



## **Southampton Archaeology Society** **Lecture Programme 2021/211**

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 Southampton Archaeology Society

We meet usually on the second Tuesday of each month between September and April, at St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street, SO14 2AH, 7.30 – 9.00pm. Lectures are free to members, £3 to visitors. **NB** Covid-19 precautions will be used – we will follow government guidelines and advice from our insurers. No refreshments will be available at the first few lectures.

**14 September 2021** Speaker: Karen Wardley

### **If Walls Could Talk: recent discoveries from the Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project**

Interest and appreciation of historical graffiti is growing both nationally and internationally. These enigmatic marks, previously overlooked and ignored by archaeologists and historians, are now being studied in depth and providing many new insights into the past. The Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project continues to record and interpret these finds in churches and historical buildings across the county. Our discoveries are revealing fascinating stories previously untold. This talk will demonstrate the range of our findings, including those made by the Southampton Archaeology Society graffiti team.

Karen Wardley was Southampton City Council's Arts and Heritage Collections Manager for many years. Karen is now the co-ordinator of the Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project.

**12 October 2021** Speaker: Professor Joshua Pollard

### **Living with Monuments: new work on the West Kennet palisade enclosures, Avebury**

Since 2017 the Living with Monuments Project has seen the investigation of various Neolithic sites in the Avebury landscape, a number of which were the focus for settlement during the time when the region's great monuments were being built, others locations that themselves became monumentalised. This lecture will focus on the results of fieldwork during 2019 and 2021 on one of the most enigmatic of those locations – the late Neolithic West Kennet palisade enclosures in the shadow of Silbury Hill. A colossal construction in its own right, the enclosure complex highlights intertwined themes of landscape occupation, history and connections near and far that will aid new interpretations of this key region's Neolithic sequence.

Joshua Pollard is a Professor in Archaeology at the University of Southampton. He has a special interest in later prehistory, with a focus on the Neolithic of the British Isles and adjacent regions. Fieldwork is an important part of his research, and he has worked in some iconic landscapes, such as those of the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site. Framing this work are general interests in monumentality among trans-egalitarian societies, material practices, and cultural perceptions of the environment. Joshua is currently UK editor of the Journal of Social Archaeology and co-editor of the Manchester University Press 'Social Archaeology and Material Worlds' series.

**9 November 2021** Speaker: Jo Bailey

### **2020: a year to remember**

Jo Bailey reflects on the highlights of her first year (and a bit) as Southampton's Monuments and Memorials Officer, including work on the Mayflower Memorial, the city's many other memorials, the Bargate Lions and the Heritage Assets Repair Programme. Jo will particularly focus on one aspect that all of these projects, and many of the day-to-day tasks, have in common, and that is that none of them would have happened without the knowledge and skills of a wide range of very committed people who have kept things going through the pandemic.

Jo Bailey studied Archaeology at the University of Southampton. She worked on various excavations and surveys in the city and in other parts of the country, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey, before moving into museums. After 30 years with Hampshire County Council Museums Service, MLA South East and Hampshire Cultural Trust in a variety of management roles, she took the opportunity to return to working on Southampton's heritage as Monuments and Memorials Officer in March 2020.

**14 December 2021, 7pm** with Simon and Jo Harmer, Deb Lewis and Jigfoot

### **The Hither Side of the Hedge**

Telling the story of folklorist, poet and author Alice Gillington, who lived in the New Forest just over 100 years ago and collected songs and dances from Romany and Traveller families that she befriended. The show brings together dances, songs, stories, poems and readings to illustrate Alice's life story.

Christmas buffet and entertainment for members and their guests. Extra charge.

**11 January 2022**– on ZOOM Speaker: Dr Marta Diaz-Guardamino

### **Dressing the Female Elites in Copper Age Europe: the case of the Montelirio tholos in southern Spain**

The Montelirio tholos is a megalithic dolmen tomb within the site of Valencina in southern Spain. Excavations in 2007 discovered a complex burial arrangement and the remains of textiles made with perforated beads. Marta and colleagues published a report on these textiles in 2016. The manufacture of elaborate garments with beads probably required organized craftsmanship and their use in mortuary practices developed in the Montelirio tholos.

