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NEWSLETTER – May 2020

Editor's Notes

I was very pleased to receive quite a lot of feedback after the last interim newsletter, so thank you very much. More is always appreciated, of course, especially if you tell me what you liked (or didn't). I've also had quite a few contributions and am really grateful to all those members who took the time to provide something. If your contribution isn't here, it will definitely appear in future, but I can't make the newsletter too long (it's probably the longest ever already) – so there's no 'View from Above' or 'Remembering the Romans' this month – they will be back. Also, I'm 'saving up' to have enough through the summer (with luck not all needed if we're let loose a bit fairly soon).

So, please do let me have anything you think others would enjoy. It does seem, from what I've received, that hardly anyone is doing a project or enjoying Spring in the garden or on a walk?

PLEASE SEND ALL RESPONSES TO THE EDITOR ON THE ADDRESS ABOVE, **NOT** TO THE EDAS EMAIL ADDRESS AS THAT JUST MEANS THAT PETER HAS TO PASS THEM ON.

Thanks to Jan Cosgrove for her piece on the online **DigVentures and Archaeological Gardening**. We'll look forward to hearing about the results of the latter.

Alan continues to provide **Weblinks** to interesting and relevant news he has found on the internet, as well as **Highlights** to point to those he found most intriguing. **It would help if you could actually send him things that you see on the internet.** He's also provided a short item on the **Cerne Abbas Giant**.

Thanks very much to Alison Green for her article on **Covid Birds**. It reminded me of the increased numbers we have in our garden – wrens have returned and we have collared doves for the first time.

Vanessa found a slightly quirky Facebook Group that went further than what I'd seen: "Time to put the bins out; what SHALL I wear?". Read about the **Bin Isolation Outing**.

Dave Stewart has provided a link to the somewhat delayed paper (not his fault!) on his **survey of Lake Farm fortress** and a copy of the plot, which I found fascinating and hope you do too.

Thank you also to Roger Luffman, who sent a copy of his 'A' level thesis a little while ago, summarised here. It's about the Yorkshire village of **Cusworth – a survey to find the early manorial estate**.

Gill Broadbent wrote an article on **Walking with the Past**, about her love of the scenery and the ancient places which she and Allan walk to in the Lake District, which they are, of course, missing at the moment.

I imagine most of you found most, but not perhaps all, of the quiz questions last month fairly easy, but here are the **Quiz Answers**. We'll have a rather harder quiz from Nick Ellis in the future.

We hope that the **EDAS winter programme** can go ahead, with some great speakers and subjects in the list. Not surprisingly, the **District Diary** is still empty, so I've included loads of **other activities** you can do,

now and in future, sent by Ian Richardson and Gill Vickery.

Geoff Taylor

DigVentures and Archaeological Gardening

Perhaps the following will be of interest:

<https://mailchi.mp/digventures/its-the-last-dignation-talk?e=5d0a179b1b>

[It's a video of *Julian Richards on the future of TV archaeology*, with a Q&A with Tony Robinson, lasting about 35 minutes. It may come up at the end of the talk, so just click and hold the slider at the bottom and move it back.]

It may be you have featured the DigVentures site before [I don't think so - *ed.*] but in case not - I did their free 3D photography course and it was very good, although members may already be experts! Before the current strange times I was hoping to contact a local expert if there is one to get experience in the field!



Virtual field work is not the same but may be interesting for those suffering from field archaeology withdrawal. We plan to investigate part of our flowerbed where we have already found poison bottles and think, as the house is Victorian, we may have a rubbish area or just a lot of soil then chalk! However, as a Roman skeleton was found two doors away when the house was built, who knows what we might uncover. We do live just outside the Durnovaria town boundary near to Gallows Hill. We plan to take it down layer by layer and sieve and record anything we find!

However we are waiting for warmer weather!

Jan Cosgrove

The site homepage is <https://digventures.com/>, where there are lots of videos of digs and archaeology-related resources, including things for children. Perhaps this, which was in one of Alan's Weblinks, will inspire you:

Christine Green has had to temporarily close the craft shop she runs in Talgarth in the Brecon Beacons; her daughter had upcoming surgery cancelled as the crisis began, "so this is a very worrying time for both of us". Inspired by the DigVentures course, she has dug a trench a metre-deep in her back garden, in which she has found nothing more precious than a fork and a marble.

"But a couple of days ago when sitting in my trench with my brush and my palette knife, I suddenly realised that I actually felt happy and unstressed – both feelings somewhat alien to me currently."

I hope Jan's trench proves as positive, but with rather more finds of course.

Alan sent this a while back and I forgot to include it:

A report from the BBC Moscow correspondent showed churches still packed with worshippers. The correspondent spoke to one of the worshippers and suggested this wasn't a safe thing to do. The person responded that it was OK because it was a church and God would not allow the virus to spread in churches. This person was a doctor!

Russia reported 135,000 cases on 1st May with 1,280 deaths; the graph of new cases is still climbing steeply.

More recently:

Pastor Rich Vera in Florida, says he believes that faith can stop the coronavirus (in Florida, church gatherings are considered 'essential'). Vera is one of a vocal minority of Christians in America who feel it's appropriate to gather to worship despite US federal advice, and who support protests against the restrictions. He's continuing to do the laying on of hands for healing purposes.

At 1st May Florida had nearly 35,000 confirmed cases and over 1,300 deaths.

Web Link Highlight April 2020

When or if digs resume this year they will probably not have the normal arrangements, so it is good to see that there are other opportunities for those who want more than a delve into the Time Team archive or the inevitable repeats of various Alice Roberts programmes on BBC 4. The Guardian article about archaeology during the lockdown highlights two online course providers and no doubt there are others.

Whilst the DigVentures courses [and see Jan Cosgrove's article – *ed.*] have started, there are others already scheduled and possibly more to come. The DigSchool course has also started, but this is aimed at supporting schools so not as applicable to members of societies such as EDAS. Nevertheless, it is good to know that there are groups out there providing a means of combating the withdrawal symptoms. [Also see the lists at the end]

The item on Old Oswestry Hill Fort is a sad reflection on the lack of importance placed on ancient and historic monuments. The development adjacent to it has now been given a green light by Historic England despite previously objecting. The difference between 100 and 91 houses is at best marginal and could be said to be nothing more than a sop to allow HE to change its stance. The proposed development attracted a long and well supported campaign that will now have an uphill battle to resist this development being approved by Shropshire Council.

