



19th Century witches cursing pot from Anglesey, Gwynedd Museum and Art Galley

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

CBA Wales/Cymru

CYNGOR ARCHAEOLEG BRYDEINIG

<http://britarch.ac.uk/cbawales>

Newsletter 44 Autumn 2012

Community Archaeology in South Powys

Volunteers from Llangynidr Local History Society enjoyed two weeks of excavation at Penygaer Roman vicus in June this year. The work of this society was highlighted nationally by Bev Kerr in CBA's Conservation Update last October. In 2011 the society funded two weeks of excavations supervised by archaeologists from CPAT. As a result of this collaboration Cadw felt that investigations should continue this year, and CPAT asked the society to provide a workforce. The 2011 excavations were reported in CPAT's Autumn newsletter.

This year volunteer numbers were swelled by members of the Monmouthshire Antiquarian Association and Brecon U3A archaeology group. Surprisingly over ten days of field work only two half days were lost to poor weather. A total of three trenches were opened exploring an industrial complex identified in the 2011 season and a series of street front buildings located by geophysics.



Finds included a range of ceramics, glass and metal work and quantities of metal working waste. It is hoped that examination of the finds will give a more accurate date of occupation of the site and answer questions about how this fortlet fits into the bigger Roman picture in the middle Usk Valley.

Thanks are extended to the volunteers, landowner and supporters in the local community, to Cadw who funded the excavation this year and to CPAT who supervised the work. A report is forthcoming.

Glaslyn Prehistory Project

The Glaslyn Prehistory Project was established to explore the archaeological and environmental history of the Glaslyn Estuary in north-west Wales. Using a combination of archival research, survey, excavation and environmental sampling the project aims to explore the evolution of the Glaslyn estuary and its pre-historic settlement. To date, work has concentrated upon the rock shelter of Garreg Hyldrem (near Tremadog). The site was discovered by Clive and Glyn Hudson, who noticed marine shells within a rock crevice, whilst rock climbing. Small scale excavations within the rock shelter have demonstrated the presence of *in situ* midden deposits containing substantial quantities of marine shells, animal bones and lithics. Bone and shell preservation within the midden is exceptional due to the presence of calcium carbonate percolating through the rock face and thus providing an alkaline micro-environment within the rock shelter conducive to preservation. It is likely that the midden may originally have been much larger, extending beyond the drip-line of the rock shelter. However, beyond the protected micro-environment of the shelter the soils are acidic and no bone or shell has been preserved. Radiocarbon dates produced from shell and charcoal has dated the midden to the Early Mesolithic (*circa* 7,000 BC).



Directly overlying the midden a number of hearths were identified. It was initially assumed that these hearths were modern, the result of small fires lit by climbers, however, a single radiocarbon date taken from one of the hearths has produced an Early Bronze Age date. This Early Bronze Age reuse of the rockshelter has been further confirmed by the presence of a barbed and tanged arrowhead found on the edge of the midden.

The full publication of the excavations at Garreg Hyldrem are forthcoming and fieldwork within the Glaslyn Estuary will continue in 2013.

Clive Hudson and Gary Robinson

For further information contact: Gary Robinson g.robinson@bangor.ac.uk

DIG DEEP FOR YAC!

Save the Young Archaeologists' Club's Branches

How do we ensure a future for our past? The answer lies with today's young people. They are the past's future. They need opportunities now to get involved, take an interest, and develop a passion for the past which will stay with them for the rest of their lives. And in order for this to happen, they, and YAC, need enthusiastic adults to share their love of the past and all that archaeology can offer.

What is YAC?

YAC is part of the Council for British Archaeology, a registered charity. It is the only UK-wide organisation working specifically with young people up to the age of seventeen interested in archaeology. There are two parts to YAC:

YAC UK, a UK-wide membership package with the key components of:

- *Young Archaeologist*, a bright, fun, quarterly magazine packed with hands-on activities to try, exciting features, and competitions to enter. The magazine raises awareness amongst young people of key issues within archaeology and heritage, and provides a means for them to have their say on items that interest or concern them.

- a YAC Pass giving free or discounted entry to independent heritage sites across the UK, allowing members and their families to build a rich knowledge of both local and UK-wide heritage in an affordable manner.

Joining YAC UK costs from £15 and you can find out more, including how to join, via our secure online shop, at www.yac-uk.org/join

YAC Branches, a UK-wide network of volunteer-led, community-based youth groups providing young people with a regular programme of exciting, hands-on activities. A clear strength of the YAC Branch network is its practical approach to discovery and learning. Branch members have unique opportunities to experience a range of activities including: trying out historical crafts, visiting and caring for heritage sites, discovering the skills of excavation, and conducting experimental archaeology. Branches enable cross-generational working, peer-to-peer learning, and create links between archaeological and heritage professionals and the communities within which they work.

