

CBA EAST FUTURE EVENTS

CBA EAST ONLINE TALKS

CBA East is introducing a new and unmissable Winter series of FREE monthly online talks, with the aim of connecting, informing and entertaining our members. Commencing in January 2022 and ending in March 2022, the talks will then resume on September 27th, through to March 2023 (minus December). Each talk will be held **via Zoom at 7.30 pm on the last Tuesday of the month**. Each talk will last approximately 45 mins followed by 10 minutes of Qs & As. Put the dates in your diary and join us on our new venture.

Each free talk must be booked separately through Eventbrite, by clicking on the links provided. Alternatively, if you go onto the Eventbrite website and search under 'cbaeast', the talks will come up. All tickets booked will be e-tickets, and Eventbrite will email you with a reminder before the day of the talk.

An account with Eventbrite and/or Zoom may be required to register but these are free and simple to do – just follow the prompts on your device.

Jan 25th 2022 at 7.30 pm

“The Archaeology of Ritual and Magic” presented by Dr Mark Curteis, Assistant Museums Manager at Chelmsford Museum. After completing a Master’s Degree in Archaeology in 1988, Mark left Durham University to pursue a career in museums. Along the way he studied for a PhD in archaeology, specialising in Iron Age coins and archaeology. Mark sits on the committee for the Essex History and Archaeology Society and is also a tutor in Museum Studies for the University of Leicester. He lives in Suffolk.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-archaeology-of-ritual-and-magic-a-talk-by-dr-mark-curteis-tickets-235358843637>

Feb 22nd 2022 at 7.30 pm

“Brooches, Beds, and Burials: Early Medieval Eastern England in its European Context”. Dr Emma Brownlee is the Otilie Hancock Research Fellow in Archaeology, Girton College, University of Cambridge, as well as an affiliated fellow of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. Dr Brownlee works on early medieval grave good use between the fifth and eighth centuries AD, and is interested in what differences and similarities across Europe can tell us about connectivity over broad areas. Dr Brownlee is currently writing a book on how funerary practices vary across Europe, and what we can learn from different types of burials. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brooches-beds-and-burials-early-medieval-eastn-engd-in-europn-contxt-tickets-236645612397>

Mar 29th 2022 at 7.30 pm

“Between the Cracks: Underfloor Archaeology at Oxburgh Hall” presented by Anna Forrest, Cultural Heritage Curator at the National Trust. Anna has worked for the National

Trust in the East of England since 2003, first as Assistant Curator and from 2006 as Curator. Having studied Medieval Studies and Architectural History at undergraduate and postgraduate level, she has worked with a varied portfolio of NT properties, including the restoration of the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds, the "Ickworth Lives" project to restore and interpret the below stairs areas in the rotunda, and the complete re-display of Lavenham Guildhall. For the past 3 years Anna has had the privilege of working solely at Oxburgh, Norfolk, during the £6m "Raise the Roof" project, where she has been leading a research programme alongside the building works. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/between-the-cracks-underfloor-archaeology-at-oxburgh-hall-tickets-236671048477>

Sept 27th 2022 at 7.30 pm

“Decoding the dead: new work on Roman cremations at Colchester”: Professor Hella Eckardt, Head of Archaeology, Reading University, and Glynn Davis, Senior Collections & Learning Curator, Colchester.

Oct 25th 2022 at 7.30 pm. TBC.

Nov 29th 2022 at 7.30 pm. TBC.

More information on these and subsequent talks will be given in the June Newsletter and on our website.

CBA ONLINE TALK

Join us for January's Archaeology Online to find out about **Isca**, the Roman Legionary Fortress at Caerleon. **Jan 26th at 7.30 pm.**

The legionary fortress at Caerleon, known to the Romans as Isca, was established in AD 74 or 75 during the final campaigns to subdue the fierce native tribes of western Britain, notably the Silures who had provided the most determined resistance to the Roman advance.

Isca was the headquarters of Legio Secunda Augusta (the Second Augustan Legion), that had taken part in the original invasion in 43 and, under the command of the future emperor Vespasian, had already brought large parts of southern and south-western England under Roman control. The history of Caerleon is also the history of the conquest, assimilation and acculturation of the Silures and the other British tribes in Wales.

The fortress at Caerleon offers a very rare opportunity to investigate a legionary base and archaeologists have been working in and around Caerleon for over 100 years. This talk will present the results of three recent large research projects, including geophysical surveys, open area excavation of a store building, as well as evaluation excavations of a large extramural suburb between the Amphitheatre and the River Usk.