April Weblinks

Evidence Of Antarctic Rainforest Found

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/196516/traces-ancient-rainforest-antarctica-point-warmer/>

Rare Ancient Human Skeleton Helps Reveal How They Grew Up

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/04/puzzling-skeleton-reveal-ancient-human-relative-homo-naledi-grew-up/>

Paintings Found Inside 3,000 Year Old Coffin Of Egyptian Mummy

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8181511/Paintings-discovered-inside-coffin-3-000-year-old-Egyptian-mummy.html>

How Kublai Khan Conquered China

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/magazine/2020/03-04/kublai-genghis-khan-conquered-china/>

Pottery Found In Shoreditch Reveals Neolithic Farmer Settlement

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/apr/08/london-pottery-finds-reveal-shoreditch-agricultural-past>

New Fossil Named After Lord Of The Rings Character

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/04/08/world/mysterious-tolkien-ancient-reptile-scn/index.html>

British Museum Looks To Crack Mystery Of Decorated Ostrich Eggs

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/apr/09/british-museum-looks-to-crack-mystery-over-decorated-ostrich-eggs>

Hares And Chickens Treated As Deities By Iron Age Britons

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/10/leap-of-faith-ancient-britons-viewed-hares-chickens-as-gods-easter>

Scientists Digitally Reconstruct Skulls Of Dinosaurs In Fossilised Eggs

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/apr/09/scientists-digitally-reconstruct-skulls-of-dinosaurs-in-fossilised-eggs>

Virtual Tour Of Tomb Of Egyptian Queen (and 3 other sites)

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2020/apr/15/egyptian-tomb-ancient-wonders-open-for-virtual-tour-in-lockdown>

Climate Change In Norway Reveals Spectacular Finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/apr/16/spectacular-artefacts-found-as-norway-ice-patch-melts>

Oxford Professor Arrested For Theft Of Ancient Papyrus

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/apr/16/oxford-professor-arrested-ancient-papyrus-bible-theft-dirk-obbink>

Mediterranean Shipwrecks Reveal 'Birth Of Globalisation' In Trade

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/apr/18/mediterranean-shipwrecks-reveal-birth-of-globalisation-in-trade>

Ancient Ocean Going Crocodiles Mimicked Whales And Dolphins

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/apr/20/ancient-ocean-going-crocodiles-mimicked-whales-and-dolphins>

Site Of Hannibal's First Victory Discovered In Spain

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8240109/Battlefield-gave-Hannibal-great-victory-discovered-Spain.html>

Can Experimental Archaeology Solve The Riddle Of Brochs?

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/apr/26/brochs-fresh-plan-for-new-stone-tower-to-shed-light-on-scottish-history>

Pompeii Excavations Show Romans Were Recycling

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/apr/26/pompeii-ruins-show-that-the-romans-invented-recycling>

Online Archaeology During Lockdown

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/apr/28/lost-henge-digging-archaeology-online-during-lockdown>

Old Oswestry Hill Fort At Risk From Adjacent Development

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/iron-age-fort-where-guinevere-was-born-at-risk-from-builders-wjgmg8hxx>

Please send your weblinks to Alan Dedden at alan.dedden@gmail.com

Cerne Abbas Giant Gets a Facemask

You may have seen the news that the Cerne Abbas giant had been given a facemask (go to <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-52427165>). Whilst this was done in a spirit of levity in these dark times, the National Trust has been, perhaps predictably, somewhat 'straight laced' in its reaction. It would appear that the mask was a sheet or something similar, so would not itself directly damage the giant, but the risk is that others attempt more damaging stunts on this or other monuments.



What are your thoughts? Are we too censorious and should we have a more enlightened approach, or should we decry all such acts as vandalism? How does the NT reaction compare with the recent Historic England decision to withdraw its objection to a large housing development right next to Old Oswestry hill fort (see Weblink Highlight)?

Alan Dedden

Covid Birds

I saw the red kite (photo right) again this morning. I was driving over to Dad's place and there it was, flying over the little Garden of Remembrance on the Lytchett road. The only other motorist in Dorset was right behind me, obviously unaware that the two metre distance is neither necessary nor compulsory in cars, so I couldn't stop to get a quick snap. Something similar happened last week: sitting in my pocket handkerchief garden, I looked up in amazement to see the kite gliding over the house. By the time it registered, it was too late.



I'm not a knowledgeable birder but I know one or two species and the red kite's my favourite; although I am partial to a heron. There's a lot of water where I live on the edge of Poole Harbour so herons aren't rare. However, the other day, on one of my exercise walks, I saw a pair of them; never seen that before, apart from a visit to the heronry in Kelsey Park with my small grandson.

The red kites are another kettle of fish though, in a manner of speaking. I once won a prize for writing about kites on a walk along the Ridgeway. I think I must have inadvertently conveyed my absolute joy at seeing them in the Uffington skies. We don't get them round here although, like a welcome virus, we knew they were on their way south: in the other world, they'd got as far as Salisbury Plain. Now, in these days of unblemished skies, they've made it to the coast to the extent that we don't have to go to a particular place at a designated time to see them.

Continuing my journey to see my aged father, and combining two excuses to get out, I stopped to walk on the heath. Was that the kite again? No, it's a buzzard (photo right). Actually, four buzzards. Much more of this and we'll be associating raptors rather than gulls with the harbour. And so many blue tits: everywhere you look, they're flitting around. I even have a pair nesting in my hedge for the first time in the thirteen years I've lived here.



Dad sits on his balcony. He's 94 and has three cancers. He's collecting them, along with a random blocked aorta. He's listening to a blackbird who's singing without a care in the world. The other day, we heard a strange purring-like trill. I asked my birding friend what it could be. Turns out it's a turtle dove; another unexpected and most welcome visitor.

Alison Green (photos from internet)

Bin Isolation Outing

It's very quiet living in a rural village. Thankfully, everyone in our immediate area seems to be doing OK. We talk to neighbours over the wall or through the hedge. There are lots of cyclists and runners whizzing past, and the occasional horse and rider. I go into Wimborne twice a week to do food shopping.

There is plenty of on-line communication from various groups and last week I came across a rather strange one: a Facebook Group called *Bin Isolation Outing*. I was intrigued and investigated it further. The idea has come from Down Under and the group now seems to have nearly 1 million members. Unbelievably, I even found the name of a Belgian friend whom I used to work with when I was in Holland.

