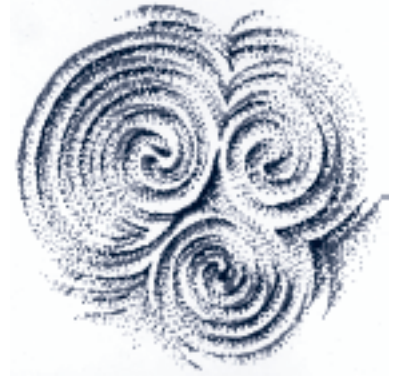


# PAST



NUMBER 1 1935

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PREHISTORIC SOCIETY

Registered Office University College London, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY  
<http://www.prehistoricsociety.org/>

It has been a dramatic year for our Society. At the Annual General Meeting, held at Norwich Castle Museum on February 23rd, it was decided by large majority to change our title from 'The Prehistoric Society of East Anglia' to 'The Prehistoric Society'. This move reflects the increasingly national composition of the Society, and, in the words of Dr Grahame Clark, is 'a contribution towards the much desired rationalisation of the subject of prehistoric research in this country'. As reports within this first issue of the Society's newsletter illustrate, scientific techniques and a new professionalism within the discipline of archaeology are transforming at a considerable rate our knowledge of early man and his environment.

It has been a busy year for prehistoric research as a whole, with excavations on the remarkable and long-lived settlement at Jarlishof, Shetland, conducted by Dr Alex O. Curle, work by Mrs E. M. Clifford at the chambered barrow of Notgrove in Gloucestershire, and ongoing investigation of the Neolithic camp at Whitehawk, Brighton, conducted by Dr Cecil Curwen. Other projects are reported here.

This year's journal, under the new title of *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, includes a wealth of articles on Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age topics. Included are published versions of the papers on 'The Relative Chronology of English Long Barrows' (by Stuart Piggott), 'The Cave as the Prototype of the Megalithic Monuments' (by W. J. Hemp), and 'The Place of Origin of the Windmill Hill Culture' (by Jacquetta Hawkes), first presented at the meeting of the Society on May 22nd at Burlington House.

## THE HURLERS AS THEY WERE: RE-ERECTION OF ANCIENT BEAKER FOLK'S STONE CIRCLES

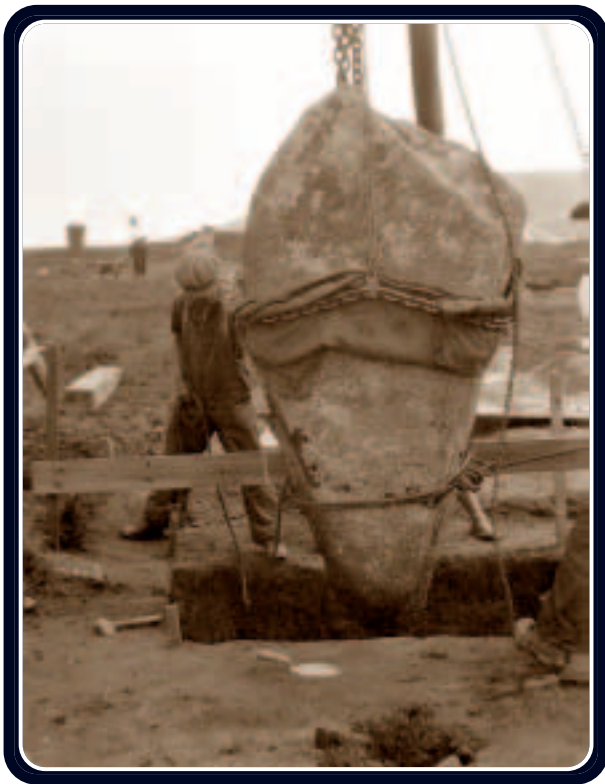
Work on restoring the three stone circles known as 'The Hurlers' on Minions Moor, half-a-dozen miles north of Liskeard, Cornwall, commenced on 18th July under the expert direction of Mr C. Raleigh Radford, F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.,

with the skilled assistance of Mr C. K. C. Andrew, the Cornish archaeologist of Darite, a trained foreman and 10 local workmen. For the past five weeks, this usually quiet moorland has been the scene of sustained activity as the team have raised and re-erected fallen pillars which make up the central circle. Earlier this year, with the consent of the landowners, the Duchy of Cornwall and the Manor of Roscraddoc, the circles came under the guardianship of His Majesty's Office of Works after a successful campaign lead by Mr A. de C. Glubb, President of the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society, to tidy up the monument which, over the centuries, had fallen into a state of disrepair. The works have cost £250 and have brought much needed employment to this part of Cornwall. The intention is to restore the whole of the monument to its original arrangement. The Hurlers takes its name from the old legend that the megaliths were really petrified men punished for hurling on the Sabbath (a favourite sport with the Cornishmen).



Mr. Raleigh Radford at work

Large areas of turf have been removed from the interior of the largest central circle which Mr Radford believes originally consisted of 29 stones although only 13 were standing, leaning or had fallen. With sheer muscle power and the use of triangular wooden winches to hoist the stones into position, the team have re-erected 4 fallen stones, straightened 10 inclined or leaning stones and located the sockets and large pits of 14 'missing' stones. Granite stubs have been placed in these latter while the leaning and fallen stones have been set upright in concrete plinths set in the original socket-holes. The 29th stone, the 'centre' stone, was also reset in its original socket. Mr Radford explained that great care has been taken to ensure that the restored stones were reset at similar heights and that exposed areas of the original ground level, identified as a 'gravel line' 4 to 6 inches below the turf, were protected. In at least two cases, the stones were found to have been erected on small mounds. The sockets of many of the restored stones were deep and lined with smaller packing stones. A handful of dark mottled flints alongside some irregular stones have been found and include one very interesting cylindrical hone stone displaying wear marks at both ends.



All the megaliths are of granite and Mr Radford considers that they were dressed when put in position by the original builders. He has put forward the theory that the stone circles were a relic of the Bronze Age, erected by the 'Beaker' people some 1,800 to 1,700 years BC. He adds that these people came over to Britain from the Continent and spread over the southern part of the country. They were an agricultural and pastoral race who built stone circles as temples whereby local priests could calculate the most propitious times for harvest. Earlier this

century, Sir Norman Lockyer suggested that stone circles were instruments for astronomical observations and suggested that the Hurlers were aligned to the clock-star Arcturus, a major constellation which heralded the commencement of seasonal change. Mr Radford says that the Hurlers were connected to other ancient sites in the locality and pointed to the large 'Beaker' burial mound with a chamber in which the famous Rillaton gold beaker was found over a hundred years ago.

