

Association *for* Environmental Archaeology

AEA Newsletter 140

August 2018

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Dear members,

Last month we lost two wonderful colleagues, Prof. Gordon Hillman and Dr Eileen Turner. Obituaries for these two movers and shakers in environmental archaeology who transformed our discipline in very different ways are included in the current and next newsletter. Gordon Hillman taught me as an undergraduate, supervising my dissertation and inspiring me to become an archaeobotanist. On some of my species lists and those of my contemporaries you may find the initials 'GOK' against those items that were difficult to identify, standing for Gordon Only Knows. To paraphrase the Spanish saying "Caminar es atesorar" and with a nod to Robert Macfarlane's writings, to talk with Gordon was to gather treasure. Although, I didn't know Eileen well we corresponded in by email and I was lucky enough to meet her in Dublin a couple of years ago. Both Eileen and Gordon will be sorely missed.

Looking forward, plans for the autumn conference are well underway as we return for the third time to Aarhus. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is 14th September, when early registration also closes.

We are really enjoying your entries to the AEA photo competition. The deadline is 1st of October so there is still plenty of



time to getting snapping #ScientistsandSamples. We are also still accepting nominations to join the association's Managing Committee as Secretary, Ordinary Member or Student Representative. Further details, along with nominations received so far are included in this newsletter. Voting will take place at the AGM, at the autumn conference in Aarhus. I look forward to seeing many of you there but until then enjoy the remaining summer months and "the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness".

Gill Campbell,
August 2018

The Consuming Prehistory Project

The Consuming Prehistory Project builds upon the AHRC funded 'Feeding Stonehenge Project' and is being run in collaboration between Cardiff University, York University and English Heritage.

Food lies at the centre of human existence; people, where possible, eat every day, to satisfy physical needs but also as part of cultural and social interactions. The 'Feeding Stonehenge Project' offered a range of intriguing archaeological case studies that demonstrated how humanities themed research connects with, draws upon and stimulates the scientific disciplines.

Through the twin core themes of food and science and using Stonehenge and Durrington Walls as key evidence sources, the Consuming Prehistory Project aims to substantially extend the reach and significance of the original research undertaken during the Feeding Stonehenge Project, presenting to new and varied audiences. The project taps into the public appetite for all things edible by providing a prehistoric perspective on how foods were treated (acquired, prepared and consumed) in Neolithic Britain.

The project team has designed and developed a range of teaching resources in collaboration with STEM Learning. These target key areas of the curriculum and enhance learning by providing varied and exciting activity sheets, interactive resources, videos and teacher information. Collaborative relationships have also been developed with the volunteers at Stonehenge and Operation Nightingale, with whom we ran a Ready Steady Cook the Neolithic competition, which produced some fantastic (and crucially edible) recipes using only ingredients that would have been available in the Neolithic.

The project's Neolithic pop up shop "Stonehengebury's" has visited Bryn Celli Ddu on Anglesey, Bluedot, Lunar and Green Man festivals so far this year, delivered by Cardiff

University's [Guerilla Archaeology](#) and engaging with over 6000 people in the process. Participants shopped for a "feast," selecting ingredients from the "Family Favourites" and "New and Improved" sections (with a few red herrings thrown in) before suggesting dishes they could contribute to a feast. The "Homewares" section introduces the prehistoric technologies available, including the very popular "Food Processor" (quern stone).

The project is working towards a number of high profile events in the next few months. On the 1st and 2nd September, the [Big Feast Weekend](#) at Stonehenge will include input from archaeologists, food interpreters, and local food producers. Live cooking demonstrations, flint knapping, talks from experts and the pop up shop will be ongoing throughout the weekend. The project will also be present at [New Scientist Live](#) in London's Excel Centre between 20th and 23rd September.

