



# sca Newsletter

FROM THE SOCIETY FOR CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGY

Summer 2008  
Issue No. 9

## Foreword from the Chair

The past year has been one of consolidation for the Society for Church Archaeology with a number of new faces either on the Committee, or moving to a different role on the Committee. As I reported last year, our very efficient Secretary, Nicola Smith, decided to stand down at the AGM at the end of September 2007. We felt that we could not again impose on one person the amount of work that Nicola had undertaken, so we split some of her roles. We are very grateful that staff of English Heritage have been so supportive of the Society and we were delighted that Kevin Booth, the Senior Curator, North, based at the English Heritage York office, agreed to take on the key role of Secretary. Also from English Heritage, we have managed to recruit David Stocker to organise our conferences. David is based in Lincolnshire, so will be especially well placed to organise our 2009 Conference in Lincoln. Finally Allie Nickell, the Cathedrals

Assistant at the Cathedrals Fabric Commission, based in London, has agreed to take over the equally onerous job of Treasurer. Everybody sees the work done by the Secretary and the Conference Organiser, but people seldom realise, unless they have done the job themselves, how extremely arduous the work of Treasurer is. The Treasurer is usually only noticed when things go wrong, so I am very relieved that Allie was prepared to move from being an ordinary member of the Committee to take that office.

Our Conference last year was organised jointly by Nicola, Edwina Proudfoot and Derek Hall of the Scottish Church Heritage Research, on changing patterns in Scottish church archaeology. As has become something of a tradition for the Society, we had an extensive bookstall catering for Members' interests, and a most enjoyable field trip on the Sunday to a number of important ecclesiastical sites: some well-known, such as Rosslyn, and others well off the beaten track. There was also a walking tour on the Friday before

the Conference began to some very interesting churches in the centre of Edinburgh. At each church we were treated to authoritative talks by local experts. The Conference attracted quite a few Scottish non-members, thus spreading the word about the Society north of the Border.

Our Conference this year is also a joint one - with the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology in Norwich from 12th to 14th September, on the archaeology of post-medieval religion. To fit in with their standard programme, we have moved some of our events around, but the main elements of lectures, excursion, bookstall and formal Society Dinner that members are accustomed to at our conferences will still be there at one point or another. Booking forms have already gone out for the Conference and I would encourage as many members as possible to join us there.

The final change in the organisation of the Committee is that, with the resignation of

*[cont, p2]*

# future newsletters

Dear Members,

Jacky Hall and I have taken over the Newsletter from Geraint Franklin, with the help of Aleks. We would all like to thank Geraint for his past work, and happily, Geraint has very kindly agreed to continue to design the Newsletter - so we are assured at least of a good-looking product! This, our first offering, is asking YOU what YOU would like to see in YOUR Newsletter. We were conscious that there was, perhaps, too much of an overlap with the Journal, and these are the Executive Committee's suggestions, as to content and format.

We wish to limit the content to information and recent news/events of interest to the readership. We suggest that it includes Stop Press on important new discoveries/work, and that it updates Members on issues and events. We believe that you would like selected information regarding fieldwork opportunities, or specialist tours in the UK & abroad

It would raise consciousness over significant issues and events by providing brief descriptions and signposts to further information

It must publicise the Society's conferences with application details in order to get maximum attendance at this important occasion - it is where we get to meet each other! While we hope to provide a short list of new publications, there will be no in-depth reviews; that is the purview of the Journal.

It will provide up-to-date content & contact information of courses & conferences of interest to the readership; Aleks is kindly providing much of this, but it would be a joint collation of information using the Executive & Editorial Committees, CBA, Britarch and the Society of Antiquaries/IFA Salon. And of course we would wish to promote the Web Site that Aleks runs

You may find it interesting to get up-to-date information regarding the Society's Officers, Members and activities of leading figures in the field.

And, where appropriate, job opportunities and/or recently filled posts.

