

150th Anniversary Programme 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

Wednesday 16 March
please note time 6.30 pm

Out of Africa The origin of our species **Professor Chris Stringer** Natural History Museum, London
This is a joint lecture with the Departments of Archaeology and Anthropology, Durham University.
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 region
Elizabeth Schech PhD Student, Durham University

Saturday 11 June

The Staffordshire hoard Artists and warriors **Kevin Leahy** National Finds Advisor, Early Medieval Metalwork
Elvet Riverside Room 140

Saturday 3 September

Hopping the Bags The archaeology of an Australian infantry battalion 1916–1917
Alastair Fraser Assistant Librarian, Palace Green Library

Saturday 15 October

Protection of life and planning for death in ancient Egypt **Dr Steven Snape** University of Liverpool
2.00 pm
Pest and pestilence The healing goddesses of ancient Egypt **Dr Joyce Tyldesley** University of Manchester
3.00 pm
Joint event with the North East Ancient Egypt Society

Saturday 29 October

New light on ancient salt A lost prehistoric technology
Professor Anthony Harding University of Exeter, former AASDN Vice-president and Editor

Saturday 26 November

New Light on the Archaeology of County Durham
Dr David Mason County Archaeology Officer and Society President

Other dates for your diary

Saturday 14 May

Annual General Meeting
To be held in The Prior's Hall, Durham Cathedral

Friday 17 June
to Monday 20 June

Extended excursion to Chester

Wednesday 27 July

Visit to Durham Heritage Centre and Museum

Saturday 24 September

150th Anniversary Conference
Architecture and Archaeology 'A Wide and Fertile Field in which to Labour'

Officers 2010–11

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Excursion to Chester Friday June 17 to Monday June 20 2011



This four-day excursion will focus on Chester, one of the major historic cities of England.

Although the scene of some minor Iron Age occupation, Chester first rose to prominence in the Roman period as the site of one of the three permanent legionary fortresses in Britain. Founded c AD 74, Deva (named after the River Dee on which it lay) was initially the base of Legio II Adiutrix pia fidelis (raised only four years previously from the marines attached to the imperial fleet at Ravenna) and replaced by Legio XX Valeria Victrix around AD 90. The fortress was occupied throughout the Roman period and extensive civilian suburbs developed around it. Chester re-emerges into recorded history c 601 as the setting for the second synod between Augustine and the bishops of the Celtic Church. Fifteen years later, one of the pivotal battles in the process of Anglo-Saxon expansion into the West took place in its vicinity when Aethelrith of Northumbria defeated a combined force from the kingdoms of North Wales. The refortification of Chester in 907 as recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle marked the beginning of Chester's renaissance as a major settlement, this time based as much on trade as military and administrative importance. Although affected by the devastation inflicted on those areas in the North that continued to oppose William after 1066, Chester's prosperity gradually returned and, by the 13th century, it had become a thriving port and town once more.

Unfortunately, the gradual silting up of the Dee estuary led to Chester's demise as the principal port of North West England, a role taken over by Liverpool. Besieged by Parliamentary forces during the Civil War and suffering considerable damage to its fabric in the process, the city eventually regained some of its former prosperity through its role as the administrative headquarters of the county, and also as a centre for commerce and manufacturing, functions subsequently assisted by the advent of the canal and railway systems. Today, its economic base is essentially tourism and commerce.

Despite the ravages of time and conflict, and development in the modern era, Chester retains a wealth of historic features. It has a fantastic collection of Roman inscriptions and sculptures as well as impressive displayed building remains, such as the amphitheatre – the most complete circuit of city walls in the country – a delightful cathedral and, a feature unique to Chester, the 'Rows' – continuous galleries of shops at first-floor level lining the principal streets. Those participating in the excursion will see all of these things and more.

The anticipated cost for this weekend is £220 per person for two sharing or £300 for a single room (plus £15 for non-members). Note the change from the date originally advertised, owing to a race meeting in Chester that weekend.

Binchester Roman Fort Excavation 2011

Society members will have the opportunity to participate in the third summer season of excavation at Binchester this coming July, weekdays only, from 4 July to 29 July with a possibility of extension into the first half of August. Excavation will continue both in the fort and in the section of the civil settlement to the southeast. This year should see the completion of the investigation of the probable sub-Roman occupation and a start made on exploring the 4th-century phases of activity on the site.

Places need to be booked in advance (from 4 April), for a minimum of three consecutive days. Existing members who have renewed their subscription need only pay £5.00. For new members the charge is £20.00. Contact David Mason, telephone (0191) 370 8842, e-mail david.mason@durham.gov.uk



Professor Mick Aston right visiting Binchester in July 2010 with Dr David Mason, Society President

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Registered Charity Number 227397

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Binchester Roman site top left, clockwise A haruspex, with Membership Secretary Maureen Smith . Peter Carne from ASUD briefs the excavation team . Roman combat training . Baratus

Durham Heritage Centre and Museum

Members of the Society are invited to a wine reception at the Heritage Centre on Wednesday, 27 July, at 6.30 pm. Please contact the Secretary if you would like to attend.