Rhiannon Philp, Research Assistant, Consuming Prehistory Project



Consuming Prehistory's Neolithic pop up shop delivered by Guerilla Archaeology team at Green Man Festival August 2018

9TH BIRD WORKING GROUP MEETING (8-11th June 2018; University of Sheffield)



The Bird Working Group of the International Council for Archaeozoology (ICAZ) held its 9th meeting June 8th-11th at the University of Sheffield. ICAZ working group meetings are always rewarding, but this one was special: dedicated to Dale Serjeantson, to celebrate her key role in founding the BWG and her extensive

contributions to avian archaeology. Her large body of work extends well beyond bird remains, but she is a seminal figure in this area. This conference demonstrated that one of Dale's most important contributions has been inspiring, training, and supporting younger researchers, many of whom presented their work.

An evening reception in Dale's honor at the Millennium Gallery was followed two solid days of papers and posters at the Humanities Research Institute. With more than 80 participants, this was the largest BWG meeting yet, including 36 oral presentations and 21 posters, and participants from five continents. Contributions addressed advances in methodology as well as the myriad uses of birds – meat, eggs, feathers (including as quill pens), bones, symbols, augury, and more – around the world and from the Upper Paleolithic to the recent past. The challenges of identification formed an ongoing topic of discussion, with some contributions to resolving them. Tracing the process of bird domestication (chicken, goose, turkey) and the movement of these domesticates around the world was another recurring theme.



Most participants stayed another day to seek living birds on an excursion to the Peak District, as well as to visit the monuments at Arbor Low and Gib Hill. While the ring ouzel was elusive, the landscape was beautiful and the weather fine – a wonderful finish to a productive meeting. Thanks are due to the organizers, whose hard work assembled the stimulating program and kept it all running smoothly: Umberto Albarella, Polydora Baker, Evelyne Browaeys, Chiara Corbino, Jacqui Mulville, Ged Poland, and Fay Worley.



Nerissa Russell, Cornell University

Celebrating our Woodland Heritage University of Bradford

16-18 November 2018

Conference website: <https://woodlandheritageconference2018.com/>

Email: woodlandsconference@bradford.ac.uk

20th Fish Remains Working Group (FRWG) Portland, Oregon, USA

26 –30th November 2019

For further details contact: virginia@pdx.edu

Second Call for the 39th AEA Conference in Aarhus (Denmark)

**Moesgaard Museum and Department of Archaeology &
Heritage Studies, Aarhus University**

Thursday 29th November – Saturday 1st December 2018

Dear prospective participants and attendees,

Time is passing quickly and we are only three months away from the 39th Association for Environmental Archaeology Conference that will take place in Aarhus at Moesgaard Museum and AU campus. We have now been joined by Søren M. Sindbæk (Aarhus University), who represents UrbNet (Centre for Urban Network Evolutions) in the organizing panel.

We are expecting a very interesting series of oral and poster presentations, starting from the three keynote lectures by Peter Rowley-Conwy (Durham University), Bent Vad Odgaard (Aarhus University) and Søren M. Sindbæk (Aarhus University & UrbNet). Further information on these is provided below.

Early registration ends on 19th October 2018, although for organizational reasons we would like to ask you to kindly register as soon as possible. You will find all the necessary information on our webpages at <https://events.au.dk/aea2018aarhus/registration.html>

Please don't forget that the deadline for abstracts is 14th September 2018 (<http://events.au.dk/aea2018aarhus/abstract-submission.html>) and this now coincides with the deadline for submissions for students who may want to compete for the two students bursaries. There are two on offer, covering accommodation costs and the conference fee.

For travel arrangements and accommodation please check out this link:

<http://conferences.au.dk/aea2018/your-stay-in-aarhus/>

We look forward to welcoming you soon,

With best wishes from the organizers

Marcello A. Mannino , Associate Professor in Archaeological Science, School of Culture & Society, Aarhus University

Peter Hambro Mikkelsen, Department of Archaeological Science and Conservation, Vice-director of Moesgaard Museum

Søren M. Sindbæk, Professor with Special Responsibilities, UrbNet, School of Culture & Society, Aarhus University

Keynote lectures

On the first day of the conference (29th November 2018) there will be the following three keynote lectures:

Where it all began: shell middens, archaeological science, and the setting of archaeological agendas**Peter Rowley-Conwy**

Department of Archaeology, Durham University, United Kingdom

In this contribution I explore scientific archaeology as applied to shell middens, from the earliest times. At several junctures shell midden research has produced unexpected and anomalous results that have conflicted with previous understandings. The first of these occurred in 1848, when human-made artefacts were found in shell deposits previously thought to be of natural origin. This led to the conclusion that shell middens were human settlement sites. On several subsequent occasions shell middens have produced other anomalies, which force changes in archaeological understandings. This can be tracked right up to the present day. I will argue that, contrary to many recent assertions, archaeological theory does *not* lead the way and set the disciplinary agenda: archaeological science does.