This issue follows the tradition of a glossy booklet in full colour. We would, however, welcome views as to whether Members would prefer a simpler format, to continue with the more polished version, or something completely different. And please contribute to the Journal with long or short pieces.

Please contact Evelyn at [evelyn@suttons.org.uk](mailto:evelyn@suttons.org.uk) or Jackie at [jackie.hall@riveyhill.co.uk](mailto:jackie.hall@riveyhill.co.uk)

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*[cont. from p.1]*  
our Newsletter Editor, Geraint Franklin, it has been agreed that our very hardworking Editor, Evelyn Baker, and Assistant Editor (and Vice-Chair of the Society), Jackie Hall, will take on producing both the Journal (Church Archaeology) and the Newsletter. The fruits of their work are apparent in this Newsletter and volume 10 of Church Archaeology has appeared.

*Margaret L Faull*

# *society news*

## **New Committee Members**

The Society is grateful to the following for standing for office.

### **David Stocker Conference organiser**

After university education at Cambridge and York, David Stocker worked for the York Archaeological Trust and in Lincolnshire before joining English Heritage in 1987. He is currently a senior professional within its Research Strategy Department. He has occupied a number of roles within British Archaeology including: Director of the British Archaeological Association (1987-1990), founding Chair of the Institute of Field Archaeologists Buildings Group (1989-91), Honorary Fellow of the Archaeology Department, University of York (1999-2004), Vice President of the Society for Medieval Archaeology (since 2005), Trustee of the Council for British Archaeology (since 2007) and

Trustee of the Lincoln Record Society (since 2007)

David's research interests and publications are mostly within medieval archaeology, especially on buildings, settlement and landscape. He has published about 100 contributions to reports and papers in academic journals and is the author or co-author of 10 books. His most recent volume (one of several authored jointly with Paul Everson) is *Summoning St Michael. Early Romanesque Towers in Lincolnshire*, Oxbow, Oxford, 2006

### **Kevin Booth Secretary**

Kevin has worked on a number of ecclesiastic sites including Lichfield Cathedral, St Mary in Castro at Dover and Gisborough Priory in North Yorkshire. He studied History at Sheffield Polytechnic and took part in archaeological excavations during the vacations. From 1994 he was Archaeologist to the south-east region of English Heritage, specialising in the standing buildings at Dover Castle.

He has been a Senior Curator of Collections for English Heritage since 2005. His role involves the care and interpretation of, and access to, archaeological, architectural, fine art and social history pieces relating to English Heritage Properties in Care. He is currently writing up his analysis of St Mary's, Dover.

# events

## London City churches walking tour

6 September 2008, 1.30-5.00 PM

This Ecclesiological Society tour will consider the ways in which City churches have adapted their construction to reflect changing liturgy, architectural styles, finances and WW11 bomb damage. Visits will include St Margaret, Lothbury; St Michael, Cornhill; St Edmund the King; St Mary, Woolnoth; St Stephen, Walbrook; St Mary le Bow; St Vedast, Foster Lane. Prior booking essential. Telephone Andrew Derrick 01473 422727. Fee: £5. <http://www.ecclsoc.org>

## Worship, music and liturgy in early modern England

8-9 September 2008

This conference is organised by the Early Modern Worship Network conference, and will be held at St Chad's College, Durham. It will bring together scholars for a series of interdisciplinary discussions about public worship,

Limited bursaries are available to assist postgraduate students and other unwaged participants. <http://www.dur.ac.uk/worship.network/wlm>

## Deerhurst, St Werstan, and monastic mythmaking in late mediaeval England

13 September 2008, 7.30 PM

The 25th edition of the annual Deerhurst lecture will be given by Heather Gilderdale Scott of the Courtauld Institute of Art, at Deerhurst Church, near Tewksbury. Contact Sue Coggin at 01452 780 412 or Mr & Mrs Mike Marshall at 01242 680409 for tickets. [http://www.deerhurstfriends.co.uk/lectures\\_and\\_events.htm](http://www.deerhurstfriends.co.uk/lectures_and_events.htm)

## Sponsored bike ride

13 September 2008

This is a national event sponsored and organized by County Churches Trusts across Britain. Contact your local county trust for more information.