People are doing all sorts of odd things to keep themselves entertained. The premise of the Group is that the dustbin is getting out of the house more than all the people who are self-isolating. Also, according to the radio, many people are staying in their pyjamas or not making any effort to wear decent clothes unless they are going to work. Group members are therefore being encouraged to make the weekly bin outing into an occasion and dress up, be it formal dress or fancy dress.

These days, I am wearing versions of my “dig” clothes for gardening, walking or cycling. Although I won’t join the Group, I decided to rise to the challenge on bin day.

I hope this brings a smile to your face.

Vanessa Joseph

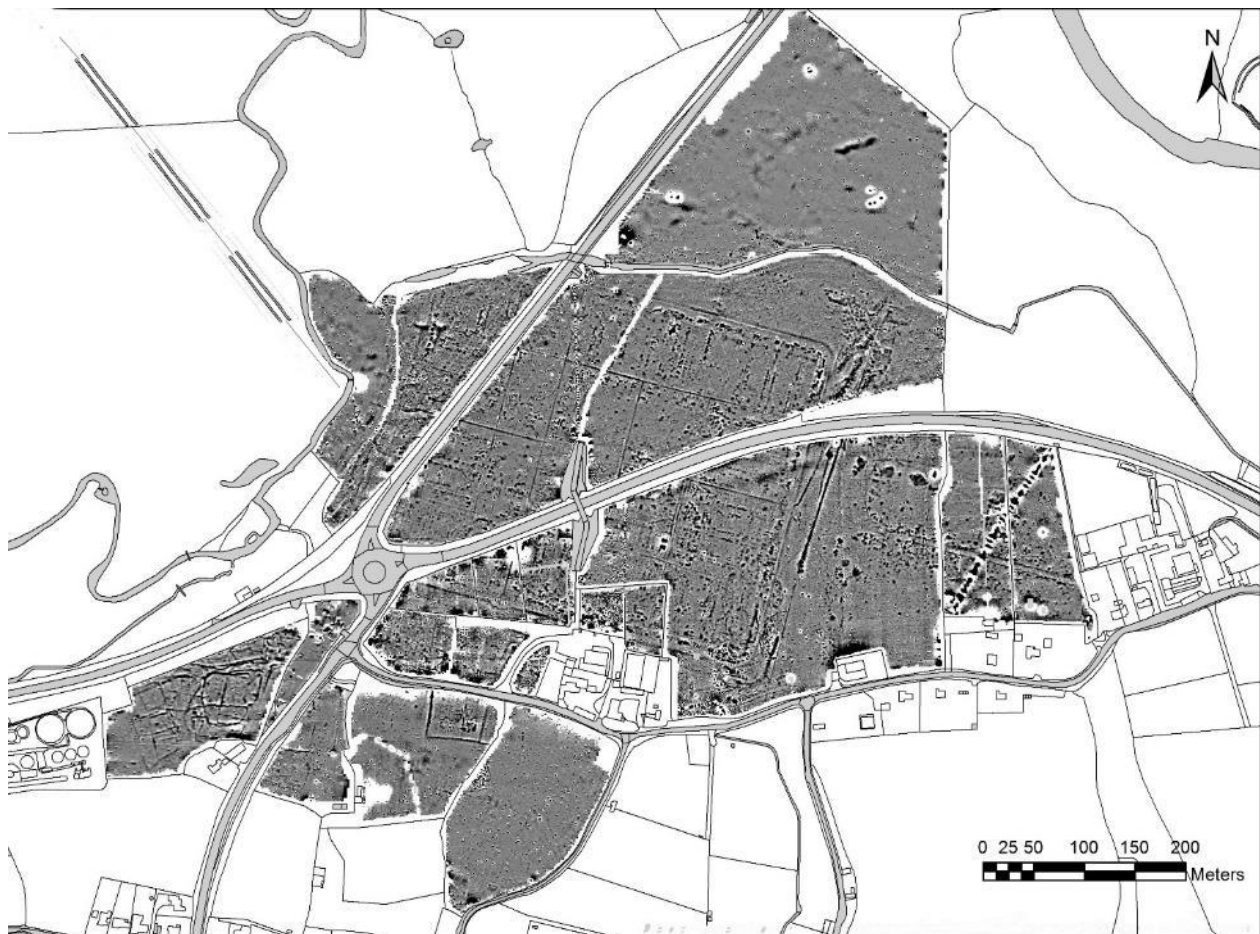
So, if you join the group, or even just decide to dress up for bin day or another outing, send me (Geoff) a photo.



Lake Farm Roman fortress, Wimborne

The paper on the Lake Farm survey is out at long last – *Britannia* has published it online ahead of the next paper volume and it’s free to view via the link below. The plot of the survey is also below.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/britannia/article/magnetometry-survey-of-the-second-augustan-legionary-fortress-at-lake-farm-dorset/391A2FAD9541AFE5E747F0789453EBC3/share/058ff252cda21eddc79b08385b8cb0c4cc66ad87>



Dave Stewart

Cusworth – a South Yorkshire village

This is a summary of an A-level thesis by member Roger Luffman from 2004, which gained him an excellent mark. It had been intended as the prelude to an Archaeology degree but, sadly, life got in the way. When life got out of the way the costs of going to University had become prohibitive.

The thesis demonstrates what those of us involved in archaeological work know all too well, that a lot of the effort put into trying to answer a research question can sometimes prove fruitless. Where the effort does prove fruitful it seems, almost inevitably, that the answers lead to many more questions. The issues Roger encountered here are similar to those met in researching and excavating at Keeper's Lodge, Kingston Lacy, particularly that old maps, plans and records are often not very accurate.

Cusworth is a village about 3km north-west of Doncaster, close to the Roman road from Doncaster (*Danum*) to York. Roger's research question was "To what extent can an archaeological survey of Cusworth village throw light on the layout of the manorial estate prior to the mid-18th century?"

The original Cusworth Hall, or at least a large building, is first mentioned in 1327 but may well have been built earlier. The village certainly existed at the time of the Domesday Book in 1086, then known as 'Cuzeuuorde', but the settlement seems to date back to the Anglo-Saxon period and there is evidence of occupation from at least as early as the Iron Age. The manor and lordship was acquired by Leonard Wray around 1560, whose descendants sold it to Robert Wrightson in 1669 for £2,500. The old hall was in the centre of the village and described as being of Elizabethan appearance with 5 gables, which seems to match the 1720 engraving (shown) by Samuel Buck now held by the British Museum. However, the 1719 plan of the estate (below) shows the hall as a single block with an archway and courtyard.