Mr Radford, a respected scholar and well regarded in Cornish antiquarian circles, intends to return next year to complete this important work. Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Mr Charles Bushe-Fox, has stated that this is work of great importance and further restoration of this monument will be supported. Mr Radford intends to report his findings to the newly created Prehistoric Society.

## NEOLITHIC MAN AT WHITELEAF BARROW

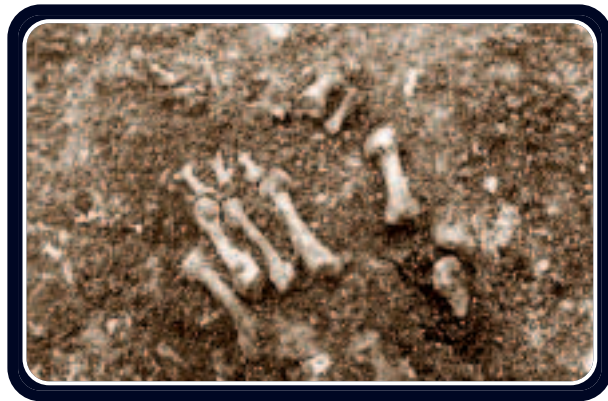
Mr W. Lindsay Scott, F.S.A., is excavating an unusual barrow which stands on the ridge of the Chilterns above the chalk cutting known as Whiteleaf Cross, Monks Risborough. The barrow is surrounded by an irregular but apparently continuous ditch approximately circular in plan. The mound has a deep crescentic hollow on its east side, which is an original feature. An inner mound of earth and flints interspersed with patches of clay is covered, save over the crescentic forecourt, with layers of clean chalk and earthy chalk rubble. A floor under the mound is composed of a thin layer of clay above the solid chalk. It contains post-holes, trenches and a pit of considerable dimensions which remains to be excavated. A central group of post-holes is shown by the sections of mound above it to have held a wooden structure, probably in the nature of a chamber.



*Excavations at the Whiteleaf barrow*

One scattered burial has so far been found of a dolichocephalic man of about 35 years of age. Many burnt layers occur in and on the upper surface of the inner

mound and these contain very numerous animal bones, flint flakes and scattered sherds of pottery. The flint artefacts include numerous serrated flakes and one leaf arrowhead. The pottery is of Neolithic A2 type, suggesting that here we have an unusual variant of the tradition of Neolithic long barrow burial.



*The foot bones from the burial*

holes in which the stones were set were found to be surprisingly shallow, the erected megaliths being packed around with smaller sarsen boulders. A curious feature was the occurrence of lines of small holes around the backs of the sockets, evidently the traces of settings of wooden stakes used during erection for reducing the friction of the stone against the wall of the stone-hole.



*One of the buried stones*

## MEGALITHS AND MARMALADE AT AVEBURY!

At Avebury in north Wiltshire we have the remains of, some would argue, the most impressive megalithic complex in the world. Excavations at the great stone circle, enclosed within the mighty ditch and bank (or 'henge' as we are now learning to call such constructions), were conducted by Mr Harold St. George Gray for the British Association for the Advancement of Science between 1908 and 1922. The results have this year been published in *Archaeologia*, and show the monument to be a sacred site constructed during the latest Neolithic or early Bronze Age. A new programme of investigation is now under way, directed by Mr Alexander Keiller and Mr Stuart Piggott of the Morven Institute of Archaeological Research. Mr Keiller is heir to the fortune of the Dundee marmalade firm of the same name. Society members will no doubt be aware of his important excavations of the Neolithic A camp at Windmill Hill to the north of Avebury, which finished in 1929. Attention is now turned to the great sarsen stone avenue, sometimes called the West Kennet Avenue, that leads from the original southern entrance of the Avebury 'henge' to the site of the Sanctuary on Overton Hill.

The Avenue was, prior to this current campaign of work, in a very sorry state, with many stones along its length missing or fallen. The primary purpose of the present excavations is therefore to establish the Avenue's exact course, and to arrive at a date and culture for its construction. The entire course of the northern third of the Avenue has been investigated, and the opportunity taken by the excavators to re-erect all the fallen stones, and others which were found to have been buried. The

At one point, the Avenue was found to cross a habitation-site belonging to an earlier period. Hearths and rubbish-pits were discovered, and across the whole area there was a thick scatter of Neolithic B flint tools and pottery. 'Petit tranchet derivative' arrowheads of all forms were found in quantity, along with knives and scrapers with distinctive polished edges, fragments of two axes of Graig Lwyd stone, and an arrowhead of Portland Chert. Most telling of the culture and date of the construction of the Avenue were four burials placed on the northeast side of Avenue stones. Two of these were accompanied by Beakers of B type, the third with a remarkable bowl decorated with grooved designs that finds analogy with similar vessels from Dorset.

There was ample evidence for the destruction of the Avenue during historic times, as recorded by William Stukeley. In several instances pits were found adjacent to where stones stood, filled with burnt and broken sarsen fragments and even piles of charred straw. Here is evidence of a method of fire-setting of the Avebury sarsens which was graphically described by both Aubrey and Stukeley. Other stones had been deliberately buried in pits dug especially for the purpose, either at the same time or somewhat earlier. This was work carried out by farmers in order to facilitate ploughing across the line of the Avenue.

Rumours abound that Mr Keiller intends to use his considerable private fortune and the resources of the Morven Institute to buy and restore the Avebury stone circles.



## FROM THE EDITOR

Readers may have noticed that the date and issue number on page one of this edition are not quite as they should be. What you are reading, of course, is really issue 64 for April 2010, but this year is the Prehistoric Society's 75th anniversary and we have given this edition of PAST a minor makeover in celebration! The outer pages feature reports on excavations, books and events that were making the archaeological headlines in 1935 while the inner pages cover current news, including upcoming anniversary events. Please keep watching the website for further details and booking forms for these over the coming months. Thanks to Josh Pollard, Jacky Nowakowski, Gill Hey and Niall Sharples for anniversary material for this edition of PAST. We are also grateful to the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society at the Dorset County Museum for permission to reproduce the photograph of Wheeler with the alligator on page 16.