Landscape openness and land-use in Danish prehistory: pollen and erosion evidence**Bent Vad Odgaard**

Department of Geoscience, Aarhus University, Denmark

[Abstract forthcoming]

Putting context first: resource networks, urban evolutions, and high-definition data**Søren Michael Sindbæk**

Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, Aarhus University, Denmark

UrbNet, School of Culture and Society, Aarhus University, Denmark

Urban sites are some of the richest archives available for the archaeology of complex societies across the world. The massive remains left by dense agglomerations of specialized and differentiated communities from ancient times to the present offer an alluring yet dauntingly complex record of anthropogenic processes in the past. Currently, the practice of urban archaeology is changing spectacularly. The application of increasingly sophisticated analytical methods and digital recording applications are transforming the means of archaeology to document and explore the big data of urban sites. The Centre for Urban Network Evolutions (UrbNet), based at Aarhus University, Denmark, was established in 2015 with a grant awarded by the Danish National Research Foundation. Its mission is to study urban societies in terms of their social networks in the broadest sense. In archaeological and historical research, this approach represents a new, explorative, even experimental perspective on a crucial topic. Approaching urbanism as network dynamics, we aim to develop a high-definition archaeology to determine how urban networks catalysed societal and environmental expansions and crises in the past. Traditional archaeological approaches to urban archaeology have been limited by a "feature first" approach, in which evidence is separated and analysed according to material classes and only re-integrated at a highly generalised level of interpretation. By introducing a "context first" approach in which a multi-dimensional interpretation of individual contexts forms the point of departure for integrated "biographies" of urban sites and groups, this will stimulate a new approach to urban archaeology.

Professor Gordon Hillman (July 20th 1943 - 1st July 2018)

Gordon was an inspiration to all those who had the privilege to work or study with him, his enthusiasm for plants—ancient and modern—was infectious. His legacy for archaeobotany is unsurpassed: the precision of his identification methods; the rigorous nature of his recording; the application of new exploratory techniques to study ancient plant materials; his relentless pursuit of how the present informed the past and people and plants interacted, all influence how we deal with and interpret archaeobotanical assemblages.

Gordon began his formal academic education in 1965 at Reading University, where he studied Agricultural Botany with Hugh Bunting, and it was here that his career began to take shape. Professor Bunting was instrumental in arranging for him to study archaeobotany with Maria Hopf in Mainz, a period that no doubt influenced his decision to go to Turkey in 1969 on a five-year fellowship with the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara. During this time he started familiarising himself with the local floras and collecting modern specimens of fruits and seeds that he realised were so vital for identifications of ancient plant remains. Gordon was asked to take part on the excavations directed by David French at Aşvan, a small village in Elâziğ Province (northeast Turkey) threatened by imminent flooding of the Euphrates due to the building of the Keban dam. The Aşvan Project (<https://biaa.ac.uk/research/item/name/the-asvan-project>) not only encompassed rescue excavations but also the recording of all aspects of village life—soon to be lost—and, most importantly for Gordon, documenting the non-mechanised agricultural methods that had continued unchanged from prehistory to the 20th century. From these observations he developed his innovative crop processing models and subsequently showed how these could be applied to archaeological samples in order to reconstruct ancient husbandry practices.

