

Saturday 11 December

### Members Meeting

Including a talk by Erik Matthews, 'Temple Mill, Leeds and the archaeology of linen textiles', and an opportunity to see finds from Binchester and Hornby excavations

### 150th Anniversary Lecture Programme spring 2011

All lectures will be held at Elvet Riverside, Room 141 New Elvet, Durham, at 2.30 pm unless otherwise notified. Everyone is welcome to attend

Saturday 8 January

**Anglo Saxon churches in Bernicia** Emeritus Professor Rosemary Cramp Honorary Vice President

Saturday 12 February

**Shaped by time, space and empire Mosque building in Cairo, 876–1480**  
Seif El Rashidi Durham World Heritage Site Co-ordinator

Saturday 5 March  
2 pm

**Death on the Wall: Excavations in the Roman Cemetery at Birdoswald**  
Professor Ian Haynes University of Newcastle Dr Tony Wilmott English Heritage

Saturday 12 March

### Durham County Archaeology Day

Further details from [www.archaeology@durham.gov.uk](mailto:www.archaeology@durham.gov.uk), telephone (0191) 3708712. We shall have our usual Society stall at this event

Wednesday 16 March  
6.15 pm

### Out of Africa The Origin of our Species

Professor Chris Stringer Natural History Museum, London  
This is a joint lecture with the Department of Anthropology, University of Durham. It will take place in Room D110, Dawson Building (Archaeology and Anthropology departments), Durham University Science Site, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE

Saturday 2 April

**Iron Age and Roman Period Beads in the Tyne–Forth**  
Elizabeth Sechs PhD Student, University of Durham

### Other 2011 Society events details to follow

Saturday 14 May

**AGM** Bishop Cosin's Library, Palace Green, Durham

Friday 24 to Monday 27 June

**Extended excursion to Chester** Dr David Mason Society President

Saturday 24 September

**Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland Anniversary Conference**

### Officers 2010

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### 150th Anniversary celebrations



2011 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland. We are planning a programme of lectures and events aiming to showcase the most recent research in our area within the context of global studies in Archaeology and Architectural history, while reminding ourselves of the circumstances in which our Society was founded in 1861.

There will be an Anniversary Conference on 24th September for which we have already recruited an outstanding list of speakers: Professor Colin Renfrew (McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge), Dr Mike Heyworth (Director of the Council for British Archaeology), Lindsay Allason-Jones (Director of CIAS and Reader in Roman Material Culture, University of Newcastle), Dr Rachel Pope (Lecturer in Later European

### Binchester Excavations 2010

Investigation continued into the structural history of the latest phases of the long, narrow building interpreted as a barrack block revealed in 2009. In its very latest phase, undated so far but possibly fifth century or later, occupation took the form of distinct areas of activity within the footprint of the earlier building, possibly under cover of a timber superstructure. The latest phase included two areas of heavy block paving and two sunken areas with a level floor each measuring approximately 5 metres square. The area of paving closest to the end of the building incorporated a circular, clay-lined depression about 3 metres across. Its fill contained much animal bone and at the bottom was a complete cow's skull. A number of similar pits were subsequently found throughout the area and are similar to those encountered on the site of the commanding officer's house during the 1970s/80s excavations. They appear to have been associated with the manufacture of everyday objects from animal bone and possibly the tanning of hides to make leather goods. This phase of occupation was dated to the first half of the fifth century on the *praetorium* site and appears to have been widespread throughout the fort interior.

Beneath the stone paving there are traces of clay flooring that appears to be contemporary with the narrow uppermost course of the outer walls of the building. This final phase of masonry is set atop the much wider wall foundations of an earlier building.

Prehistory, University of Liverpool), Emeritus Professor Jenny Price (University of Durham), Dr Sarah Semple (Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Durham) and Pete Wilson (English Heritage).

For the AGM we shall be returning to our roots in Durham, meeting in the newly-refurbished Bishop Cosin's Library on Palace Green. Further details of this day will be available early next year.

We shall also be organising a weekend excursion to Chester, where we shall be visiting the world famous Rows, walking the circuit of the city walls – the most intact in Britain – and exploring Chester Cathedral and the Roman amphitheatre.

A varied programme of more local excursions is being organised for the summer months and there are plans for a celebratory dinner. We hope that all our members will be able to participate in marking this milestone in our history.



▲ A view of the 2009 trench at Binchester Roman Camp, showing the long narrow building interpreted as a barrack block

◆ A stone-lined pit containing a cow's skull

These foundations are not continuous and the external surfacing contemporary with this building on the north side appears to have been robbed out. It would seem therefore that the phase of building represented by these wide foundations had been systematically demolished and even some of its foundations removed.

A second trench was opened this year, located beside Dere Street in that part of the civil settlement lying south-east of the fort. Landscaping in the mid-eighteenth century had damaged some of the Roman buildings fronting onto Dere Street but the degree of preservation was still very good. The southernmost building explored has a number of interesting features. The edge of a substantial concrete floor is visible disappearing into the southern face of the excavation while

the front wall of the building and that of a porch-like structure attached to it exhibit diagonal arrangements of stones through the thickness of the walls apparently marking the position of splayed windows. This, together with the evidence produced by excavations in 1870s on the opposite side of the road, implies that there is about 1 metre of masonry surviving above contemporary Roman ground level.

More than thirty members of the Society participated in this season's excavations and the project continues to be of major importance in recruiting new members. Finds processing sessions will be organised during the winter months. For more information, please contact David Petts at e-mail [d.a.petts@durham.ac.uk](mailto:d.a.petts@durham.ac.uk).