To book for this talk, visit the CBA website at [Archaeology Online: Isca - The Roman Legionary Fortress at Caerleon Council for British Archaeology \(archaeologyuk.org\)](https://archaeologyuk.org/online/isca-the-roman-legionary-fortress-at-caerleon)

BEATRICE DE CARDI LECTURE AND NATIONAL CBA AGM

***Staging the World of Stonehenge* by Dr Neil Wilkin, lead curator of *The World of Stonehenge* exhibition at the British Museum. Feb 3rd. 11.30am.**

Only members of the national CBA are allowed to vote at the AGM, however the DeCardi Lecture is open to anyone. Members can book at [Council of British Archaeology AGM 2022 & the Beatrice De Cardi Lecture - Members Only Council for British Archaeology \(archaeologyuk.org\)](https://archaeologyuk.org/2022/02/council-of-british-archaeology-agm-2022-the-beatrice-de-cardi-lecture/)

Non-members can book at [The CBA Annual Beatrice De Cardi lecture 2022 Council for British Archaeology \(archaeologyuk.org\)](https://archaeologyuk.org/2022/02/the-cba-annual-beatrice-de-cardi-lecture-2022-council-for-british-archaeology/)

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CBA EAST LOCAL MEETINGS

In view of the continuing virus situation we have not yet been able to make definite arrangements for meetings in the coming months. However we do hope to go ahead with our long postponed **GUIDED TOUR OF THE BARROW CEMETERY ON THERFIELD HEATH (Royston)** in April. We will be in touch by e-mail as soon as this **and other events** are finalised, and details will be available on the website.

RECENT CBA EAST EVENTS

CLARE CASTLE DIG

On a cold, blustery but, thankfully, dry morning on the 6th October a hardy group of members arrived at Clare Castle, Suffolk, for a tour of the final days of the current excavations. The arrival point was The Old Goods Shed, part of the former railway which ran through the inner bailey of the castle and which is now a refurbished community centre for the town. Coffee and cakes were kindly provided by our hosts Cotswold Archaeology Suffolk, followed by an introduction to the castle and the dig.

Jo Caruth, Principal Post-Excavation Manager, gave a brief summary of the current three-year excavation project carried out for the Clare Castle Trust and funded by Heritage Lottery, building on earlier excavations in 2013 led by Carenza Lewis, and informed by recent geophysics. The castle was built circa 1090, one of the earliest Norman castles in Suffolk, on a site already occupied by a college of Secular Canons. In 2018 excavations in the outer bailey had found the archaeology just below the topsoil. Finds included a very large building, possibly stables, an enormous oven, and a number of medieval military arrow heads. This was followed in 2019 by excavations in the inner bailey where a known Anglo-Saxon cemetery was found to have extended much further than previously thought. This year's excavations were to try and establish if the cemetery extended south of the 19thC railway line; to establish the cut of the moat which had once surrounded the still extant motte; to investigate a possible chapel within a wooded area to the south; and to continue to unpick the complicated medieval remains found in 2019 below the old railway track.

Jo led us to Trench 6 where Martin Cuthbert of CAS greeted us. A large N/S ditch bisected the trench and probably formed the western boundary to the cemetery, confirmed by the presence of some burials in the eastern half and none in the western half. On either side of the ditch were a number of post holes, some of which were very large and deep and appeared to represent a pre-12th C building which clearly post-dates the infilling of the ditch.

Moving north across the road to Trench 10, archaeologist Joe Smith showed us the three burials found here, just short of the moat cut around the motte. The skull of one burial, which had been laid partly on stones, was missing, possibly as a result of the proximity of the moat cut, demonstrating that the Norman builders had not respected the cemetery. Various rubbish deposits had been found on the moat edge but it wasn't clear yet if the moat had been recut post 11thC.

After a brief visit to the Finds Tent, manned by several volunteers under the direction of CAS's Clare Wootton, Jo led us to the trench in the woods, south of the old railway line. A large dump of roof tiles and flint rubble had been found here, together with over a hundred

pieces of medieval painted glass and pieces of glazed floor tile, all leading to the hope that this was the site of a chapel dating from the time of Elizabeth De Burgh (d.1360). These hopes had evaporated as no evidence of any foundations had been uncovered but while we were there, a small piece of worked ivory was discovered, identified later as part of a very rare Byzantine liturgical comb. Another piece was found soon after. Probably dating from before the 12thC, this high-status item was a timely reminder of how unexpected and exciting archaeology can be.



Martin explains the layout of Trench 6

Our visit continued with two test pits, proving the cemetery extended further south and east than previously thought. It can be reasonably surmised that the boundaries of the inner bailey encompassed the earlier cemetery. Jo then took us through to the outer bailey and showed us where the very large oven had been found, where the possible stables had stretched, and where in the south of the outer bailey the military arrow heads had been discovered.

This completed a truly comprehensive tour of a fascinating site. It still has some secrets to be revealed – where was the Anglo-Saxon church which must have overlooked the cemetery? Where was the chapel to which the medieval stained glass belonged? – but the three-year excavations are at an end and the post-excavation analysis is now beginning. We look forward to hearing the results and more about Clare Castle from Jo in the future. Many thanks to Cotswold Archaeology Suffolk and to the Trustees of Clare Castle Trust for a wonderfully stimulating morning.

