and speakers alike to socialise informally. The committee certainly hope that this year there will be sufficient numbers for the conference dinner to go ahead. We look forward to seeing you all in Bangor!

## New blood needed on the Committee!

After long service, a couple of committee members have stepped down to make way for others. So if you feel you have anything to contribute to the Society and are willing to attend meetings, please contact either the Chair, Nancy Edwards, [n.edwards@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:n.edwards@bangor.ac.uk), or the Secretary, Nicola Smith, [nicolas@netarch.co.uk](mailto:nicolas@netarch.co.uk), or telephone Nicola on 01522 532625 (daytime) or 01522 851340 (evenings).

*Below: SCA members at the Winchester Conference*



## New Look Newsletter

Thanks go to Geraint Franklin for the new design to this edition of the newsletter. It is hoped that the new format will look more lively and professional. Thanks to our website manager, Aleks McClain, members can also view a colour version of the newsletter on-line, as well as seeing past editions.

# articles

## How do we keep our Parish Churches?

This is the question asked by the Ecclesiological Society in a new paper written by Trevor Cooper. He draws attention to the plight of the 16,000 Church of England churches, of which ¾ are listed and analyses why an average of 60 churches a year are becoming redundant. The report points out that redundancy is not simply due to the general fall in church attendance, but other factors are also at play. For instance, the location of the majority of churches was decided before the Industrial Revolution so it is not surprising that many church buildings are not close to centres of population.

The report is not all gloom: Mr Cooper has found much evidence of congregations receiving support from the wider community especially when the building is made available for purposes in addition to worship. In fact, eight million people have been to a

concert or similar event in a church or other place of worship in the past year, which is a similar figure to the number of UK residents who have recently been to the theatre in London's West End.

To read this report in full visit the society's website [www.ecclsoc.org](http://www.ecclsoc.org) or write to them at PO BOX 287, New Malden, KT3 4YT.

*Tony Sims*

## Ecclesiological Society anniversary

The year 2004 marks the 125th anniversary of The Ecclesiological Society association dedicated to the study of the nature and use of church buildings and their furnishings.

For more information about the Ecclesiological Society, either visit the society's website (address above), email [admin@ecclsoc.org](mailto:admin@ecclsoc.org), or write to:

The Ecclesiological Society,  
c/o the Society of Antiquaries,  
Burlington House, Piccadilly,  
London, W1V 0HS.

# events diary

are aspects of the archaeology of major monasteries, hermitages, and local churches, including layout, structures and burial, as well as related topics, such as ecclesiastical place-names, pilgrimage sites and the cult of relics. It is also intended to address issues such as the changing functions of ecclesiastical sites and their role in the broader landscape and economy as well as more theoretical aspects, such as monuments and memory.

The Society for Church Archaeology Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 11th September at 9.00AM.

For further details and an online booking form please visit the conference website at [www.britarch.ac.uk/soc-churcharchaeol](http://www.britarch.ac.uk/soc-churcharchaeol) or contact Dr Nancy Edwards, Department of History and Welsh History, University of Wales Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DG, [his010@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:his010@bangor.ac.uk)

## 11 September

'The Pugins in Kent'  
Lecture by **Catriona Baker**.  
5pm at St Catherine's Church, Kingsdown. Churches Conservation Trust / Lynsted with Kingsdown Society. Admission free.

## 17 September

Dinner and talk on George Frederick Bodley  
Talk by Michael Hall. At Liverpool Cathedral.  
**Victorian Society** (Liverpool branch). Enquiries to [dianagoodier@hotmail.com](mailto:dianagoodier@hotmail.com)

## 18 September

Brasses at Westminster Abbey  
Study day of **Monumental Brass Society**  
[www.mbs-brasses.co.uk](http://www.mbs-brasses.co.uk)

## 21 September

The **Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists**, Annual Conference 2004. This year the society is holding a one day meeting at Peterborough Cathedral. In addition to the AGM there is also an opportunity to hear about recent archaeological work at the cathedral and take

a tour of the upper levels and precinct. £28 members, £38 non-members.

For booking details please contact the Secretary, Simon Ward at Chester Archaeology, The Grosvenor Museum, 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester CH1 2DD or email [s.ward@chester.gov.uk](mailto:s.ward@chester.gov.uk)

## 2 October

AGM of the **Friends of Friendless Churches** at St John's, Papworth Agnes, Cambridgeshire

## 2 October

Ecclesiological Society Annual Conference — subject to be confirmed.