Gordon's participation was eagerly sought at other excavations and in 1972/3 he joined Andrew Moore's team working at Tell Abu Hureyra on the Euphrates in Syria (<https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/abuhureyra/statement.php>), also under threat of flooding because of dam construction. Occupation at the site spanned approximately 4,500 years and uniquely offered the possibility of studying the transition from foraging for wild plants to the cultivation of domestic crops. The quantity, quality and diversity of charred plant taxa in the samples

recovered from Epipalaeolithic and Pre-Pottery Neolithic levels proved to be exceptional. He returned to the UK in 1975 to take up a part-time lectureship in the Department of Plant Sciences at Cardiff University and was also employed by the then Department of Environment Ancient Monuments Laboratory (now English Heritage) to study the plant remains from archaeological sites in Wales. In 1981 David Harris (who himself had just been appointed head of the Department of Environment) suggested he apply for a research post at the Institute of Archaeology in London on a SERC-funded project entitled: '*Early manipulations of plant resources in Near Eastern steppe and riverine forest*', the remit of which was to investigate plant-based subsistence at Abu Hureyra. Gordon was duly appointed and it was only in this post that he was able to begin in earnest his study of the archaeobotany at the site.

Whilst working on the Abu Hureyra project he was able to further develop his ideas on early cultivation and the evolution of domestic crops; his notes on how to distinguish between wild and domestic cereal species are still crucial for any archaeobotanists attempting to make identifications at early agrarian sites. Gordon proved to be an invaluable member of staff at the institute and in 1983 he was appointed as a lecturer. He taught on the new MSc in Bioarchaeology course from its inception and this is when so many students benefited from his inspirational teaching, his patience and generosity with time. Gordon became involved with more sites worldwide and this meant there were always samples for Masters and PhD students to work on. He set high standards in his own work and naturally expected others—whether they were his peers or his students—to aspire to similar heights, but in his company the learning process was always a great pleasure.

He took early retirement in 1997 (by which time he was Reader in Archaeobotany) after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. This began another fruitful period when he was able to devote time to his work on edible wild foods in Britain: their collection, processing and consumption. His subsequent collaboration in 2009 with Ray Mears on the '*Wild Food*' television programme (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006rcv4/episodes/guide>) brought him media fame. Despite the increasingly debilitating effects of the Parkinson's disease, until the last few months of his life Gordon continued to explore the countryside near his home in Hailsham and record notes on wild species.

Sue Colledge

AEA Annual General Meeting and Managing Committee Elections

The 2018 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 30th November, at the autumn conference in Aarhus (<http://conferences.au.dk/aea2018/>). This short meeting will include discussion of the Association and Managing Committee's activities over the last 12 months and plans for the future, presentation of our accounts for the preceding year, announcement of the winners of the 2018 John Evan's dissertation prize and provide a venue for discussion of any other business proposed prior to the meeting. This year we will also discuss proposals for supply of hardcopy journals to Members who renew or join after the subscription deadline in January.

If you would like to propose an item for AOB please contact the Secretary (Fay Worley; envarch@envarch.net) or Chair (Gill Campbell; Gill.Campbell@HistoricEngland.org.uk) in advance of the AGM.

AGM Agenda:

- Report on Committee activities and John Evans Prize result
- Election of new Committee members
- Treasurer's report including summary accounts
- Any Other Business
- Election results

Committee Elections 2018

We have received a number of nominations, which can be found below, and the call for nominations remains open. If you would like to stand as **Secretary**, **Ordinary Member** or **Student Representative** please apply online <http://envarch.net/nominations/> providing names and email addresses for two other AEA members who have agreed to nominate and second you.

Details of the roles were published in the last newsletter (NL 139). Please contact the committee through envarch@envarch.net for further information or with any queries.

Voting in the election:

Voting in the election is in person or by proxy. If you will not be able to attend the AGM, an attending member of the Association can vote on your behalf, provided a statement appointing your proxy is given to the Committee prior to the AGM. The Chair, Secretary and any other attending committee members are happy to act as proxy voters. Please contact us through envarch@envarch.net or our individual email addresses (<http://envarch.net/committee-members/>) if you would like us to act as your proxy.