*Joanna Brück*

## DATING THE PRIDDY CIRCLES, SOMERSET

In August 2008, small-scale research excavations were carried out at Priddy Circle 1, one of four related circular earthwork enclosures located on the Mendip Hills in Somerset. The circles extend in a line for over 1km and each measures between 176m and 192m in diameter. The date and function of the Priddy Circles has been much debated, largely due to the morphology of the monuments: they have external ditches and internal banks which seem to have been revetted by wooden posts. Although E. K. Tratman, who excavated a number of trenches across Priddy Circle 1 in the 1950s, suggested that the monuments were related to henges and thus of Neolithic date, the lack of artefacts and radiocarbon dates, together with their unusual layout and construction, has led other scholars to opine that they may be of Late Bronze Age, Iron Age or even Medieval date. Research on the monuments and an analysis of Tratman's excavation archive by Jodie Lewis has, however, suggested a Neolithic date to be the most likely but verification, in the form of radiocarbon dates, was needed. Scheduled Monument Consent was granted by English Heritage to reopen and expand one of Tratman's original trenches at Priddy Circle 1. The aims were

to test Tratman's interpretation of the construction sequence of the monument, obtain material suitable for radiocarbon dating and gather evidence for the contemporary environment of the monument complex by analysing the soil buried below the bank of the monument and by excavating and augering through the fill of an adjacent, natural sinkhole.



*The Priddy Circles from the air. Circle 1 is at the bottom of the photograph, Circle 4 on the far side of the road at the top (photo: Pete Glastonbury).*

The re-opening of Tratman's trench across the bank and ditch of Circle 1 showed that his interpretation of the construction sequence was erroneous, with greater complexity revealed in the bank/ditch/posthole sequence, suggesting that the monument's construction went through more than one phase. So far, three radiocarbon determinations have been returned and these suggest a Neolithic date for the monument. A date from a discrete charcoal lens within the primary ditch fill suggests that this feature began to fill by 2930 to 2870 cal BC (4271 ± 32 BP; OxA 21940). A Late Neolithic oblique arrowhead was also recovered from the primary fill of the ditch. A further date from the secondary fill of the ditch returned a slightly later

The copy date for PAST 65 is 1 June 2010. Contributions to Joanna Brück, School of Archaeology, Newman Building, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland. Email: joanna.bruck@ucd.ie Contributions on disc or as e-mail attachments are preferred (either word 6 or rtf files) but hardcopy is also accepted. Illustrations can be sent as drawings, slides, prints, tif or jpeg files. The book reviews editor is Dr Mike Allen, Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wilts, SP4 6EB. Email: aea.escargots@gmail.com Queries over subscriptions and membership should go to the Society administrator Tessa Machling at the London address above.



*Members of the Prehistoric Society visit the excavations as part of the Mendip Study Tour.*

date of 2780 to 2580 cal BC (4113 ± 33 BP; OxA 21939). Charcoal from within a buried soil sealed by the bank returned a somewhat earlier date of 5310 to 5200 cal BC (6246 ± 36 BP; OxA 22023).

The palaeo-environmental study, carried out by Mike Allen, was able to successfully retrieve and analyse pollen from several different contexts and all confirm that the Circles were constructed in an open grassland environment. Importantly, this work has shown that the natural sinkholes, known locally as swallets, which surround the Circles provide sediment traps in which pollen is preserved with a potential range which may span the whole of the Holocene.

Post-excavation work continues, but these preliminary results clearly demonstrate that Circle 1, at least, is of Neolithic date. The remaining three circles remain undated and thus the development of the complex is not yet understood. Nevertheless, the dates from Circle 1 are contemporary with the earliest earthwork phase of Stonehenge and with Llandegai A in North Wales. In common with the Priddy Circles, these sites are not classic henges as they have external ditches and internal banks and also appear to be associated with cremated human remains. No cremated remains were found at Priddy, however, as excavations were confined to sections through the bank and ditch rather than the interior of the monument which remains relatively intact. The Priddy Circles appear, then, to belong to this class of circular monuments with external ditches and internal banks, dating to around 3000 BC. They are a precursor to classic henge monuments and are possibly associated with the dead. What is so striking about the Priddy Circles, however, is their number and size. Individually, each circle is larger in diameter than Stonehenge and nowhere else in Britain are there four Neolithic monuments in a linear alignment.

Further research, aimed at gathering dating evidence for the remaining Circles and potentially exploring

some of their interiors, is planned at these unique and impressive sites in the near future.

The 2008 work was awarded grants from the Prehistoric Society, the Society of Antiquaries, the Maltwood Fund and the Mendip Society. It was undertaken as part of the University of Worcester's annual training excavation under the direction of Dr Jodie Lewis, David Mullin and Dr Mike Allen. Scheduled Monument Consent was granted by English Heritage and the project gratefully acknowledges the support of Rob Iles of English Heritage and Bob Croft, County Archaeologist for Somerset.

*Dr Jodie Lewis & David Mullin*

## **BRÚ NA BÓINNE WORLD HERITAGE SITE RESEARCH FRAMEWORK**

The Bend of the Boyne, or Brú na Bóinne, in County Meath, Ireland, will be well known to readers of *PAST*. The area has been an important ritual, social and economic centre for thousands of years. Its universal value was recognised in 1993 when it was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, one of only three on the island of Ireland. In November 2009, the *Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Research Framework* was published by the Heritage Council of Ireland in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The framework document, compiled in liaison with a steering group - the Brú na Bóinne Research Committee - representing local groups, the Irish university and state sectors, as well as the wider research community, is the first of its kind for Ireland and is one of only four in existence worldwide, Orkney, Avebury and Stonehenge being the other three published examples (Chadburn and Pomeroy-Kellinger 2001; Darvill 2005; Downes *et al.* 2005). The Brú na Bóinne research framework thus represents a very important contribution to world heritage policy and management.

The Brú na Bóinne passage tombs of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth are nationally and internationally the best known elements of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. However, the research framework has sought to emphasise the central position that the Brú na Bóinne area as a whole has occupied through the millennia. From prehistory to the arrival of Christianity and St. Patrick, and the power struggles of 17th century Europe, this landscape has come to reflect in microcosm many of the processes that have shaped society on the island and in the wider world. While a considerable body of research has already been

completed within Brú na Bóinne, many key research questions need to be addressed such as the dating and development of the monuments, changes in the settlement record, and how perceptions of the complex changed through time. Related management issues, preservation, conservation and interpretation within the WHS also have an increasingly important role to play and, given proposed plans to construct a dual carriageway approximately 500m from the western edge of the WHS buffer zone, will no doubt take on added significance in coming months.