The earliest map showing the village in any detail is Grover's map of 1711, but it's a large map of the



area north-west of Doncaster and the detail is clearly limited. For example, it doesn't show the large garden of the hall which is known to have existed then. Dickinson's estate map of 1719 (left), commissioned by the then owner, William Wrightson, has rather more detail and gives a reasonable idea of the placement of the hall and, to some extent, of the village and roads. Further evidence might come from any buildings that survive from the improvements undertaken by Robert Wrightson, but especially from changes made by William. In particular, William added a dovecote and this, together with other outbuildings, remained in use until 1952.

William was clearly very keen to improve his estate and, indeed, the village. The surviving accounts for 1726-1735 show, amongst other things, thousands of bricks bought for high walls to surround the improved and extended gardens, planting of an orchard and the addition of a summerhouse. The latter survives as the 'Bowling Pavilion'. However, extending the hall proved too difficult as it backed onto the road through the village. Despite the large sums spent on the grounds and gardens of the existing hall, William decided to build a new, larger hall some way to the west, and the foundations were laid in 1740.

The medieval hall was dismantled around the end of the 1740s and its site, and probably some of its materials, were used in constructing and altering several other buildings. The new hall was completed by 1745, with additional wings added not long after and then 25 hectares (60 acres) of 'English Landscape Park' developed by landscape designer Richard Woods from 1761. Cusworth Hall is grade I listed as an excellent example of a Georgian country house.



So where, exactly, was the old hall, and what survives of its original gardens and of the improvements and extensions undertaken by William Wrightson? An obvious place to start was a search for, and study of, reasonably accessible documentation and maps in the Doncaster archives and those still held at Cusworth Hall, with some of the results already mentioned above. A walk around the village, study of planning applications and of early Ordnance Survey maps identified sites for further investigation that were likely to preserve features of the early village.

One apparently promising approach was to obtain information from the occupiers of two houses that were reputed to be on the site of the old hall, both fronting the village road in roughly the right location.



'Cusworth Glebe' was dated by an owner to 1583 which, if true, suggested it could have actually been part of the previous hall. The photograph here, taken from about the same place as Buck's engraving above, does show some similarities, and the brick wall is on the foundation of an earlier limestone wall. However, the construction appears to be 18th century rather than 16th. The adjoining 'Church Cottage' was apparently built in 1760, possibly with re-used materials from the earlier hall, and actually has a large modern plaque claiming it as the location of the former hall. Stone mullion window sills in its rear garden wall add to the impression of part of the old hall. However, it proved impossible to contact either occupier to obtain their information or view the interiors.

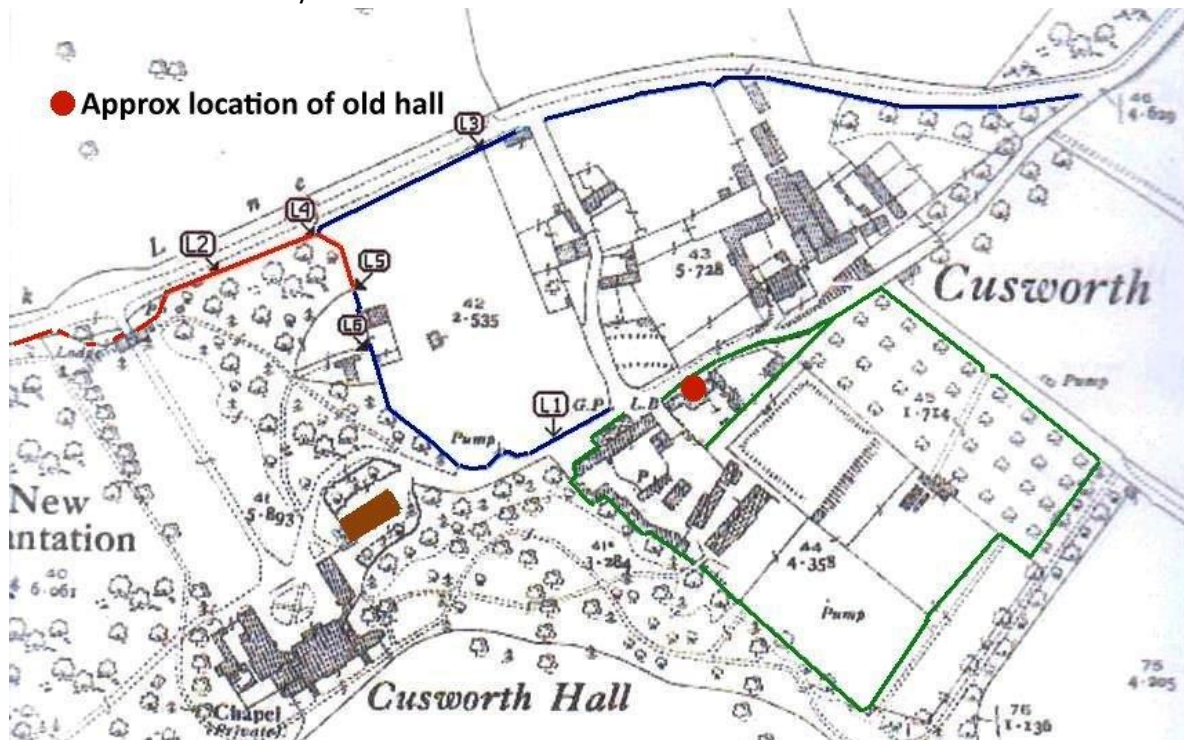
This was, potentially, frustratingly close to perhaps answering a good part of the research question. With more time and/or resources it may, of course, have proved possible to resolve these issues, but not in the context of an individual under time and other pressures [as I recall all too well from a similar assignment for GCSE Archaeology whilst still working – *ed.*]. Another solid line of research that also proved fruitless was to consider architectural features of buildings in the centre of the village to try to determine when they were built. Two buildings had lintels dated before 1740, but both buildings had been restored and had to be rejected as dating evidence because of possible re-use. The type of corbel used on house gables also appeared to be a possible means of dating, except that Roger's survey showed that the same pattern was used for around 300 years, even on some stone houses built in 1982.

Studying and comparing various maps did suggest that early 18th century road layouts and boundaries were close to those still extant. The features on Dickinson's 1719 map were traced and overlaid, with suitable scaling, on a 1930 OS map, chosen to exclude significant modern development. There was broad agreement between them except that the 1719 features were twisted southwards at the eastern end of the village. Surveying the gradients in the village, it became apparent that this occurred as the ground sloped quite steeply downwards there, with the greatest distortion where there were significant changes in the slope. It would seem that this simply resulted from the limitations of the surveying technique used in the 18th century.