Fenwick Lawson's Gaia sculpture, currently on display inside the Museum, is to be displayed in the Museum's garden this spring, once a suitable covering has been erected. The powerful Gaia sculpture will join the existing installation of Fenwick's St Cuthbert sculpture.

Opening in July, there will be a temporary exhibition, **The Power and the Glory John Cosin's Architectural Influence in Seventeenth-Century Durham**, focussing on John Cosin's alterations to Durham Cathedral and his parish church at Brancepeth during the 1630s, which were so controversial that they fed into the debates leading up to the English Civil War. The exhibition also addresses Cosin's influence after his return as Bishop of Durham after the Restoration of 1660, when he altered the episcopal chapel at Durham Castle and created St Peter's Chapel at Bishop Auckland as his mausoleum. The exhibition explores the distinctive approach to worship that underlay Cosin's mix of classical and Gothic detailing and his love of elaborate woodwork. The distinctions between cathedral, parish church and chapel for a 17th-century divine, and the links to Cosin's architectural patronage at Cambridge University, will also be included.

Adrian Green

Museum website <http://www.durhamheritagecentre.org.uk/>

Fieldwork update

Following the winter break, during which post-excavation analysis of our finds has continued apace, we start back on the 26–27 March recording the mid 15th-century painted panels and medieval period funerary sculpture at **Hornby Church**.

Work begins on site in earnest on 2–3 April. Initially, we will expand our existing trench to try to discover more about the mortar floored timber walled building that came to light towards the end of the last season, a section will be taken across the sand path to try to identify how it was laid out and we will also try to uncover more of the stone-revetted raised planting bed of medieval date uncovered last summer.

Later in the season we look to open a trench further into the Castle grounds and nearer to the church, where a substantial scatter of high status medieval pottery occurs on the ground surface, to try to identify the cause and establish any links with features in the first trench.

As last year we anticipate continuing through until the end of October. If last year is anything to go, by we expect to find a significant body of material through from the medieval period to the 19th-century and more than a few surprises!

We also look forward to returning to work at **Sockburn** in 2011, details will be available shortly.

For further information on fieldwork, pl to contact Erik Matthews on (01609) 77 07951380829 or e-mail rubyna.matthews

Palace Green Library Past, present and future

An extensive restoration programme is underway at Palace Green Library, and members are encouraged to visit the recently opened Wolfson Hall exhibition space. Throughout 2011, there will be changing exhibitions showcasing highlights of the library's collection, and also carefully chosen objects from other university collections.

The first spotlight exhibition was 'The return of the first folio', with the newly-recovered Shakespeare folio as its centrepiece, accompanied by documents and panels detailing the theft of the volume from Bishop Cosin's Library and the detective work that led to its identification as the Durham folio when it was offered for sale to the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington DC. This exhibition will be followed from 11 March by 'John Stainer: a life in music', drawn from the recently donated Stainer Archive. Displayed alongside the themed exhibitions are objects from the University's museums and archives, including a mid 9th-century German manuscript of Bede's 'Homilies on the Gospels', intricately carved jade from the Oriental Museum, and Samian ware from the Old Fulling Mill.

Bishop Cosin's Library will also be undergoing major refurbishment during the second half of this year. An external survey of the stonework has reinforced internal evidence of worn and damaged stone which will be replaced or repaired. Internally the old hot water heating system will be replaced by National Trust style conservation heating, responding quickly to rises in humidity and controlled by a humidistat rather than a thermostat, and new blinds will reduce the damaging

ultra-violet and high lux levels in the room. The wooden flooring requires extensive repairs. Some modern furniture will be removed and the older furniture will be conserved, as will the portraits around the tops of the walls. The bookshelves have been surveyed and, again, damaged wood will be repaired by a wood conservator, as will the external doors. The panels with roundels from above the shelves have been taken down and cleaned and conserved and are in storage until the whole programme has finished, when they will be rehung and the books will be returned to the shelves prior to the Library's re-opening in early 2012.

In its early years the Society held its Annual Meeting in Cosin's Library, and frequently railed against the damage or destruction of historic buildings wrought by vandalising vicars and even by 'men of learning and literature' from the University of Durham:

They had had on several occasions to deplore great destruction of valuable works of ancient art; and, singularly enough, when they had complained, it usually happened that everyone in authority repudiated the vandalism, and suggested that it must have been done by the ordinary workmen.

Rev W Greenwell TAASD II, 1879

We had hoped to return to Cosin's Library for our Anniversary AGM but, unfortunately, this was prevented by circumstances beyond anyone's control. We look forward to seeing it sensitively restored to its former glory in the near future.

Belinda Burke with thanks to **Dr Sheila Hingley** Palace Green Library

Student examinations in Bishop Cosin's Library, 1842 (Durham University Library)