The entire *Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Research Framework* can be viewed and downloaded from the publications section of the Heritage Council website at <http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/archaeology/publications/>. Details of the proposed route of the N2 Slane Bypass can be viewed at <http://www.meath.ie/LocalAuthorities/Roads/MajorRoadsProjects/N2SlaneBypass/>.

*Jessica Smyth, University College Dublin*

## THE ISLE OF WIGHT STUDY WEEKEND, JUNE 2009

Although the Isle of Wight is not noted for spectacular monuments, the Prehistoric Society spent such a full weekend there that I will not attempt to list everywhere we went. We were greatly assisted in our visit by an excellent field guide. This was compiled by Mike Allen, Julie Gardiner and David Tomalin, with contributions from Kayt Armstrong, Frank Bashford, Rebecca Loader, Brendan O'Connor and Ruth Waller, much of it drawing on published sources by the same people. This provided an invaluable overview of the island and individual sites.

On the first evening, the Isle of Wight's County Archaeologist, Ruth Waller, gave us a useful overview of the archaeology of Wight. She reminded us that the area had not been an island at all in most of prehistory. Sea level changes continued in later prehistory, so the sea will have inundated sites. Even in modern times erosion continues, and its rate in the past can only be estimated. Ruth also warned us that our chosen venue for the Friday evening meal, the Bargeman's Rest, served large portions, and she was not mistaken. Nonetheless, the food was much appreciated, with a few people managing a pudding. The real ales on offer were also enjoyed by several members.

For most of the trip we were joined by David Tomalin, who appeared to have an endless supply of informative, entertaining and sometime outrageous

anecdotes about the archaeology of the island and the people who have investigated it. It was certainly a shame to learn that very little of the County Museum's collection relating to prehistory is on display, with most of it stored in cardboard boxes. We look forward to the book which David is to publish on Neolithic and Bronze Age Wight, but work on this is 'on hold' until he finishes his Roman volume.



On Saturday morning we drove past the entrance to a Roman Villa with some raucous comments and went on to Sandown Bay Holiday Centre. A pleasant walk in the sunshine along the cliff edge took us to Redcliff, where an overburden of wind-blown sand has preserved artefacts of various periods. David Tomalin told one of his stories about two rival collectors, while members of the group competed to find worked flints. It is thought that the concentration of prehistoric activity here was due to the nearby cliffs which yielded good quality flint.

We visited two barrow cemeteries over the weekend, Ashley Down on the west of the island and Brook Down on the east. David Tomalin speculated that the presence of separate cemeteries on the two halves of the island might reflect the rivalry which can still be seen between different parts of the island, and perhaps a greater physical separation of the island by the River Medina in antiquity. The aptly named Benjamin Barrow had excavated at Ashley Down, but David sadly related how artefacts, including material from here, had been cleared out of the museum around the time of the First World War and only broken fragments now survived in boxes. It was also pointed out that although the Brook Down cemetery looked like a cluster on the map, it could actually be divided into areas located on different sides of the hill.

Michal Morey's Hump has been the subject of much disturbance, including some in living memory which was graphically related to us by David Tomalin. We were pleased to have with us Brendan O'Connor



who was able to talk to us about the Arreton Down Early Bronze Age hoard from nearby, using it as a case study for various issues. For example, he pointed out that the recovery of hoards was a rare event until the days of industrial earth moving and, more recently, metal detecting. This was also a case study in trying to reunite old hoards and to discover their provenance through old records.

We were also privileged to have a detailed description by Rebecca Loader of the investigation by herself and colleagues into a large multi-period inter-tidal area at Wootton Quarry. Although we were able to view some of the artefacts recovered, the tide did not allow us to see the most interesting structures. The imminent publication of the project is eagerly awaited.

We were lucky to be able to witness Mike Allen augering at two scheduled sites for which he had obtained consent. Before this, he demonstrated augering in the relatively easy soil of Gatcombe Withy Beds. Heavier-duty augers were needed at the scheduled sites. The first of these investigations was to test the interpretation of Chillerton Down rampart as an unfinished Iron Age monument, this presumption being largely due to its bulk. Incidentally, this site was a good (or bad) example of the rabbit damage which is to be seen at a number of sites on the island. Mike's sampling of the bank and ditch will throw light on the date when it is published, possibly after further auguring to establish a cross section of the ditch. Castle Hill undated enclosure also yielded an interesting sequence, which should remove its undated status and should be particularly informative after pollen analysis has been carried out.

Kayt Armstrong demonstrated to us the science of 'viewsheds', or the investigation of what is visible from a given spot in the landscape. While this process has been simplified and objectified by Graphical Information Systems, Kayt emphasised the need to complement this with physical observations. She also noted the danger that such an approach gives too much precedence to vision over other senses such as smell and hearing.

We visited the only megalith on the island, the Longstone, and found our interest shared by others: druids (or so I presume - we were there at the summer solstice) and runners using it as a landmark. David Tomalin suspects it and an adjacent mound to be the remains of a monument which may have been raised in imitation of some of those in south Dorset. Mike Allen suggested that its position at the head of a valley was a deliberate act to be seen from a settlement there.

Once again, thanks to everyone already mentioned, and to Sue Nelson who drove one of the minibuses. The other minibus was driven by Mike Allen; thanks to him and Julie Gardiner who dealt professionally with a whole range of technical and practical issues.

*Mike Griffiths*

## **NOTICE OF THE 2010 (FOR 2009) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM will be held on Saturday 8th May at 4.00pm at Cardiff University, Cardiff.

### **Agenda**

- 1 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Yorkshire Museum on 30th May 2009 (papers available from the website or from the Honorary Secretary)
- 2 President's report
- 3 Secretary's report
- 4 Editor's report and R. M. Baguley Award
- 5 Treasurer's report
- 6 Report on meetings, study tours and research days
- 7 Awards  
John and Bryony Coles Award  
Research Grants (Bob Smith Award and Leslie Grinsell Award)
- 8 Election of Officers and Members of Council

The meeting will be followed at 4.45 p.m. by the 19th Europa Lecture. The lecture will be followed by a wine reception.