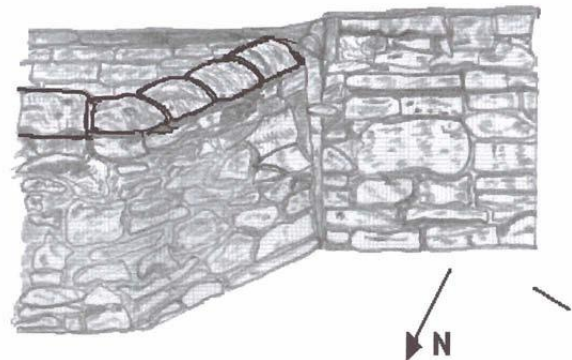
The old hall could only be located roughly where Church Cottage now stands, but the most significant discovery concerned the road running behind the village to the north, previously the village/field boundary. This road had been thought by previous researchers to be a 1765 diversion to avoid the new hall and provide a grand entrance to it from the north. However, Roger was able to demonstrate that it

actually related to a document of 1744. Further, one of the preparatory sketches for the parkland around the new Cusworth Hall showed this diversion, but also showed the new hall prior to the additional wings built 1749-1753, which can be seen on the 1930 map below.

This map is actually a composite of several in the thesis, showing features that have yet to be described here. Central to the survey are the lozenges labelled L1, L2, and so on, which mark the points where detailed surveys were done, context sheets completed, photographs taken and/or drawings made. Those shown here are only the initial few of the 17 in total.

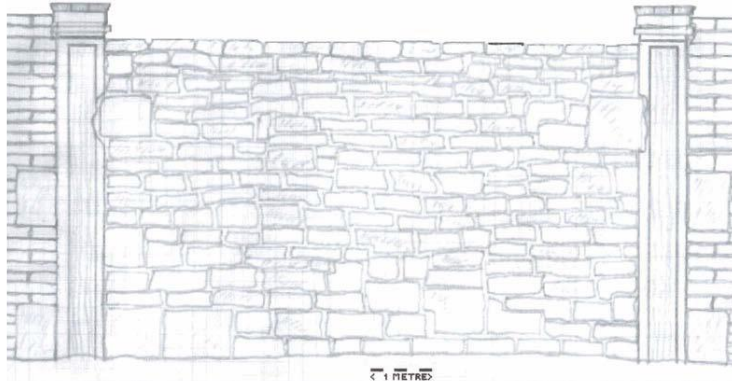


In assessing what are pre- or post-1745 features, it seemed clear that there was a difference between the boundary walls within the village, such as at L1, and those fronting the new hall, such as at L2. The older, pre-1745, walls shown in blue have rounded cap stones whereas the post-1745 walls in red can be identified by their flat capping. The transition is, perhaps, most clearly shown here in the drawing of the walls at point L4. A similar transition occurs with a butt join at point L5.



The detailed survey work needed to confirm this can't be covered here, but involved tracing all the walls for further evidence. The flat-topped post-1745 walls continue westward from the new entrance to Cusworth Hall, although in a ruinous state and with the top surviving only occasionally. The pre-1745 wall has been lost in a number of places due to modern development. Nevertheless, confirmatory evidence occurs in many places, such as breaks indicating the presence of buildings or entrances to them where the buildings are documented or shown on the early 18th century maps. The barn north of the hall, shown in brown on the map, is present on Dickinson's map of 1719 and retains features which appear to be late 17th century, though some look to be re-used, perhaps from changes to the old hall by Robert Wrightson in 1702. Although not shown on the map above, the walls around the barn are of the pre-1745 type, adding further evidence to their identification by rounded cap stones.

The boundaries of the old hall gardens are relatively well documented or mapped, as shown in green on the map above, and most of it can still be traced. For example, the brick wall seen in the photograph of 'Cusworth Glebe' above relates to William Wrightson's work. A high quality stone gateway, now blocked, can be seen roughly halfway along the western side of the garden, leading from it to the park. It is just about visible on the 1719 map, as is the "Parke", part of which remains as parkland for the new hall.

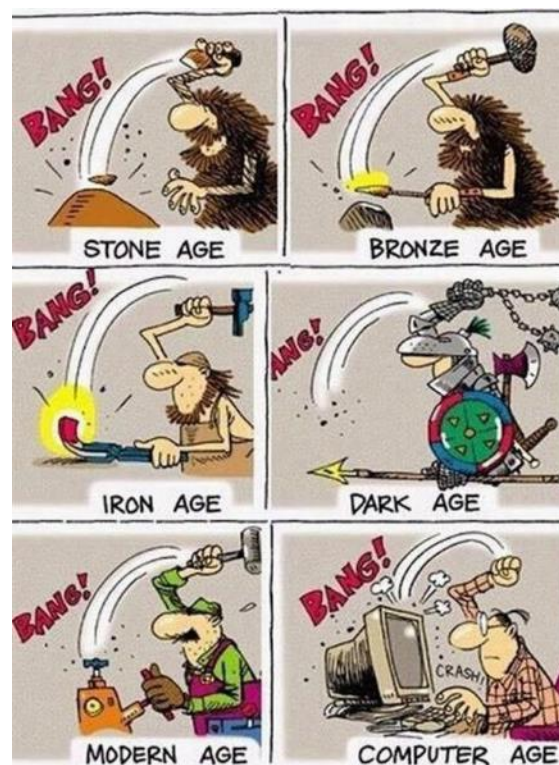


The evidence shows that, other than the road diversion, the major road layout of Cusworth has remained unchanged for over 300 years. Its main boundaries can still be traced, as can those of the gardens of the old hall, as developed up to the mid-18th century by William Wrightson. The barn is one surviving building from the old manorial estate but, despite the discovery of 2 gateposts (not described here), the exact location and extent of the former hall remained elusive. Clearly, a more extensive survey could also look for other surviving buildings or the remains of them, work then being undertaken by a professional organisation. Nevertheless, Roger's survey did go a good way to answering the research question.

Inevitably, it also resulted in further questions. For example, a puzzle worth investigation would be the location of the villagers' place of worship since, until 1960, there were only two, both a mile or more away and even these are relatively modern foundations. Church Cottage may be a clue. Finally, the triangular area at the east end of the village seems to have survived unchanged for at least three centuries, so that geophysical survey might reveal more of Cusworth's past.