## 5 October

Lecture, 'The Victorian Restoration of Iffley Church' by Geoffrey Tyack. **Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society**. 5.30 pm at Rewley House, Oxford. Details on [www.oahs.org.uk](http://www.oahs.org.uk)

## 16 October

Lectures and AGM of the **Monumental Brass Society**

# church in the news tours

2.15pm at the Art Workers' Guild, 6 Queen Square, London, WC1. The talks are by Derrick Chivers on Brass Rubbing in Seoul Cathedral and Peter Heseltine on Brasses on the Internet.

## 23 November

Lecture: Mausolea and Monuments by Roger Bowdler. Organised by the **Victorian Society**. Venue: the Art Workers' Guild, Queen Square, London WC1. Cost £7.

## May 2005

PEVSNER REVISITED  
The **Construction History Society** (CHS) intend to make that the theme of a full day seminar next year. The present proposed date is Saturday 14 May 2005 and venue is Reading, but both could be changed. The CHS would be interested to collaborate and/or learn of potential speakers from the Society for Church Archaeology.

The provisional agenda:

1. **Pevsner's method.** A summary of how Pevsner undertook the work in the 1950s and

60s how the Series evolved; comparisons of the originals with versions from the last decade.

2. **The Berkshire Study.** An interim statement on the results of the Berkshire study.

3. **Users' needs.** A debate —or papers — on the utility of Pevsner to those who use them professionally or academically.

4. **Beyond Pevsner.** A debate —or papers — on the relevance of architectural history and architectural historians to the commercial and professional tasks of building conservation.

If you are interested in giving a paper or attending, contact Michael Heaton (Tel. 01985 847791) or Bob McWilliam (Robert@rmcwilliam.plus.com; 0118 9481 751).

## 18th July 2004

Church Tours (associated with **Norfolk Churches Trust**)  
First church 2.30pm  
Little Snoring (RT), Great Snoring, East Barsham, West Barsham, Norfolk.

Everyone is welcome and tours are free. Details from 'Lyn Stilgoe on 01328 738237.

## 4 August

Religious Ramsgate  
Visit by the **Friends of Kent Churches**. Enquiries to Julia Twigg, 9 Nunnery Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 3LS  
j.m.twigg@ukc.ac.uk

## 7 August

**Round Tower Churches Society** Tours. First church 2.30pm Runhall (I44 TG 058 069), Welborne, Yaxham, Norfolk. Everyone is welcome and tours are free. Details from 'Lyn Stilgoe on 01328 738237.

## 7 August

Visit to Hildersham Church and locality (south of Cambridge). Starts 2pm. Great Eastern branch of the **Victorian Society**. Contact michael.pearson@btinternet.com

## 25 August

Evening visit to St James the Less, Westminster. Led by Paul Joyce. **Victorian Society**. Starts at 6.30pm. Cost £7 or £5 for prior booking.

## Fire at Unique Norfolk Church

On Thursday 13th May the church of St Wandregesilius at Bixley off the Bixley to Bungay Road out of Norwich was gutted by fire. There is a suggestion that the fire was started deliberately and investigations are ongoing. The church is in an isolated situation off the present road built in 1805. The old road, running a few yards to the west of the church, can still be detected.

The tower is all that remains of the 1272 rebuild by William de Dunwich a bailiff of Norwich and main lay benefactor of the Great Hospital near Norwich Cathedral, being built by Bishop Suffield at that time.

The now destroyed nave and chancel were of the rebuild of 1868, the original dedication corner stone with inscription recording his rebuild on one face and scratch dial on the other was incorporated at that time and is still in place but

cracked by the fire.

ANIME WILELMI DE DONEWICO FUNDATORIS HUIUS ECCLESIE PROPICIARE DEUS

Last year the author as Chairman of the Norfolk Heraldry Society conducted a tour of churches of the Poringland area (near Bixley) and the monuments and pulpit heraldry were all recorded and photographed!

The earliest is an altar tomb now built into the North transept wall and records the death in 1565 of Edward Ward of Bixley Hall (now demolished) on which he and his wife, Anne Havers of Winfarthing kneel in effigy on either side of a faldstool, with nine sons behind him and three daughters behind her. The tomb carries the Ward arms *chequy or and azure a bend ermine*.

On the same transept wall to the West there is a fine tall monument to Susan, the last of the Wards who was Countess of Rosebery as wife of Neil Primrose, Earl of Rosebery, lord of the Manor. This monument is now dangerously

near to collapse.