Registered Office: University College London, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY.

### **Notes:**

1. A member entitled to vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and, on a poll, vote in his or her stead. A proxy must be a member, other than an institutional member.
2. To be valid, an instrument of proxy (together with any authority under which it is signed or a copy of the authority certified notarily or in some other way approved by Council) must be deposited with the Secretary, The Prehistoric Society, c/o Department of Archaeology & Anthropology, University of Bristol, 43 Woodland Road, Bristol, BS8 1UU, by 4.30 p.m. on the 1st May 2010.
3. Forms of proxy may be obtained from the Secretary at the above address.

# PREHISTORIC SOCIETY ACTIVITIES 2009

This report covers the period January to December 2009

## Meetings and study tours

The Society continues to fulfil its commitment to reach wide regional audiences and promote its aims and objectives through the delivery of a series of lectures, conferences and study tours across Britain. As in previous years, many of these events represent collaborations with other archaeological bodies.

All four lectures delivered during the first half of the year were collaborative events. Around 200 people came to hear Mike Parker Pearson talk on the results of the Stonehenge Riverside Project at a joint meeting with the Devon Archaeological Society at Exeter in January. Fraser Sturt addressed members of the Society and the Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society in Norwich when he gave a talk on 'Change on the eastern fen-edge, 6000-3500BC', whilst Mark Knight told of recent work on the remarkable deposits associated with the Must Farm Late Bronze Age platform at a joint meeting with the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. A joint meeting with the Sussex Archaeological Society in Lewes in April heard Matthew Pope lecture on 'Living at the limit: a Sussex perspective on the Palaeolithic of northern Europe'. The ninth Sara Champion Memorial lecture in October was given by Dr Jody Joy of the British Museum on the topic 'Fancy objects in the British Iron Age: why decorate?'

Conferences during 2009 included a very successful meeting on the Neolithic of the Thames Valley, held in March at the Society of Antiquaries, London. This was followed by a joint meeting with the Royal Astronomical Society at Jodrell Bank on 17th July on 'Archaeology and astronomy', the papers here covering archaeoastronomy on four continents. Both events were well-attended. Another collaborative event saw the Society join with the Annual Quaternary Research Association field meeting, held from 4th-8th April, and based at the University of Southampton. Examining the Quaternary of the Solent Basin and West Sussex, this meeting proved a tremendous success, combining a mix of informed lectures and site visits. The Society also sponsored a highly interesting session on 'Dwelling, lithic scatters and landscape' at the annual meeting of the Theoretical Archaeology Group held at Durham during December.

A lively and informative study tour to Sardinia was led by Colin Burgess. A budget study weekend

explored the Prehistory of the Isle of Wight, while a student study tour led by Bob Johnston and Bob Bewley visited Neolithic and Bronze Age sites in North Wales.

## Europa Prize

Prof Peter Woodman was the 2009 recipient of the Europa Prize which was presented in York. For the second year, the Europa Lecture was preceded by a well-attended day-conference, on this occasion based around the theme 'The pleasure of finding things out: searching for the Mesolithic.' Speakers included Hein Bjerck, Caroline Wickham-Jones, the late Roger Jacobi, Rick Schulting, Alison Sheridan and Doug Price, who addressed topics from the post-glacial colonisation of Britain to the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition. Prof Woodman's Europa lecture, 'The pleasure of finding things out: living with the Irish Mesolithic for 50 years', formed the end-piece of the day immediately after the Society's AGM (see below).

## Research grants

Research Grants were awarded to K. Gibbs for research on the beginnings of the Early Bronze Age in Jordan, R. Madgwick for isotope analysis of pig remains from the later prehistoric midden at Llanmaes, R. Skeates for work on prehistoric caves in Sardinia (Bob Smith Prize) and B. Stewart for research on Middle Stone Age rock shelters in Lesotho. The Leslie Grinsell prize was not awarded. Conference funding was given to D. Filipovic to present a paper on Çatalhöyük at the 'Food and drink in archaeology' conference, University of Nottingham, and to K. Whitaker to present a poster on a reassessment of the palaeopathological record of the Yorkshire Wolds at the North American Palaeopathology Association conference, Chicago.

## The John & Bryony Coles Award

There being no applications, this award was not made in 2009.

## Annual General Meeting for 2008

The AGM was held at 4pm on 30th May, 2009 in the Tempest Anderson Hall, Yorkshire Museum, York, after the Europa day-conference and immediately before the Europa Lecture. The President thanked all Officers and members of Council for their work over the year. He particularly thanked Vice President Mike Parker Pearson who had had to resign due to pressure of work, and retiring Council members P. Garwood, C. Conneller, K. Brophy, M. Hamilton and A. Barclay. Special thanks were extended to Alex Gibson who was standing down as Honorary Secretary after five years in the post. The President thanked all contributors and the organiser Nicky Milner for bringing the Europa day to fruition.



The following officers and members of council were elected:

<i>President</i>	Prof Clive Ruggles
<i>Vice-president</i>	Niall Sharples
<i>Hon Sec</i>	Joshua Pollard
<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	Alastair Ainsworth
<i>Hon Editor</i>	Julie Gardiner
<i>Council Members</i>	Dave Field, Harry Fokkens, Jon Cotton, Eileen Wilkes, Fraser Sturt

#### The Baguley Award

The Baguley Award was presented to Harry Fokkens, Yvonne Achterkamp and Maikel Kuijpers for their paper 'Bracers or bracelets: about the functionality and meaning of Bell Beaker wrist-guards' in Volume 74 of the *Proceedings*.

#### Publications

During 2009 the Society published Volume 75 of the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, which contained twelve refereed papers on various aspects of British and European prehistoric archaeology, many authored by eminent prehistorians. Three editions of *PAST*, the Society's newsletter, were also published during the year. A new and highly successful venture is the launch of the Society's Research Paper series. In its first year, three volumes of collected academic papers were published: *From Bann Flakes to Bushmills* (eds Finlay, McCartan, Milner & Wickham-Jones), *Land and People* (eds Allen, Sharples & O'Connor) and *Materialitas* (eds O'Connor, Cooney & Chapman).

#### Membership

Following a long-term trend, there was a slight decline in membership over the year and this continues to cause concern to Council. New initiatives are being introduced to reverse the decline, to enhance the benefit to existing members and to mitigate costs to the Society. During 2009, work was initiated on a new website and to seek a new publisher for the *Proceedings*.