## Medieval art and architecture at Bristol Cathedral

19-21 September 2008

This major conference addresses the main outstanding questions concerning St Augustine's, drawing together a group of speakers of international stature. Architecture, decorations, fittings and the wider historical context of the building's medieval and 16th century history will all be addressed

Centre for Medieval Studies, Clifton House, University of Bristol. [http://www.bristol.ac.uk/medievalcentre/conferences/bristol\\_cathedral/index.html](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/medievalcentre/conferences/bristol_cathedral/index.html)

## Welsh churches

4 October 2008

The annual conference of the Ecclesiological Society is to be held in central London (past conferences at RIBA). This year the theme will be Welsh Churches. For further details, contact Valerie Hitchman at [eclconference@btinternet.com](mailto:eclconference@btinternet.com) <http://www.ecclsoc.org>

## The tomb monument industry in the 14th century

25 October 2008

This one-day conference is being organised jointly by the Church Monuments Society and the Centre for Medieval Studies, King's Manor, York. It will focus on the organization of the tomb monument industry in the 14th century, and is hopefully the first of a series of such meetings discussing the monument industry in various periods.

Speakers include: Sally Badham, Brian and Moira Gittos, Dr Tim Palmer, Marie Louise Sauerberg, Jane Crease, and Rhianydd Biebrach. <http://www.churchmonumentsociety.org/news.html>

## Sacred Britain: new horizons

24-26 November 2008

The annual convention of the Churches Tourism Association will feature case studies, workshops and speakers, all aimed at highlighting best practice, new ideas and the

latest research on improving and innovating church tourism. It will be of interest to all who are involved in making churches more accessible and welcoming to visitors.

Venue: the Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire. <http://www.churchestourismassociation.info>

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## Advisory Board for Redundant Churches

On 10 June 2008, the Advisory Board for Redundant Churches was replaced by a Statutory Advisory Committee of the newly constituted Church Buildings Council, itself replacing the former Council for the Care of Churches, *writes David Baker as last Chairman of the Advisory Board*. This ended nearly 40 years' of advice to the Church of England Commissioners on the heritage value of closing and closed parish churches, and the likely impacts of proposals for change associated with new uses.

The Advisory Board was originally set up as an independent expert adviser, intentionally free of financial and pastoral considerations. Its successor has an 'independent strand' of four members appointed by DCMS, but all seven are also members of the main Church Buildings Council which has a primary duty to have regard for the mission of the Church. The new is smaller than the old, with a narrower span of expertise in understanding historic churches.

In its last years the Advisory Board developed a legacy of working documents including 'Criteria for determining heritage value and the scope for change'. These will be published in its final Annual Reports for 2006-08. An article to be submitted for the next volume of Church Archaeology will describe the development of these hybrid academic and administrative processes against the background of current debates about cultural significance and public value.

# society news

## Volume 10

It has come out at last! The Editorial Team apologises for the lateness of Volume 10. We hope that you like it now you have it!

This time we contracted a new printer who lives many miles away. Proofs went back and forth many more times in order to get everything right, including a number of design improvements, and although this extended the timescale I hope you agree that the end product reads well and looks good. All papers have gone through rigorous refereeing to ensure accuracy, but we would be interested to hear if any eagle-eyed readers find any mistakes or typos! To be fair, Jeremy Mills did pick up details that others missed, and a good part of the delay was down their punctiliousness in making sure that everything was approved and correct – so we should not complain too much! It is extremely important that we retain high national standards so that authors will want to get their work published by SCA.

Volume 11 should be more streamlined now we have gauged each others' working patterns. We will be starting work on papers in mid August, but whether this will be another double to make up the years is yet too soon to say, though the stream of interesting papers is looking hopeful. We are still looking for papers and letters; those, and any comments are welcomed.