Dr Marta Diaz-Guardamino completed her PhD on Iberian prehistoric sculpture and its European context at the University Complutense of Madrid in 2010. From 2011 to 2013 she was a Visiting Research Fellow, funded by the Spanish Government, at the University of Southampton. She worked with the Archaeological Computing Research Group developing the application of digital technologies to the study of ancient monumental sculptures, their biographies and landscape settings. In 2013–14 Marta continued at the university as a Lecturer and joined as a Research Associate the 'Making a Mark: Imagery and process in the British and Irish Neolithic' project, funded by the Leverhulme Trust (2014–16). From 2016 to 2018 she was Lecturer in Archaeology at Cardiff University where she further developed her interest in the prehistory of the Atlantic façade, archaeologies of mobility, biographical approaches and archaeological visualization. Marta is now Assistant Professor at Durham University.

**8 February 2022** Speakers: Francis Wenban-Smith with Ally Hayes and Wendy Stokes

### **The Victorian Discovery of Palaeolithic Southampton**

Southampton was recognised in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as one of the richest areas in the country for Palaeolithic remains. The talk will review historic sources to identify the various gravel pits and other exposures that provided these remains, review the remains themselves, and look at how these localities have changed through to the present. It will also look at the people who were doing the flint hunting, where they lived, what their lives were like and how their antiquarian activities fitted in with their other life. We will also wonder how it is that so few remains have more-recently been found, in an area that was once so rich.

Dr Francis Wenban-Smith is a Principal Research Fellow in Archaeology at the University of Southampton. He took a BA in archaeology at the London Institute of Archaeology, where he became enthused by human origins research through involvement with Boxgrove Lower Palaeolithic site. He gained an MA in Lithic Analysis and Microwear at University College London before carrying out a PhD at the University of Southampton, based on the classic British Levalloisian site of Baker's Hole. Since the late 1990s, he has carried out a combination of commercial contract and research work as part of the University of Southampton Archaeology Department, through the contracting

centre CAHOR, Centre for Applied Human Origins Research. Francis is closely involved with a number of academic societies, in particular he is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and an active member of the Lithic Studies Society where he was Chair between 2004 and 2009.

**8 March 2022**

Speaker: Dr Paul Everill

**Nokalakevi-Archaeopolis: the triple walled fortress of Lazika**

Nestled by the picturesque river Tekhuri, on the northern edge of the Colchian plain in western Georgia, lie the impressive ruins of Nokalakevi. Situated 50km from the Black Sea coast and occupying 18ha, the modern name of Nokalakevi translates as 'ruins where a town was', mirroring the name given to it by early Byzantine historians, Archaeopolis, meaning 'old city' and hinting at its perceived antiquity even then. The site was known to the Georgian chroniclers as Tsikhegoji, or the fortress of Kuji – a semi-mythical Colchian ruler of the Hellenistic period – though the impressive fortifications were constructed in the 4th- 6th centuries AD. With the completion of the final phase of those fortifications, during the Emperor Justinian's preparations for war with Persia, the site also became known as the 'triple walled fortress'. This talk will describe the excavation results of the 'Anglo-Georgian Expedition to Nokalakevi' since 2001, and outline what we now know about the site.

Paul Everill worked for the Southampton Archaeology Unit prior to taking up a post at the University of Winchester in 2008. He has co-directed excavations at Nokalakevi, including the training of students from Winchester and Southampton, since 2002.

**12 April 2022**

Speaker: Jenny Durrant

**Pieces of the Past – the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Hampshire**

Every week hundreds of archaeological objects are discovered across Hampshire by metal detectorists and members of the public. Many are recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme to provide insight to our shared history. In this talk I will share some of the latest discoveries including leather, lithics, and lovely shiny things!

Jenny Durrant has over 20 years' experience as a museum archaeologist and finds specialist. She is currently the Finds Liaison Officer for Hampshire (West and Central). Previously she was Assistant Curator of Antiquities at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter; and Finds and Archives Supervisor for Exeter Archaeology. She has nearly completed her PhD in museum ethics.

**10 May 2022**

**SAS Annual General Meeting**

The AGM will be followed by wine and nibbles, and an update on Southampton Archaeology Unit's recent projects by Dr Andy Russel.