As ever, the Society could not function without the help of a large number of individuals who give freely of their time to organise events and deliver the results of their research. The Society offers sincere thanks to all the individuals who help throughout the year.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	2009	2008
	£	£
<b><u>Incoming resources</u></b>		
<b>From generated funds</b>		
Voluntary income	53,965	50,868
Investment income	9,221	10,024
	63,186	60,892
<b>From charitable activities</b>		
Publication grants	8,238	8,369
Copyright fees	1,123	2,064
Merchandise	-	28
Publications	456	-
Research papers	5,383	-
Back numbers of Proceedings	2,045	1,811
Conferences	6,949	6,677
Study tours	30,280	4,423
	54,474	23,372
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>117,660</b>	<b>84,264</b>
<b><u>Resources expended</u></b>		
<b>Costs of generating voluntary income</b>		
	8,542	8,894
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Grants	2,339	3,958
Lectures	1,277	894
Proceedings	40,545	46,974
PAST	9,603	9,708
Research papers	6,444	-
Back numbers of Proceedings	1,794	1,595
Conferences	9,047	9,480
Study tours	31,653	5,453
	102,702	78,062
<b>Governance costs</b>	<b>4,352</b>	<b>4,362</b>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>115,596</b>	<b>91,318</b>
<b>Net incoming</b>	<b>2,064</b>	<b>(7,054)</b>
<b><u>/(outgoing) resources</u></b>		
Total funds at 1 January	159,638	163,519
Net incoming	2,064	(7,054)
<b><u>/(outgoing) resources</u></b>		
Revaluation of investments	(5,161)	3,173
<b>Total funds at 31 December</b>	<b>156,541</b>	<b>159,638</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities is an extract from the full accounts of the Society. Copies of the full accounts for 2009 can be obtained from Tessa Machling at the registered office.

### Report of the Treasurer

The Society had an operating surplus of £2,064 in 2009 compared to a deficit of £7,054 in 2008. This improvement was due to two main factors. During the year the Society received a legacy of £3,000 from the estate of Roy Allen, for which it is extremely grateful. As a result of discussions with the printer of the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, the Society was able to negotiate a significant reduction in the production cost compared to previous years.

## AVEBURY TO NORWICH 'THUNDER RUN'

The Society is planning an unusual event to commemorate the 'great coup d'etat' of 1935 that transformed the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia into the Prehistoric Society. Stuart Piggott famously said of reaching the critical AGM in Norwich, 'I drove from Avebury (rather fast, in Keiller's MG Midget) to cast my vote in favour'. While not encouraging fast driving, this event would retrace Piggott's tyre tracks and stop off at selected prehistoric sites en route to reflect on 75 years of research. The itinerary will probably include Avebury, Uffington, Whiteleaf, Wandlebury, High Lodge and Grime's Graves. It will take place over a weekend in early September. Places may be limited. Further details to be posted on the website.

A range of other anniversary events are also being planned, including a picnic at Stonehenge, an autumn debate and a talk on the history of the Society; further information will be posted on the website and in the next issue of *PAST*.

## ROGER JACOBI

Roger Jacobi was a close friend. He died after a long illness on 9th December 2009, aged 62. We had known each other since the early 1970s when Roger had left the Star Carr Mesolithic dog skull on the continental express at Aachen and had been banned from the Natural History Museum's Osteology Room. Roger was allowed into Palaeontology by my then boss, Antony Sutcliffe, to work on some French cave material from the Lartet and Christy Collection which had been transferred from the British Museum and I was told to keep an eye on him. He was more than a little strange, but we got on together OK, and I was very impressed by his studious nature and his microscopic handwriting.

We didn't start publishing together until 1989, about three years into our joint excavations with Chris Stringer at Gough's Cave, Cheddar, Somerset. During that time we had got to know each other very well. We shared a deep commitment to our respective subjects. I was acutely aware of the fact that I was dealing with a man with the most extraordinary mind: an absolutely terrifying memory connected to the ultimate human recall mechanism. Knowing Roger was a bit like making friends with a world-class encyclopaedia.



I recall a morning when we were working together on the fossil mammal collections down at Taunton - a monstrous job. I had gone down to breakfast in our guesthouse and after about half an hour the owner was getting quite distressed by Roger's prolonged absence. I was sent upstairs to tell him his toast was cold and I found him glued to the television, watching the Teletubbies. With some protest he was encouraged to take his breakfast more seriously, but his continual cries of 'La La' and 'Po' very nearly had us thrown out on the streets.

Working with Roger was extremely entertaining. Although we had rarely decided what we were going to say in advance, we battled through each and every sentence like some kind of mortal combat, a tweak here requiring a major verb modification there. Generally speaking, each of us gave as good as we got. At the end of a day-long fight only a good bottle of wine could make the world seem habitable again.

Roger was a brilliant British prehistorian. His knowledge and understanding of the lithic technologies of our Mesolithic and Upper Palaeolithic record was unparalleled. He was also a master of the Middle Palaeolithic and he left many people standing on the Lower Palaeolithic as well. I taught him the rudiments of teeth and bones, and he quickly became very good on many mammalian species present in the British record. It was an absolute privilege to know and work with Roger, an experience which I will always remember and always treasure. In his later years, we published numerous papers together, many of which attempted to define the British late Pleistocene record by virtue of its mammal fauna. Only time will tell if we got the record straight, but I have to say that the process has been electrifying.

I know I am only one of many people who are going to miss Roger a lot. He was taken from us in his prime, and he had so much brewing in his mind which he wanted to do. Roger's paper archive will go to the British Museum and - with time - this will be available to others, but please spare a thought for the work which will need to be done before that's possible!

I have no insight into where people go when they die, but Roger is a person who it will be difficult to shake off, and I'm not even sure many of us will try that hard. I always hoped he would be around for a very long time, and if I know Roger Jacobi, he will.

*Andy Currant, Natural History Museum*

## **NEW DATA ON PREHISTORIC HIGH MOUNTAIN AGRICULTURE IN TEVERGA, SPAIN**

### **Introduction**

For decades now, research into the Iron Age peoples of northern Iberia has been based to a significant extent on the interpretation of classical texts. One focus of particular debate has been the role of agriculture during the period, with some written sources consigning Iron Age peoples to a stage not far from gatherers. However, recent research has challenged theories based on classical sources by demonstrating the existence of a complex agricultural system at this time. We can now also demonstrate the presence of agriculture in high mountain areas on the basis of new excavations at hillforts in the Teverga Valley.