If you'd like to read the whole thesis, Roger would be happy to send you a copy. Please email him at: rogerluffman@gmail.com.

Roger Luffman/Geoff Taylor



Walking with the Past

Allan and I are lucky enough to have a bolt hole in Pooley Bridge on the northern edge of the Lake District. Usually at this time of the year we are on the fells, wandering lonely as clouds, far from the madding crowd (with apologies to Wordsworth and Hardy) but the current difficult circumstances forbid our travel there.

For anyone interested in prehistoric archaeology, the area around Ullswater is a fascinating place. This area of the northern Lakes has been inhabited since the earliest times and glimpses of past human interaction with the landscape can still be found today with just a little effort.

An easy morning walk from 'home' takes us directly onto the upland of Moor Divock, to the Cockpit Stone Circle, one of more than 100 Bronze Age sites on the Askham and Barton Fells. The Cockpit stands at the crossroads of two ancient routes, the first running from the stone circle of Long Meg and her Daughters in the north, south to Loadpot Hill and onwards, the east- west route connecting the Castlerigg stone circle near Keswick to settlements near Shap, routes that were utilized later by the Romans and routes that are still easily walked today.

The western edge of the Cockpit, framing Carrock Fell hill fort in the far distance.



The Cockpit is not as old as the larger Castlerigg Stone circle which dates from the Neolithic Period, but it is thought to be at least 3,500 years old. It comprises features of both the early and late Bronze Age. It is 27m in diameter and consists of more than 20 stones taller than 1m in height, suggesting an early Bronze Age date, but the stones are set within a low embankment which indicates a later date.

Nearby is the burial mound of White Raise with its plundered cist, and approximately 1km to the east are the remains of two more stone circles (Moor Divock 4 and 5). To the west of these is a settlement site consisting of hut circles and tumuli.

White Raise



Allan at Moor Divock 5



In the distance to the south can be seen the Copstone, a standing stone only 1.5m in height but visible for a considerable distance in this flat upland landscape.



Summer evenings are spent relaxing at home, looking directly at Dunmallard Hill, a small prominent hill overlooking the village of Pooley Bridge at the northern end of Ullswater. This is a multivallate hill fort measuring 92m north to south and 39m east to west. Although now completely covered in trees, the main revetted stone bank, 9m wide and 3m high, and the external ditch are still clearly visible to those venturing up the hill in the woods for a short afternoon or evening walk. A second bank and ditch of slighter proportions protect the northern end of the site, with the entrance located on the western side.

A short walk from Dunmallard is another small hill-fort, Maiden Castle. This is nowhere near as impressive as the Dorset hill fort of the same name and, due to its small size and location on the side of a hill, is most likely to have been the defended settlement for a family unit. Here there are two rampart walls with a narrow ditch between them measuring 1 – 2m.



Maiden Castle (Image from 'Brigantes Nation')

These are just a few of the prehistoric monuments we can see daily on our varied walks, which are at times accompanied by a number of wild black moorland ponies which freely roam the fells, and which are said to be descendants of those brought over by the Romans. The Romans too have left their marks on this area, but more of them later.



Gill Broadbent

Pam Ayres on Trump

At last I have a cure for all
Ailments large and ailments small
Good health is not beyond my reach
If I inject myself with bleach
Radiant, I'll prance along
Every trace of limescale gone
With disinfectant as my friend
Like him, I'm clean around the bend

Thanks to Peter Walker for this

A Gardener's Hymn

Eternal Father, cure my doubts
And keep the aphids off my sprouts.
Let weevil, codling moth and flea
Eat someone else's mange-tout pea.
Oh, hear me when I shout and cry
And send a cure for carrot fly.

Make all my courgettes long and fat
And neutralise my neighbour's cat.
Let not my spuds fall prey to blight
Nor rosebuds vanish in the night.
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those who garden on TV.

Alan Titchmarsh

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ - ANSWERS		
No	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which are the main two Wilts & Dorset bus routes running from the bus station to The Square in Bournemouth?	M1 & M2
2	What was the Dolphin Centre called before its change of name?	Arndale Centre
3	This whole village was evacuated in the last war (1943), but never returned to its inhabitants. What is it called?	Tyneham
4	Which hero, killed in a motorcycle accident, is buried in Moreton Cemetery?	Lawrence of Arabia
5	What is the name of the pub at Worth Matravers with the sign of the Freemasons?	Square & Compass
6	To the nearest 5 miles, how long is the coastline of Dorset?	70 miles
7	What is Dorset's longest river?	Stour
8	What is Dorset's oldest town?	Dorchester
9	Which Dorset town is most famous for its ropes and nets, e.g. Wimbledon nets are made there?	Bridport
10	Which creature has been dying in record numbers along our shores in the last few years?	Dolphins
11	Where in Dorset would you be able to walk along the Cobb?	Lyme Regis
12	How many wavy lines are there under the Dolphin on Poole's logo?	3
13	Where will you find the Police HQ in Dorset?	Winfrith
14	What is the name of the little figure who sounds the time on Wimborne Minster?	Quarterjack
15	Going west by train out of Poole, what is the first station?	Hamworthy
16	What make of car do Gordon Ford principally sell?	Ford
17	Where did Poole build a Park & Ride?	Marshes End, Creekmoor
18	In which Dorset town will you find Radipole and Lodmoor?	Weymouth
19	Which local charity raises money to support a hospice for sick children?	Julia's House
20	What is the name of the current Leader of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council?	C'Ilr Vikki Slade

Nick Ellis

PLEASE CONTINUE TO BE WARY OF SPAM AND SCAMS

New ones are appearing all the time, often telling sad stories or selling fake antiviral products.

If you get a coronavirus-related scam email (a "phishing" email) forward it to:

report@phishing.gov.uk

This is the National Cyber Security Centre, part of GCHQ, which has taken down large numbers of sites/email addresses already. There is more advice from them at

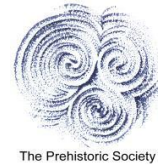
<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/suspicious-email-actions>

For other phishing scams and attempted frauds, by email, texts, etc., go to the police Action Fraud website at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> which provides advice on fraud prevention and a simple online form to fill in to report it so that it can be investigated.