The tower acted as chimney to the fire with no internal structure now remaining, the bell bears the following: 'G. Mears Founder London 1858' and 'I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL AND TO THE GRAVE DO SUMMONS ALL'.

This parish church dedication is unique in England. Wandregesilius being a noble member of the Merovingian Court of the 7th century who became a monk and founded his abbey at Fontenelle in Normandy, consecrated as St Wandrille in 657.

During the Viking invasion his relics were removed to Ghent and, as William de Dunwich traded with Flanders this is thought to be the connection with the dedication.

Tony Sims

laymen or 'portionaries', recognised in north Wales, appears to be paralleled throughout the region where many more churches were held in a variety of forms of multiple patronage into the modern period. A number of ecclesiastical holdings are described as 'clas tir' in 15th-16th century sources, when recollections of sanctuary or noddfa were also recorded. In most cases, the sources supplement existing evidence for early origins, or can be used in conjunction with other, more circumstantial evidence. In other instances, they can lead to the identification of new sites. The terms of a number of early 12th century grants of churches, both Welsh and Anglo-Norman, make it clear that they refer to pre-existing ecclesiastical sites and, in some cases, allow the pattern of pre-Conquest ecclesiastical dependence to be determined; the nomenclature in one source may be a reference to an otherwise unknown mother-house, possibly monastic. A number of late 11th century episcopal alienations were later recorded by Gerald of Wales, among others, and

variously refer to surviving, abandoned or relocated sites. Other early 12th century sources suggest the displacement of ecclesiastical establishments, from sites which can occasionally be identified.

Through the use of aerial photography, map and field evidence, it can be suggested that a number of putative early medieval church sites lay within a large outer enclosure, usually - but not always - circular, and concentric around a smaller, inner enclosure. A large number of such double enclosures, many occupied by surviving churchyards, have now been identified in Wales, and also in Cornwall. They are normally represented by cropmarks but occasionally by standing earthworks or field boundaries. In a number of cases, the inner enclosure appears to have survived to become a formal churchyard. In a very small number, the outer enclosure defined the extent of the later churchyard. The morphology of a number of these sites suggest that they may have their origins as iron age domestic enclosures of the 'concentric antenna' type,

a class of monument becoming increasingly recognised in southwest Wales. In others, such re-use may have provided a model for de novo ecclesiastical enclosures. The outer enclosure may have had a variety of functions - as a cemetery, as space for an additional chapel (the sites of capeli-y-bedd or 'grave-chapels' have been identified within some), as land for agricultural plots, as an area of sanctuary/noddfa, or to define the limits of ecclesiastical ownership. The relationship between churchyards and other iron age domestic enclosures, where they exist in association, has also been examined.

It is apparent that the field evidence for Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion is generally poor when compared with that in Pembrokeshire, with a relative absence of such site-types as long-cist cemeteries and cropmark outer enclosures. However, some evidence is emerging for the re-use of prehistoric funerary monuments.

## 4 September

Visit to chapels in the Hereford Area, by the **Chapels Society**.  
[www.britarch.ac.uk/chapelsoc](http://www.britarch.ac.uk/chapelsoc)

## 4 September

**Round Tower Churches Society** Tours. First church 2.30pm. Hardley (134 TM 386 007), Hellington, Surlingham, Norfolk. Everyone is welcome and tours are free. Details from 'Lyn Stilgoe on 01328 738237.

## 25 September

Tour of the churches of NE Bucks & Milton Keynes. **Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust**. Contact Mrs J Elston for further details Tel. 01582 760147.

## 25 September

Bus Tour: Hawksmoor's London Churches. Visits all six of Hawksmoor's London churches. Organised by the **Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields**. Cost: £55. Phone 020 7859 3035 for details or visit [www.christchurchspitalfields.org](http://www.christchurchspitalfields.org)

## Grave Matters

*New websites support carved stone appreciation*

Over the last 5000 years Scotland has produced an amazing range of carved stones, from prehistoric rock art to Victorian tombstones.

Two new websites dedicated to this important part of our national heritage have been launched to promote the enjoyment and protection of Scottish carved stones.

The National Committee on the Carved stones in Scotland (NCCSS) seeks to promote a greater appreciation of all types of carved stones. On their website, [www.carvedstonescotland.org](http://www.carvedstonescotland.org) you can read about new discoveries and ongoing work, as well as finding links to national heritage bodies, local authority archaeologists, museums, academic departments, preservation trusts, and other groups with an active interest in carved stones.