*Location of Teverga Valley*

### **The Astures I Project**

Our current project fits into a completely neglected area of scientific analysis in relation to the high mountain settlements of Asturias which, since the initiation of prehistoric archaeological study, have been considered both geographically and culturally isolated. Early this decade, we set out to question this accepted viewpoint. The project started with a comprehensive study of Iron Age and Roman sites in the Teverga Valley. Beginning our research in 2003 with a review of all archaeological sites in the valley, a year later we undertook small-scale excavations at the hillforts of Garba and Cogollina.

### **Results from excavations at the hillforts in Teverga**

Initially, we became aware from a basic study of the landscape that several characteristics did not support accepted theories. The high mountain fortified communities demonstrated above all a placement pattern which apart from seeking sites with natural defences was seen in all cases to seek locations closest to the best cultivation lands in each valley. The importance of the scarcity of productive agricultural areas can be seen with greater clarity during the fourth century BC. At this time, the settlement at Cogollina - located in an area well suited to pastoral farming and which has also produced evidence for Bronze Age activity - was abandoned and the neighbouring settlement at Garba, adjacent to the best cultivation land in the region, was established. This change is also seen in food sources at the new sites, which were to be inhabited until late in the Roman period (fourth-fifth centuries AD), with diversification in the variety of domesticated animals consumed.

The settlement changes in the valley coincide with a major agricultural revolution in north-eastern Iberia, including the introduction of innovations such as the round mill. In addition, the flotation of sediments from an Iron Age oven at Garba provided us with carbonized fragments of *pisum sativum* (pea) in







of Neolithic pottery; these represent two vessels of Carn Brea type. Later activity at the same site included a Bronze Age cist, Early Christian and later timber and stone structures. Unfortunately, apart from an interim report on an initial trial excavation, the site remains unpublished. Lying seaward of the rock art are the famous inter-tidal ‘prehistoric’ field walls first noted by William Borlase in the mid-eighteenth century and whose presence has led many authors to speculate on the rate of inundation of the land and use of these structures (see <http://www.cismas.org.uk/> for recent work by Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Maritime Archaeology Society (CISMAS) on these structures). There are also upstanding and buried remains of various post-medieval structures, including a couple of gig (or boat) sheds still visible or recorded on early maps prior to the abandonment of the islands by 1861.

The rock art could be associated with any or none of these remains. Photographs of the image have been shown to various rock art specialists but as yet no parallels have been identified. Invoking the image as an early representation of one of the boats used to access the islands is very tempting, but in the absence of dating evidence this cannot be confirmed and the ‘boat’ could just as easily be referencing the post-medieval tradition of pilotage or may not be a boat at all. All parallels or suggestions are welcome.

The Lyonesse Project is sampling a wide range of inter-tidal and submerged deposits for analysis,

radiocarbon and OSL dating and is a collaboration between English Heritage, Kevin Camidge (CISMAS), Dan Charman (Exeter University), Charlie Johns (Historic Environment, Cornwall Council), Steve Mills and Jacqui Mulville (Cardiff University), Helen Roberts (Aberystwyth University) and Todd Stevens (Islands Maritime Archaeology Group, IMAG). Previous work has focused on inter-tidal peats but, with the help of local divers from IMAG, marine archaeologists from CISMAS are using geophysics to locate, record and sample peat deposits and a newly discovered submerged forest. Provisional radiocarbon dates on two peat samples and a section of a willow tree located in deep water at -5.4m (chart datum) indicate that submergence occurred at some point in the Late Mesolithic: dates ranged from 4620 to 5310 cal BC (SUERC-26629/30/1). We are awaiting the results of further sampling for dates and environmental evidence and we will be continuing our fieldwork this year.

This project has a blog that includes more details and photographs at <http://www.Lyonesseproject.wordpress.com> and has links to information on the sister project ‘Islands in a Common Sea’. Further information is also available at <http://www.cismas.org.uk/lyonesse.php> and <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=20033>

*Jacqui Mulville and Charlie Johns*

## A NEW WOODHENGE

Our Hon. Editor, Dr Grahame Clark, F.S.A., has recently completed excavations at the newly discovered 'woodhenge' just outside the City of Norwich. Work has been conducted on behalf of the Norfolk Research Committee, with the able assistance of Mr Rainbird Clarke, Mr C. W. Phillips and Miss G. M. White. The monument was first discovered from the air in 1929 by Wing Commander Insall, V.C., to whom archaeology is already indebted for the recognition of the site of Woodhenge in Wiltshire under rather similar circumstances. It consists of two concentric ditches, the inner broken by a causeway, surrounding a circle of eight wooden post-holes.



*Excavations at the new henge*

The first step in the excavation was the cutting of an 11 ft. section from outside the monument to the edge of the central area within the inner ring, a distance of 100ft. The outer circle proved to be a shallow ditch 12ft. wide at the lip and 4ft. 8ins. deep below the modern surface; the inner circle on the other hand proved to be a substantial ditch 28ft. across and 7ft. 8ins. deep. Between the two ditches, both of which were shallow relative to their width, were the remains of a bank. The inner ditch produced stratigraphical evidence of importance. Below recent ploughsoil was a black layer of silting containing quantities of Early Iron Age pottery, and a strong admixture of Romano-British material, sherds and coins. It is evident that the Early Iron Age levels were disturbed in Romano-British times. Below this level there occurred a sterile zone of primary infilling resting on a thin charcoal stratum on the floor of the ditch. This charcoal seam produced 16 sherds of pottery all of the same rusticated Beaker ware.

The central area was stripped to the gravel and sand surface in order to identify constructional features. The sites of the post-holes, revealed by Wing-Commander Insall's air-photographs, were found quite easily. They fall within a horse-shoe plan, being open to the causeway entrance. Each of the post-holes was provided with a ramp; an interesting fact which emerged was that the

ramps all point in the same general direction, their axes being at right angles to the entrance of the inner ditch. The latter observation is clear proof that the construction of the timber rings must have preceded the creation of the inner earthwork, though perhaps by no short margin.