### 22 May Visit to Killhope lead mining centre



Our guide, Bill, demonstrating the use of the 'dolly tub', which separated the finest particles of galena from the mud-like slimes produced at the end of the ore washing process. Care was taken to retrieve every last fragment of lead from the bouse

The washing floor at Killhope. The 'bouse teems', where material from the mine was stored before processing by the washer boys, can be seen on the left. The rock and ore was broken up on the knock stone before being placed in the 'hotching tubs' (centre). These held sieves immersed in water and, when jerked up and down using the long poles, the heavier galena (lead ore) would sink to the bottom. In the background are Killhope Wheel and Park Level Crushing Mill, built in 1876–8 after Park Level Mine intersected a rich vein of ore and the washing floor struggled to keep up with the output from the mine

### 14 August Excursion to Berwick-on-Tweed and Norham Castle

Dr Adrian Green

The interior of the great tower of Norham Castle. This was built in the 12th century, then remodelled in the early 15th century to resemble a tower house. The west wall was largely rebuilt with a spiral staircase

### 5 September A walk around Bewick's Newcastle

Dr Peter Quinn

A bust of Bewick, taken from a life mask, marks the site of his workshop by St Nicholas Churchyard. It was here that the engravings for all the editions of his *History of British Birds* were made

### 11 July A walk at Druridge Bay

Andrew Burns



Andrew Burns at Low Hauxley, indicating a section through a burial cairn, excavated by Archaeological Research Services Ltd. A total of six burials were found in the area. The site is constantly at risk from coastal erosion and members of the public are encouraged to alert ARS Ltd to any potential archaeology exposed by the elements, to ensure that it is recorded



## Recent publications

### The beautiful rooms are empty

#### Excavations at Binchester Roman Fort, County Durham 1976–1981 and 1986–1991

Iain Ferris

Hardback, two volumes. ISBN 1 9074450 1 9

Published by Durham County Council.

£35.00 plus £8.00 postage and packaging

The research campaign reported on here began in 1976–1981 and continued after an interval for the period 1986–1991. It focused on a very well-preserved late Roman bath house and part of an associated building identified as the 4th-century praetorium. Deep and well-preserved stratigraphy, 2–3 metres in depth, both earlier than and later than this building, was encountered. Fourteen complex phases of activity were recorded, including an early timber praetorium, a period when the site perhaps functioned as a works depot, and a sequence of three successive stone praetoria, the last and grandest of which was not built until after AD 335–345. An exceptionally long and complex late Roman sequence saw this house enlarged and extended before its function changed dramatically some time in the very late 4th or early 5th century. The fort later became the site of an extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery, the earliest burial being dated by grave goods to the mid 6th century. Parts of the Roman structures were later reused in the medieval period. Significant assemblages of Roman pottery, glass, coins, small finds, metalworking residues and animal bones recovered by excavation are also reported on here, along with the grave goods from the early Anglo-Saxon burial and the human remains from the wider cemetery.

### Tapestry of time

#### Twelve centuries at Sockburn

£10 plus £3.50 postage and packing (to be confirmed)

Chapters by Rosemary Cramp, Erik Matthews, David Francis and Laura Stephens feature alongside many beautiful illustrations and fascinating contributions.

'Down a winding country road in the North East of England lies a small ruined church, secret gardens, a manor house in need of repair and the heart of a

## Hornby Castle fieldwork 2010

Work on our trench at Hornby draws to a close at the end of October. A big thank you is extended to all those who have helped out along the way and in particular to the landowners Roger and Julia Clutterbuck. With their agreement, we will secure our existing trench and return to it in March 2011 before extending our search further afield within the site.

There will be opportunities to take part in pot washing and other 'post-ex' activities, including finds photography over the closed winter season; if you are interested in taking part in these, please contact me at e-mail [rubyna.matthews@btinternet.com](mailto:rubyna.matthews@btinternet.com) or on my mobile on 07951380829.

Recent work has involved the removal of a series of closely packed late 17th- or early 18th-century hard surfaces

## The Beautiful Rooms Are Empty

Excavations at Binchester Roman Fort, County Durham 1976–1981 and 1986–1991

Part 1



by Iain Ferris

ENGLISH HERITAGE

Durham County Council

movement to bring it all back to life. From 780 AD to the present, Sockburn peninsula has a history as long as it is deep: having weathered Anglo-Saxons, Normans, medieval nobility and two world wars.'

Inspired by the past while looking towards the future, with this volume – a collection of histories and contributions from people passionate about the site – Sockburn Hall Project hopes to raise funds and awareness in an effort to save this gem of English culture.

Some copies will be made available for purchase at Society lectures, or e-mail [sockburn@gmail.com](mailto:sockburn@gmail.com) with your order and postal address. We will confirm the postage and ask you to post a cheque payable to 'Sockburn Hall Project' to Sockburn Hall Project Team, Sockburn Hall, Neasham, Darlington DL2 1PH, or telephone Sarah Geary on 07933 320242.

which have been subject to some later disturbance. Finds have included the firing mechanism from a late 18th- or early 19th-century musket and a fine collection of clay pipe fragments from the late 17th century, including one painted black. The prodigious collection of medieval and later pottery and clay pipes, including a particularly fine example bearing Masonic insignia, continues to grow as more surface finds are retrieved from the vicinity of our trench.

A visit recently took place to Arbour Hill, a mid 18th-century 'Model Farm' associated with the Castle estate, and it is hoped that we will be able to undertake a detailed drawn survey next season prior to the new owners undertaking renovation work and in parallel with our main field work at the Castle.