*Evelyn Baker, David Baker & Jackie Hall, with Duncan Sayer*

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## Website News

We have a new feature on the SCA website - an email list. We are trying to expand and improve the ways in which the Society keeps in contact with its Members, and an email list is the best way to get important announcements, website updates and other news to you quickly. In the future we are hoping to offer you the choice of having Society mailings delivered in this manner if you would prefer, both for your convenience, to help save paper and postage.

The list will not be used heavily, so you do not need to worry about us overloading your inboxes; and you can control subscribing to it and unsubscribing from it yourself. To sign up for the list, go to <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/socchurcharchaeol> and enter your email address in the SUBSCRIBE box on the front page. You will get a confirmation email from Google Groups immediately afterwards, and you will need to click on the link in that email to confirm your subscription. Then you are done!

We are also trying to gather Members' email addresses for Society records so that we can keep in contact with you better. If you have never given SCA your email address, or you have changed it since you last gave it to us, please drop a line to Mike Davis, the Membership Secretary, at [mcjd@davis.fg.co.uk](mailto:mcjd@davis.fg.co.uk). Please remember to let us know your email address each year when you renew your membership, even if you've told us before, so we can keep our records up-to-date.

*Aleks McClain*

## SCA Members Special Offer!

As you can see, the illustrations are really something special, so please take advantage of this offer and give yourself a treat!

### *The Tomb of Edward II: a royal monument in Gloucester Cathedral*

The tomb of Edward II, a masterpiece designed by a London craftsman, was constructed at Gloucester Cathedral after the burial of the murdered king in 1327. This full-colour booklet describes in detail how the tomb was created and built, using drawings, photographs, and a unique sequence of three-dimensional reconstructions. It is on sale at the Gloucester Cathedral shop, price £4.95

Members of the Society for Church Archaeology may order this booklet for £4.50 to include postage. Please fill in and cut out the adjacent form and send to: Past Historic, 6 Church Street, Kings Stanley, Stonehouse, GL10 3HW.



I am a Member of the Society for Church Archaeology.  
Please send me a discounted copy of *The Tomb of Edward II:  
a royal monument in Gloucester Cathedral*

I enclose cheque for £4.50 made out to Past Historic:

Name.....

Address.....

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Post Code .....

# article

## St Peter's Church, Barton on Humber

Thirty years after the first graves were excavated at St Peter's Church, Barton on Humber, the entire assemblage of human bone has returned to a specially built ossuary within the church. The excavations took place under the direction of Warwick Rodwell and Kirsty Rodwell between 1978 and 1984, with some 2800 articulated skeletons being recovered, along with almost three tons of disarticulated material. An extensive period of research was then undertaken on the assemblage, the results of which were published last year. (Tony Waldron, *St Peter's Barton-upon-Humber, Lincolnshire. A Parish and its Community, Volume 2, The Human Remains*; Oxbow books 2007)

A new exhibition was launched in 2007 as part of a wide ranging project to promote better access to the building and interpret the excavation's findings, focus-

ing on the study of the church and town's population. At the same time the disused Victorian organ chamber was converted to house the human bone. A mezzanine floor has been inserted with two levels of mobile racking designed to house the 1500 boxes of material. Over the past year every skeleton has been re-packed and its preservation and completeness checked against the original excavation records. A team of dedicated individuals have also undertaken to individually mark each and every bone, perhaps 200,000 in total!

A requiem service was held in the church on March 7th 2008 to mark the return of the remains. The Lord's Prayer was read in Anglo-Saxon, Latin and English, reflecting the 1000 year history of one of the most celebrated churches in the country.

The ossuary forms part of an agreement made with the Church of England which will allow ongoing research into the Barton collection, rather than re-burying the remains. Access to the collection will now be monitored by a spe-

cially convened committee which will evaluate requests to carry out research. Requests can be addressed to the Senior Curator, North Territory, English Heritage, 37 Tanner Row, York, YO1 6WP, or at [kevin.booth@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:kevin.booth@english-heritage.org.uk).