Time and resources did not allow the complete excavation of the central features of the monument, but the nature of the post-holes was satisfactorily established from the excavation of two examples. One of these was cut to reveal the post-hole and ramp in section, the other to obtain as perfect a section of the post-hole itself as could be obtained. Both were sunk 7-8ft. into the solid gravel. Naturally, the wood of the posts themselves had gone long ago, but their positions were marked by 'post-pipes' and the charred bases and sides to the posts. These preserved the outlines of oak trunks 3ft. in diameter.

Like the original Woodhenge and Stonehenge itself, the Norwich woodhenge seems to have been primarily a sacred place of the Beaker people, in the proximity of which are the remains of numerous round barrows. It is anticipated that the results of this excavation, conducted using modern techniques, along with a review of the origin and distribution of henge monuments, will be published in the *Proceedings* for 1936.

## FORTHCOMING EVENT

Prehistoric Congress: The Second International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, following on the first session held in London in 1932 (see 'New books', below), is to take place at Oslo in August 1936.

## NEW BOOKS

Members may be interested in the following recent publications that address prehistoric topics, the first title being the most recent work by our President, Prof. V. Gordon Childe.

*The Prehistory of Scotland.* By V. G. Childe. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co. Ltd, 1935. pp. XV, 285. 15s.

*Proceedings of the First International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, London, August 1932.* Oxford University Press, 1934. pp. VI, 322. 21s.

*An Introduction to the Archaeology of Wiltshire* (2nd edn., revised and enlarged). By Mrs M. E. Cunnington. C.H. Woodward, 1934. pp. XI, 167, 43. 4s.

*Stonehenge and its Date.* By R. H. Cunnington. Methuen, 1935. pp. VII, 135. 5s.





## MISSING GOLD CUP!

Members are requested to assist the *Cornish Times* in its search for the missing Rillaton gold cup, which disappeared mysteriously some thirty years ago. The cup was discovered in 1837, in a barrow near the Cheesewring, and exhibited at a meeting of the Royal Archaeological Institute in June 1867. Eventually passing to the custody of Osborne House, its whereabouts are currently unknown. Members are requested to contact the Hon. Secretary, G. Maynard, with any information that might lead to its rediscovery.

## WORK AT MAIDEN CASTLE CONTINUES APACE

*We have just received a short note on the work at Maiden Castle by one of our members who was able to visit the excavations. It is rather idiosyncratic but we think it worth including before the formal interim report as it gives a flavour of the great man at work.*

I was in the club on Saturday night when I bumped into Rik Wheeler at the bar, with a gorgeous young filly, name of Leslie I believe. He explained that he was lucky to catch me as he was only in town for the weekend to sort out some financial stuff at his institute. He insisted I come out to view the new dig. 'Another Roman town,' I said, trying to sound knowledgeable. 'No, no,' he cried, 'I've had enough of them. They're all the bloody same - no challenge, you know. Got something completely different this time - don't you read the papers?' Stupid question - life's too short to spend it reading newspapers.

Seems there was bit of a bash on Thursday as it was his birthday: 45, he claims, though I find this difficult to believe. Well, why not, I thought; got no pressing engagements. So I rose early on the appointed day and headed off to Dorchester and the hillfort of Maiden Castle. Tessa was there to pick me up at the station; Rik was busy but as usual Tessa helped to keep things moving along. The Castle was just outside the town and is a rather impressive collection of enormous earthworks. Tried to get Tessa to drive me round the ditches but she would have nothing of it - didn't want to get caught by the boss, I suspect.



*Workmen at Maiden Castle*

Rik was off showing some youngster called Hawkes and his wife around the place so I teamed up with the Colonel, who is the local connection. Rik has really excelled himself this time - seemed to be hundreds of people milling around. Apparently, the dig is famous and people are flocking in from all over the country. Everything is organised in a thoroughly military fashion as you might expect. Lots of local men picking and shovelling. Then, when they get down to the delicate stuff, the students and volunteers come in brushing and scraping, all watched by the team leaders who do the drawing. A lot of them are staying in a little tent encampment amongst the ramparts which looked quite cosy. Anyway, it is all damn impressive, but only what you would expect, really. He has been doing this for a long time now.

We started our tour at the southwest corner where they had found a very nice house - a circular structure with a chalk wall and evidence for a ring of stout posts holding up the roof. There was a nice, well-built hearth and a pair of ovens in the interior. You could really imagine people living in it, all snug as a bug in a rug. There were a couple of other houses nearby, but the most impressive were the pit dwellings - huge deep holes in the ground. Apparently, that was what people used to live in before they started building these roundhouses - primitive and a tad inconvenient if you ask me, but what do I know.

Nearby they dug a trench through the earthworks and that was impressive. The bank was almost 20 feet high and had clearly been rebuilt several times with elaborate limestone revetments. The limestone had to be imported from quarries over 2 miles away and there was lots of it so this must have been hard work for somebody. I must say it was impressive but a bit dangerous: walls of dirt and stones all propped up with a few planks. The Colonel was all for going in to the centre and pointing out the Neolithic flints at the bottom but I was having none of it. I'm not ready to give up my seat at the bar just yet.

The other area they were working on was at the opposite end of the fort, which was some distance away. I got up a bit of a sweat just walking over but it made me realise what a huge place this was - a town and no mistake. They had opened up one of the gateways and it is very

impressive: big banks and deep ditches, limestone revetments and a nice flint road surface. The whole thing had been blocked off by a stone-walled gate in the Roman period. Rik thinks this was built at the same time as a temple which he had dug the year before. The most amazing thing was that they had discovered an earlier enclosure underneath the hillfort that dates back to the Neolithic. The Colonel showed me the ditches underneath the road at the entrance, packed full of pottery, flint tools and animal bones. Rik was a bit shocked about that, he said: a bit too prehistoric for his tastes.

Anyway, the day was drawing to a close now and the trippers were thinning out when we went up to the huts and met up with Rik. He was a bit excited, wondering what his present was this year - last year they gave him a crocodile! I thought he was pulling my leg at first but, no, he insisted that it was true and showed me a picture of him and his boy larking around with the beast. They had kept it as the dig mascot and ritually sacrificed it at the end of the season. 'I wonder what archaeologists would make of that when they dig it up in the future?' he said. I laughed at that as no one would be daft enough ever to redig one of Rik's sites; what would be the point?

*The correspondence goes on to describe some of the social events of the birthday party but as we are running out of space we have had to cut these and they are perhaps a bit risky for some of our more sensitive members.*



M.C. 1935. Alligator with Dr +  
Mr. M. Wheeler.

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