Department of Archaeology and Anthropology
Faculty of Science and Technology



2020 Annual Pitt Rivers Lecture
27 October 2020



The origins of our species

To be given by **Professor Chris Stringer** (Natural History Museum, London, UK)

Over the past decade, new finds in the archaeological and fossil record and the advent of ancient genomes have changed our view of modern human origins. This talk will look at the changing and challenging picture that is now emerging, reviewing evidence from each of these three areas, and the way they are impacting reconstructions of our own evolutionary history.

Chris Stringer is a Research Leader in Human Origins at the Natural History Museum. His early research was on the relationship of Neanderthals and early modern humans in Europe, but he now collaborates with archaeologists, dating specialists, and geneticists in attempting to reconstruct the evolution of modern humans globally. He directed the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain project from 2001 until it finished in 2013 and is now co-director of the follow-up Pathways to Ancient Britain project, as part of funding from the Calleva Foundation, which has contributed to the foundation of a new Centre for Human Evolution Research at the Museum. He has authored/co-authored numerous papers and books on human evolution and is active on Twitter @ChrisStringer65.

This free public lecture will be held in the Fusion Building, Talbot Campus, Bournemouth University, BH12 5BB, from 7:00pm (displays and reception from 6:30).

For further details and booking please visit the Eventbrite page at:

<https://fourthannualpitriverslecture.eventbrite.co.uk>

The annual Pitt Rivers Lecture was established in 2017 as part of the celebrations marking 50 years of archaeological and anthropological teaching and research at Bournemouth University and its predecessor institutions. It is organized by staff and students, and presented in association with the Prehistoric Society. The lecture celebrates the achievements of General Pitt Rivers (1827–1900), a distinguished Dorset-based archaeologist and anthropologist whose descendants still live in the area and have close connections with Bournemouth University.

Previous Pitt Rivers Lectures:

- 2017 Professor Richard Bradley (University of Reading) "Pitt Rivers as pioneer"
- 2018 Dr Alison Sheridan (National Museums Scotland) "Long before Brexit..."
- 2019 Ruth Tringham (University of California, Berkeley, USA) "Fire: Friend or fiend?"

Do you know what a MAMIL is? (me neither)

A middle-aged man in Lycra.

Seeing a few of those around lately, not always a pretty sight.

EDAS 2020-2021 PROGRAMME

Unless otherwise stated, all lectures are from 7:30 – 9:30 pm at St Catherine’s Church Hall, Lewens Lane, Wimborne, BH21 1LE. <http://www.dorset-archaeology.org.uk/programme.html>

Here is the list of next season’s lectures and events to look forward to.

2020

9th September John Smith The Battle of Britain Over Dorset, 1940

In addition to describing the events in the air over Dorset, the talk will include the archaeological implications of aircraft recovery and a comparison of the methodologies used.

**14th October Andrew Birley Recent Excavations at Vindolanda and Revealing
Magna Roman Fort**

This lecture is held jointly with Bournemouth University and covers some of the most remarkable discoveries from the World Heritage Site of Vindolanda, as well as offering a glimpse into the next project on Hadrian’s Wall for the Vindolanda Trust.

11th November Wayne Bartlett AD871 - The Year of Nine Battles

AD871 saw a series of battles against the Vikings that resulted in Alfred becoming king on the death of his elder brother, Æthelred I, who is buried in Wimborne Minster.

9th December Mark Corney Villas, Churches and Baptisteries

Mark will examine the evidence for Christian structures and practices in Late Romano-British villas. Whilst primarily dealing with material from western Roman Britain, reference will also be made to other parts of Roman Britain and Gaul. The emphasis is on how to identify and interpret possible Christian activity in the 4th and 5th centuries and the implications for late Roman and early post-Roman society.

2021

**13th January Sophy Charlton Finding Mesolithic Britain: Biomolecular
Approaches to Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology**

The range of scientific techniques used in modern archaeology is expanding at a pace. Sophy describes how the latest methods are used to tell us more about a period that has left very little evidence.

**10th February Paul Cheetham 300 Miles in the Footsteps of Vespasian – Lake Farm
Roman legionary fortress**

The remains of what was a largely unknown Roman legionary campaign fortress, dating from just after the invasion of Britain of AD 43, lie beside Wimborne bypass. The talk will look at its discovery, and how recent work has revealed its true character, changing our interpretation and so understanding of this internationally important archaeological site.

10th March AGM Andrew Morgan & Lilian Ladle Keepers Lodge

A look at the EDAS excavations at Keeper’s Lodge, Kingston Lacy, in September 2019.

**14th April Mike Allen The Prehistoric Chalkland Landscape of
Stonehenge, Avebury and Dorchester - tearing up
the textbooks and starting again**

Mike's work combines a re-examination of earlier works by, e.g., John Evans and Martin Bell, with his own research, resulting in a re-interpretation of land use history and prehistoric community engagement. This new understanding shows that the old text books now need to be rewritten.

12th May Julian Richards Shaftesbury - Alfred's Town, Alfred's Abbey

Starting in late 2018, a team of volunteers set out to discover the truth of the 1930's Abbey depiction laid out in a series of rockeries. Doubt had long been cast on certain aspects of the layout, but until now these could not be tested. The team also looked at gardens in the Saxon town to try and add to the understanding of the ancient burgh.

Rescheduled Events

New dates for the following events will be arranged as soon as practical:

Guided tour of Devizes Museum

The museum Director, David Dawson, will lead a tour around the museum's many extraordinary exhibits.

Cranborne Chase Walk

A 9 mile walk looking at the history of the Chase, including the Dorset Cursus, 19th century civil unrest in Sixpenny Handley, a Roman road and an 18th century landed gentry leisure pursuit. There will also be the opportunity to visit Martin Green's wonderful museum.

London - Sir John Soane's Museum and the Museum of London (tbc)

A chance to visit two of London's museums – one is very well known, the other not so well known but a fine and very unusual example of the many smaller museums in the capital.

DISTRICT DIARY

**Your information is very welcome, especially now
– do let me know of any events if you hear that things are re-starting.
MEANWHILE, HERE ARE SOME VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO FROM HOME,
MAINLY WILDLIFE RELATED, AND LOTS OF ARCHAEOLOGY RELATED LINKS AND ACTIVITIES.**

Wildlife (and other useful) Links

ALL THE BOLD UNDERLINED PHRASES ARE HYPERLINKS – CTRL & CLICK TO GO TO WEBSITE

I have been looking into volunteering activities that you can take part in in your homes and gardens. Please have a look through the list below, and if you have other useful links to share please let me know.