Nominations Received:

Secretary (one position vacant, a four-year term)

Don O'Meara, Historic England

Nominated by Gill Campbell, Seconded by Fay Worley

I am originally from Ireland where I studied history and archaeology at University College Cork, before undertaking further study at Durham University. I have a background in archaeobotany and worked in the commercial sector for almost 10 years. During this time I worked for North Pennines Archaeology, later named Wardell-Armstrong Archaeology, on a range of sites across Britain. The geographical spread of these sites and the range of periods which can be covered by this work helped develop my interest in sampling and archaeobotanical recovery which I am currently exploring on other projects. My current key sampling project is the Ribchester Revisited project in Lancashire with Jim Morris and Duncan Sayer of the University of Central Lancashire. With

Jim's zooarchaeology background and my archaeobotanical background the key thing this project has taught me is that out-numbering other members of the project is the simplest way to ensure a project is heavily environmental archaeology driven.

In 2016 I joined Historic England where I work as a Science Advisor for the North East and Hadrian's Wall. This primarily involved dealing with enquiries from local authority archaeologists and commercial archaeology units on the use of archaeological science in development led archaeological work.

I had previously been on the AEA committee between 2011-15 where I organised the AEA Book List. My familiarity with the workings of the AEA committee, and the support of my employer would, I believe, make me a suitable candidate for secretary of the AEA. As well as archaeobotany I have an interest in community archaeology which I have been able to explore through my membership of groups such as the West Cumbria Archaeology Society, and through my work with the Council for British Archaeology-Northern Section. I also have an interest in telephone boxes and I strongly feel that should any telephone box related questions be posed to the committee I would be the ideal candidate to answer them.

Ordinary Member (three positions vacant, each a four-year term)

Daisy Spenser, NUI Galway

Nominated by Rhiannon Philp, Seconded by Danielle de Carle

I am applying to be an Ordinary Member of the AEA Committee having come to the end of my two year Student Representative role. I have very much enjoyed being a part of the committee and getting to know the community of environmental archaeologists through meetings and conferences. For those that don't know me, I am just finishing a PhD at NUI Galway focusing on human-environment interactions in Co. Clare, Ireland, during prehistory. I have used pollen, chironomid and organic and inorganic geochemistry for my study and have been trained and become proficient at both pollen and chironomid analysis. Previously I completed a research MPhil at the University of Cambridge (focused on soil micromorphology) and a BSc (Hons) in Archaeology at the University of Durham (with a dissertation focused on aDNA).

I have been involved with a number of research projects both within the UK and Ireland, and further afield in Greece and Libya, where aspects of environmental archaeology have played an important role. Having also worked in the commercial sector in the UK I have an appreciation of the importance of environmental archaeology in this context which I think the AEA can convey to commercial sectors. During my second year as a Student Representative I have been helping with the newsletter, specifically the 'Musings from Social Media' page and would be interested in continuing to work on the newsletter, or any other specific roles that need to be filled on the committee, should I be successful in my application. I have found the AEA to be a welcoming and thought-provoking organisation and would relish the chance to continue to work with you all as I transition from my student to professional life as an environmental archaeologist.

Student Representative (one position vacant, a two-year term)

Nora Battermann, University of Leicester

Nominated by Richard Thomas, Seconded by David Smith

I am a zooarchaeologist, currently busy with my M3C/AHRC funded PhD on human-fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) interactions over the past 10,000 years in England. My research is interdisciplinary and I strongly believe that the integration of different strands of evidence is an essential part of deepening our understanding of the past and present.

Having initially taken up the study of archaeology due to an interest in the Romans, I have discovered my love for zooarchaeology early on in my BA Archaeology degree at the University of Leicester. My undergraduate dissertation on exotic animals in the Roman world and how they can inform our understanding of Roman conceptions of the 'wild' was awarded the John Evans dissertation prize in 2016 and I have been a member of

the AEA since the same year, visiting conferences in Rome (2016), Edinburgh (2017) and Birmingham (2018). My postgraduate studies took me to the University of York where I further delved into Environmental Archaeology completing my MSc Zooarchaeology in September 2017. During my time in York my interest in interdisciplinary research grew and led to my dissertation on cats in rural Roman Britain which considered not only zooarchaeological evidence but also primary sources and depictions.