The site offers a useful starting point for anyone with a general interest in carved stones

and directs the viewer to more specialised information on the history, recording and preservation of carved stones in Scotland.

The Carved Stones Adviser Project, based within the Council for Scottish Archaeology and funded by Historic Scotland, has a website at [www.scottishgravestones.org.uk](http://www.scottishgravestones.org.uk) and is the first port of call for all those interested in graveyards and gravestones. The website provides at-a-glance summaries of how to complete recording and conservation work as well as a large number of detailed guidance notes that you can download and keep. These include information for cemetery managers, gravestone owners, recording groups and preservation trusts, as well as providing an introduction to the general history of Scottish graveyards. A notice board page advertises forthcoming events, books, articles and current news about gravestones; the project directory lists initiatives taking place in graveyards across Scotland and how you can get involved.

## Saints and Pilgrims in Lazio

Nancy Edwards

I recently had the chance to visit two fascinating early Christian sites north-west of Rome in the province of Lazio in the company of Dr Carlo Tedeschi, the director of Sutri Museum. They exemplify the wealth of early church archaeology in this part of Italy.

The first was San Eusebio near Sutri, a small Romanesque church at the end of a track

*Below: Graves, San Eusebio, Sutri.*



which wound down through fields of hazelnut trees. When we arrived the church was being cleaned and flowers arranged in time for the annual visit of the bishop on Easter Monday, the only service now held in the church. It is therefore close to redundancy and the fabric was clearly in need of repair.

The church, however, is of great interest because the archaeological remains clearly demonstrate the development of a local saint's cult in the early Middle Ages. The site has its origins in a pagan Ro-

man cemetery. A fourth-century Latin inscription in the church records how Eusebius, a Christian, built a mausoleum on his country estate. This mausoleum, most of the roof of which is still intact, is inside the later church at the east end. It contains four graves; the one at the back is thought to be that of the saint (see photograph below). The mausoleum gradually developed as a place of pilgrimage.

Part of the plaster survives on the interior of the vault of the mausoleum above the graves. On this plaster Carlo Tedeschi has recorded 53 graffiti inscriptions, the latest of which date to around the ninth century. These are in Latin and testify to the growing cult of the saint. Most begin with a cross followed by a personal name and presbyter meaning 'priest'. Some of the names are Lombardic and it is interesting to note that in this period Sutri was located near the Lombardic border. Further fragments of plaster are to be found on the outside of the mausoleum also with traces of graffiti, probably the names of pilgrims who were less

important than the clergy who recorded their names inside.

The vault of the mausoleum is painted with frescoes, perhaps of eighth-century date, which include an early representation of the Visitation. Later, in the Romanesque period a church was built over the mausoleum and the graves seem to have been located either under or behind the altar. To the east of the church is a hermit's cell with a window in the west wall so there was a direct view of the mausoleum.

The second site at Nepi was the Church of San Romulo and San Ptolemeo, Christian martyrs who were very early bishops of Nepi. The church itself is of 17th- or 18th-century date but the altar is located on top of a network of catacombs which were excavated during the 1980s by Vatican archaeologists. The complex is not as large as those in Rome but is thought to have originally housed the bodies of about 1000 early Christians. The catacombs, which are carved out of the rock, are at two levels linked by steps. The corridors are

lined with rows of niches five or six high with the smaller graves of children fitted in at the ends of the rows. The majority of niches are now empty but a few still had fragments of bone in them; others were undisturbed and still sealed by white plaster with painted inscriptions. Some of the niches were ornamented with contemporary painted decoration in red, green and black but none had any Christian iconography or carving. One niche near the entrance to the catacombs is larger than the rest with a vault which had been painted with later medieval frescoes. It has a special step below it which may have facilitated viewing by pilgrims. It has been suggested that this was the grave of St Romulus. It is unclear whether St Ptolemy was also buried in the catacombs though a Latin inscription at the entrance claims that his body had been moved there.

## Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project

Neil Ludlow, Cambria Archaeology

The Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project began, in southwest Wales, in 2001 with a desktop review of the physical and documentary evidence for ecclesiastical activity in Carmarthenshire, Cerdigion and Pembrokeshire prior to the year 1100 AD. This resulted in a list of 272 sites with possible early medieval origins. During 2002-3 selective field visits were made to these sites.

Several themes have emerged. The identification of early medieval ecclesiastical sites in southwest Wales requires a multidisciplinary approach, and one of the aims of the project was to assess the extent to which these sites can be identified from the study of later medieval source documentation. The survival of clas churches as 'portionary' benefices, divided between the church and powerful