*Kevin Booth*



*Opposite: The ossuary is equipped with environmental control systems which balance humidity and temperature ensuring the long term preservation of the human remains.*

*Right: Skeletal remains were checked against their original excavation records.*

*Below: Three complete skeletons are displayed within the exhibition space.*



# article

## St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden, Bucks

A very generous local resident sponsored a sculptured glass screen enclosing part of the south transept of Great Missenden parish church in memory of his wife. This involved lifting the 19th century floor belonging to the squire's family private area and excavating a 50cm inclined trench for the screen foundation. I was closely involved in carrying out the archaeological requirement of the faculty conditions which were usually tendered out to commercial agencies; but we had an alternative.

The Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society (CVAHS) is a local body with a growing reputation for archaeological work of various kinds at professional standards, and, after consultation with the various authorities, it was considered that the Society was capable of carrying out this project which entailed

a watching brief and option for standard excavation if necessary. The proposal was accepted on the understanding that the PCC would cover the Society's costs, and the work was carried out in September 2006.

We hoped that one important issue could be clarified, which was whether the church once truly cruciform. Unfortunately this could not be conclusively proved, but there was an unexpected bonus: the 14th century mortar bedding for a tiled floor with a substantial quantity of broken tile associated with it. It was possible to reconstruct the designs of what proved to be Penn tiles. Clearly, there was sufficient patronage to embellish the transept to a high standard.

The other intriguing discovery highlighted an element of social attitude from more recent times. A robber-trench along the west wall had been back-filled during the late 19th century restoration with a mixture of materials, including a dark grey substance very like soot. We linked this to anecdotal evidence that the squire

had his own fireplace in the family pew! How, or even if, the main body of the church was heated is unknown.

The project gave Society Members a great deal of satisfaction. While not wishing to take work from those whom archaeology is their livelihood, I whole-heartedly recommend that other societies take up opportunities to undertake such small-scale projects on behalf of the local community, providing the skills and experience are in place. Most parishes can ill afford professional fees for minor jobs. If nothing else, it made a welcome change to be under cover, in the warm, kitchen on hand, and, joy of all joys, Civilised Toilets!

For more details please contact Mike Davis (CVAHS member) on 01494 891312 or email [majd@davis.f9.co.uk](mailto:majd@davis.f9.co.uk).

*Mike Davis*



*Top left:  
The tile designs  
reconstructed from  
fragments*



*Bottom left:  
Photograph of one of  
the excavated tiles  
with a drawing of the  
reconstructed design*



*Bottom right:  
Mortar floor showing  
tile imprints*



# 2008 conference

## Norwich 12th – 14th September

This year the SCA has joined with the Society of Post-Medieval Archaeology to organise a conference in Norwich which will focus on the archaeology of religion in Britain and Europe from 1580 to 1900. It is timed to coincide with the Heritage Open Day weekend, which will give an unparalleled opportunity to visit many important buildings not usually open to the public.

This is a fascinating era of profound change in religious practice on all fronts, and there is an impressive line-up of no less than 23 speakers to help us explore these, chaired by David Gaimster, Richard Gem, Margaret Faull and Harold Mytum.

Conference and AGMs will be held in the Maids Head Hotel, Tombland, Norwich, immediately outside the Cathedral gates. A wine reception and Conference Dinner will be at that hotel on Friday evening, and guided tours to churches and chapels in north-west



*Norwich Cathedral from the cloisters.  
Photo by Paul Brooker.*

Norfolk and Norwich will take place during Friday. The conference will end with further visits in Norwich on Sunday afternoon.

Details can be obtained from the conference organiser Chris King, School of Archaeology & Ancient History, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH. Tel 0116 252 2175, email [cnk4le.ac.uk](mailto:cnk4le.ac.uk)

or Kevin Booth, Secretary to the SCA Address: Senior Curator, North Territory, English Heritage, 37 Tanner Row, York, YO1 6WP, or email [kevin.booth@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:kevin.booth@english-heritage.org.uk)

Alternatively, please download a conference programme & booking form from <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/socchurcharchaeol>