Following my year in York, I received M3C funding from the AHRC and am now investigating human-fox relationships as part of my PhD at the University of Leicester. My work integrates zooarchaeology, stable isotope analysis and textual/visual sources and is to be situated within the realms of 'social zooarchaeology' and connect with modern attitudes to foxes. First results were presented at the AEA Pests in Society conference in Birmingham (2018) in form of a poster which has been awarded the conference's poster price.

These days, with mounting pressure to produce research with 'impact', environmental archaeology finds itself in a strong position to apply interdisciplinary research in order to form meaningful interpretations of the past. As all disciplines encompassed by the AEA develop and embrace this approach, the involvement of young researchers becomes essential and I would therefore like to take up the position as student representative of the AEA in order to further promote and develop environmental archaeology amongst the student body.

#ScientistsandSamples

Have you got a stunning photo of a scientist and a sample? It could be something as simple as sampling in action, processing and sorting a sample or analysing a sample; or it could be a more imaginative take on the title. We want to see people as well as the samples/sampling. When you've chosen your photo/s, then submit them to the Association for Environmental Archaeology photo competition at <http://envarch.net/photo-competition-scientistsandsamples/>.

The top 12 photos will be chosen by the Association for Environmental Archaeology (AEA) committee, these will then go out to a public vote, with the winner being announced at the 39th Association for Environmental Archaeology Conference hosted at Moesgaard Museum (MOMU) and Aarhus University 'Moesgaard Campus' in Denmark on 29th November to 1st December 2018.

The competition is only open to members of the AEA. Full entry instructions can be found on the website.

Prizes: 1st Prize - £50; 2nd Prize - £30 and 3rd Prize - £20.

Competition deadline: 1st October 2018

Good luck!

The AEA Committee





Musings from Social Media



Thats a wrap for #QUAPAL18 - we hope you enjoyed the tweets! A huge thanks to everyone who put in the effort to present and/or follow along - We hope to see you again next year!



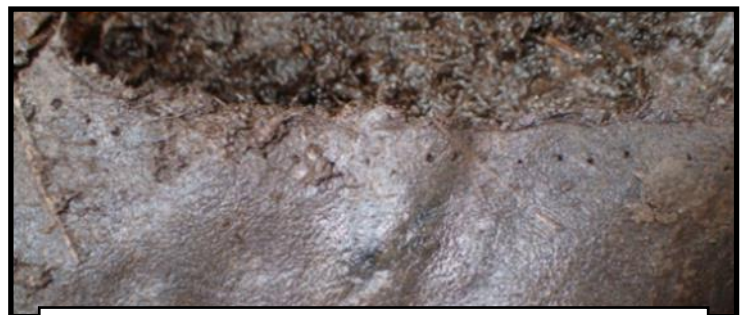
QUAPAL18
@QUAPAL_18



#WetlandArchaeology has all the best...MASKS #awesomeness



Consuming Prehistory
@eatthepast



With hair still attached & a row of needle holes along the top, this piece of seal skin clothing was found yesterday at #Nunalleq #Arctic

"Suddenly the past doesn't look so bleak".



Deep in thought! Cores pose many a question!

The wattle flooring of the Iron Age house at #blackloch Waterlogging of the floors has meant exceptional preservation



The finale to 2016's excavation at #blackloch: the primary entrance to a 2400 year old roundhouse



[http://
www.envarch.net](http://www.envarch.net)

The AEA

The AEA promotes the advancement of the study of human interaction with the environment in the past through archaeology and related disciplines.

We hold annual conferences and other meetings, produce a quarterly newsletter for members, and publish our conference monographs, as well as our journal 'Environmental Archaeology: The journal of human palaeoecology'.

Key Dates

Celebrating our Woodland Heritage

16-18 November 2018

AEA Autumn Conference

29 November—1 December 2018

Notes from the Newsletter Editors

Please note that thesis submission forms can be found on the website which gives AEA members an opportunity to publish abstracts of their postgraduate thesis.

We are always keen to receive newsletter content, especially from our non UK members. To submit an article, please email word documents and images to;

newsletter@envarch.net

Next deadline: 20th October 2018

Rob Batchelor, Danielle de Carle, Rhiannon Philp
and Daisy Spencer