Volunteering with YAC

YAC Branches exist due to the hard work and dedication of over 600 adult volunteers, but we always need more people to support our network of Branches, including the seven Branches currently based in Wales. Our volunteers come from different backgrounds: some are professional archaeologists or museum workers; others are parents, teachers, or are just adults interested in archaeology and working with young people. The diverse mixture of Leader backgrounds gives the Club a wide range of skills and experiences. Training is available to YAC volunteers and additional support is given through an email network, via the YAC Leaders' Handbook and through support from YAC HQ staff in York. Volunteering with YAC is rewarding and fun, as one of our Leaders testifies:



Recording a historic graveyard



YAC Leaders taking part in Leader training!

I have been a Leader at two YAC Branches. The highs have included examining environmental finds and soil samples which involved getting exceedingly wet; fieldwalking mostly when the sun shone, but occasionally in the rain (more wet); and visiting historic and prehistoric sites. Leaders and members have had the opportunity to experience many different aspects of archaeology, with the emphasis being on enjoying everything we do.”

You can find out more about what volunteering with YAC involves on the YAC website: www.yac-uk.org/leaders/apply

Supporting YAC's work

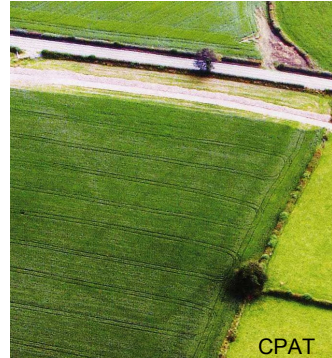
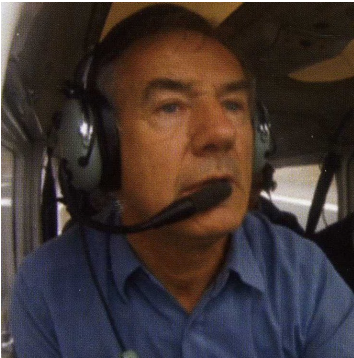
In order to carry out the wide range of work we do for young people and support our network of Branches, we need to raise income. You may like to consider supporting YAC by making a donation, adopting a YAC Branch or fundraising on our behalf. Full details, including ideas to inspire creative fundraising, are online, www.yac-uk.org/yaccampaign YAC, and the young people it works with, look forward to your support.

Wendi Terry, Head of YAC.

Bob Jones—in memoriam

In January Bob Jones tragically died in an air crash on Long Mountain near Welshpool. Bob, who was the driving force behind the establishment of the Mid Wales Airfield near Welshpool in 1990, had for many years acted as pilot to aerial archaeologists in Wales and the West Midlands, helping to discover and record many new sites from the air.

Bob loved flying, it was his passion. Another of Bob's interests was history and archaeology, but more than that he became an invaluable member of the aerial archaeology fraternity. Although initially just acting as a pilot for aerial photographers, his interest and skill as a pilot became a much valued asset. Those who flew with Bob could rely not only on his ability to position the aircraft in the best place for taking a photograph, but also on the way he helped to identify new sites which might be of archaeological interest.



Bob's flying career was by no means limited to archaeology and this gave him the perfect opportunity of keeping a watchful eye over large parts of the country, particularly in early summer when cropmarks start to form. In this way he was responsible for making a number of new archaeological discoveries, including the previously unknown cursus at Dyffryn Lane, near Berriew which he spotted in late June 2009. His flying skills and archaeological interests led to his involvement in a number of television programmes, such as the BBC Wales series *Hidden Histories*. His last appearance was in the BBC series *Britains's Heritage Heroes*, broadcast in February 2012, dedicated to his memory.

Bob was a great friend to all who knew him, and aerial archaeologists in Wales and the broader counties have truly lost one of their own. It is perhaps a fitting tribute that the book *Montgomeryshire Past and Present from the Air* by Chris Musson was published jointly by the Trust and Powysland Club last year. The quality of many of the images in the book is due in no small measure to Bob's expertise and will bring back many memories for those who flew with him.

Archaeology in Wales Back Issues

The list of back issues still available published in Archaeology in Wales Volume 50 was out of date. Please accept our apologies and see below copies currently available to buy:

Vol. 30, 31, 32 £ 3.00 each

Vol. 34, 36, 37 £ 5.00 each

Vol. 39, 40, 41, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49 £8.00 each

Postage and packing £1 per volume

Cash or cheques payable to:

Kathy Laws, Afallon, Tanygrisiau, Blaunau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, LL41 3RH

For further information on availability contact: Kathy.laws@hotmail.co.uk

Forthcoming meetings 2012/13

Saturday 20th October – AGM and Autumn Business Meeting

The Royal Oak Hotel

The Cross, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7DG

11.00am Business meeting

12:30pm AGM

2.00pm Talks

Monday 14th January - Business meeting

Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust offices, Welshpool

Saturday 2nd March—Spring Meeting

Wrexham County Borough Museum and Archives,
Regent Street, Wrexham LL11 1RB

11.00am Business meeting

2.00pm- Talks



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