General species monitoring with Seek by iNaturalist Use this handy app to help identify the species around you in your gardens.

Blooms for Bees Bumblebees are really starting to get going with this warm weather. If you have five minutes, why not spend some time watching a bee friendly garden plant and recording the visitors that arrive with this useful recording app for bumblebees

RSPB #BreakfastBirdwatch The Breakfast Birdwatch takes place daily between 8 am and 9 am – at a time when, normally, many people would have been commuting to work, on the school run or otherwise engaged. Using **#BreakfastBirdwatch** on social media, they hope to create a friendly, supportive and engaged community who are able to share what they can see in their gardens, on their balconies, rooftops and spaces from their own homes, all the while keeping within government guidelines in relation to COVID-19.

Garden Wildflower Hunt a citizen science project set up by the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland with two aims: to help find out more about the wild plants growing in our gardens; and to give people a way to improve their plant identification skills under lockdown.

Botanical Society Activities the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland has come up with a list of 10 activities and projects on a botanical theme which volunteers can take part in without leaving their homes, gardens or balconies.

Seabird Watch is a citizen science project set up by Oxford University to find solutions to the present research gaps using cameras as a monitoring network for Arctic seabird conservation. They need your help counting birds, nests and eggs in our thousands of photos to turn them into data.

Penguin Watch is a citizen science project set up by Oxford University to find solutions to the present research gaps using cameras as a monitoring network for penguin conservation. They need your help counting penguins, chicks, nests and eggs in our thousands of photos to turn them into data.

Naturehood A citizen science project focused on taking action for wildlife in private gardens, this project encourages the implementation and recording of wildlife friendly actions in communities. Take simple surveys to record changes in your garden wildlife.

Living with Mammals survey PTES is calling for volunteers to take part in spring's survey of wild mammals in gardens and local green spaces. Choose a site close to home or place of work, and spend a short time each week looking out for wild mammals or the signs they leave behind. To receive a survey pack contact PTES.

Garden Butterfly count The Garden Butterfly Survey allows you to record and report the butterflies that visit your garden over the course of a year. Create a free account, submit your sightings and help us learn more about how butterflies are faring in UK gardens.

Join in with Bee-fly Watch 2020 Bee-fly Watch is now into its fifth year. These distinctive furry flies are usually on the wing from March to June, often hovering over flowers and using their long 'nose' (proboscis) to feed on nectar. Once again we are asking people to look out for bee-flies and add your records online.

RHS Cellar Slug Survey This survey asks members of the public to submit records of Yellow Cellar Slug and Green Cellar Slug in UK gardens, along with information about your garden so we can establish any links between habitat features and where these species occur.

Rainfall Rescue Before 1961 there were actually thousands of rain gauges but the rainfall data has not been transferred from the original hand-written paper records to something digital so that it can be used in data sets. Aiming to fill in the gaps Zooniverse show you images of rainfall data and ask you to transcribe the values.

MammalWeb is a citizen science project that enlists members of the public to upload camera trap data they capture, to help with classifying the animals pictured in camera trap footage, or both. You don't need a camera trap to take part, and you can help to build up a picture of the state of our wild mammals in the UK and beyond.

Nature's Calendar What effect has recent weather had on wildlife? Does climate change affect timings in nature? Take part in the Nature's Calendar citizen science project and help scientists discover answers to these questions. Simply record the signs of spring that you can see from your window or garden: naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Field Studies Council ID kits If you are spending more time getting to know our garden but want extra help with identification check out this online identification kits with the Fields Studies Council.

Heritage Quest Help archaeologists discover traces from our past on high-resolution elevation maps created using lasers mounted on aircrafts (LiDAR) (based in The Netherlands)

USEFUL LINKS

Here are some more useful links - the Heritage Fund has included many useful tips which includes free virtual tours of galleries and museums, including the Painted Hall at Greenwich.

www.heritagefund.org.uk/stories/how-enjoy-heritage-home

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/get-involved/volunteering/current-opportunities/

www.saga.co.uk/magazine/money/personal-finance/giving/nine-great-ways-to-volunteer-online

Richard Austin, New Forest National Parks Authority (sent by Ian Richardson)

Online Activities for Lockdown Time

(from Bath & Counties Archaeological Society newsletter, forwarded by Gill Vickery)

The CBA has made all their publications free to download during the crisis:

<https://new.archaeologyuk.org/books-and-publications>

Virtual Diversions during Lockdown – courtesy Kate Iles, Bristol Museum

If you are missing your regular archaeology lectures, you can watch all the recent lectures from The Archaeological Institute in the comfort of your own home:

https://www.royalarchinst.org/lectures?fbclid=IwAR2GzAgRA-Vafsel-9qf0AlhRzvlankSwCbsJbcubOs6wmTqrHgEATEA_uQ

There are 5 courses currently available on **Future Learn**:

- Archaeology: from Dig to Lab and Beyond
- Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology
- Archaeology and the Battle of Dunbar 1650
- Hadrian's Wall: Life on the Roman Frontier
- Rome: A Virtual Tour of the Ancient City

<https://www.futurelearn.com/subjects/history-courses/archaeology>

Just because you can't visit the **museum**, doesn't mean you can't see inside them. Take a virtual tour of some of the most exciting archaeology displayed around the world, e.g.:

Check out the **Staffordshire Hoard**:

<https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/bmag/virtual-tour>

World Collections from the **Pitt Rivers**:

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=ns3yCKpUzSq&help=1>

And classical collections from the **Vatican**:

<http://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/museo-pioclementino/tour-virtuale.html>

The **Ashmolean**: <http://www.chem.ox.ac.uk/oxfordtour/ashmolean/text.html>

Explore some of **Wessex Archaeology**'s most recent fieldwork including Bath Abbey here:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/wessexarchaeology>

If you are still missing archaeological sites, then take a look at **EH's YouTube Channel** for postcards from some of their most iconic places (here's also recipes, how to guides, make up tips and more!):

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EnglishHeritageFilm>

7 episodes of **Digging for Britain** have just added to iplayer, including Series 8, episode 1 which features an Anglo Saxon Cemetery in Gloucestershire excavated with Cotswold Archaeology and the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b014hl0d/episodes/player> or find on your TV, of course

96 episodes of **Time Team** have also all been uploaded to All4:

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/time-team> or find on your TV

Or try a virtual tour of the **Acropolis**: <http://www.yougoculture.com/virtual-tour/athens/myth/acropolis>

Please remember to wash your hands
(from my sister in Australia)