For an illustrated summary of the 2021 excavations see

<https://cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/clare-castle-review-of-our-2021-excavations/>

Louise Harrison

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Most CBA East members renew their membership along with their national membership on the CBA website. Those who are not members of the national organisation renew **either** by standing order **or** annually. If you do not already have a standing order in place and have not had your 2021 membership extended, you should have received a renewal notice by e-mail asking you to renew your membership in order to continue to receive our communications. If you have any questions, please e-mail the Membership Secretary, David Gordon gordon780@btinternet.com.

EXHIBITIONS

1. There is still just time to take in the **THETFORD TREASURE** exhibition at the Ancient House, Thetford. This display shows 11 items of the Thetford Treasure found at Gallows Hill, Thetford in 1979. The whole treasure includes 44 pieces of jewellery, 33 silver spoons and a shale jewellery box. The exhibition closes 29th January 2022. [The Thetford Treasure - Norfolk Museums](#). Advance booking is recommended.

2. There is also time to see **THE GOLD OF THE GREAT STEPPE** exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. This stunning exhibition presents artefacts from the extraordinary Iron Age burial mounds of the Saka people of East Kazakhstan. The exhibition closes 30th January 2022. Access is free but **advance booking is required**. A taster can be seen on Youtube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrlEJ_3fWds&list=PLk9n3rUOif43zBUj9WPNiTbnTqZUzpB-r.

DIGGING OPPORTUNITIES

Some local groups do have digs and field walking activities pencilled in to their programmes, although it is usually necessary (eg for insurance reasons) to be a member of the relevant group. See their websites for details. Those which have come to our attention are the Rendlesham Project [Rendlesham Revealed - Suffolk Heritage Explorer](#), Fen Edge Archaeology Group (no details yet available), Aylsham Roman Project [Future Events – Aylsham Roman Project](#), Caistor Roman Project [Get involved | Caistor Roman Project](#), Cambridge Archaeology Field Group (field walking) <http://www.cafg.net/>. Rochford Hundred FAG may also be planning to dig this year: <http://rhfag.dubsnet.co.uk/>. Unfortunately digs are often not advertised outside the groups.

NATIONAL TREASURES: SAVING THE NATION'S ART

Members may be interested in this talk from the National Archives:

Dr Caroline Shenton explores the gripping, and sometimes hilarious, story of how a band of heroic curators and eccentric custodians saved Britain's national heritage during the Second World War. March 2nd. [National Treasures: Saving the Nation's Art Tickets, Wed 2 Mar 2022 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Dr Shenton is the former Director of the Parliamentary Archives in London, and before that was a senior archivist at the National Archives. She now works as Secretary to Council at Girton College, Cambridge.

BRONZE AGE FORUM

It is hoped that the much postponed Forum will be able to go ahead on 12-13 November 2022 in Cambridge. We expect to have further details in the June Newsletter.

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY SPRING CONFERENCE

The Conference, **Catching up after covid – Highlights of Cambridgeshire archaeology in and out of lockdown** is scheduled for March 19th. The focus is on archaeological work in Cambridgeshire over the last 2 years. It is uncertain at present whether the conference will be held in person or online, so please check back for further information.

[Conferences | Cambridge Antiquarian Society \(camantsoc.org\)](https://camantsoc.org)

CONFERENCE VIDEOS – THE EDGE

Not local, but of wide-ranging general interest, videos of the two-day conference with the theme *The Edge* from the University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute:

[Video: The Edge - conference recordings now available - Archaeology Orkney](#)

LOCAL SOCIETIES AND EVENTS

We normally aim to offer a selection of events hosted by local societies in our region, with particular emphasis on organisations affiliated to CBA East, and had hoped to do so again. Many Societies have now published their spring programmes, but there may be changes to events which *have* been scheduled, as well as new programmes. **We are not therefore listing specific events this time. Please check the individual websites for up-to-date information.** Those groups which have published programmes on their sites are **highlighted**.

Members may be particularly interested in the forthcoming ZOOM talk from **Histon and Impington Archaeology Group**:

The Dead of Cambridgeshire: excavations at a Roman roadside settlement and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. January 17th at 7.30 pm.

David Ingham of Albion Archaeology will talk about two excavations which have attracted more than local interest. You may have seen articles in the national press last month about one of the Roman-period burials from the Fenstanton site which is a rare example of direct evidence for crucifixion (<https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/romancrucifixion>), while the other site, at Newnham, featured in the BBC2 programme *Digging for Britain* on 11th January. Full details at [HIAG-Talk-Publicity-2022-01-17-The-Dead-of-Cambridgeshire | Histon & Impington Archaeology Group \(wordpress.com\)](#)

ALDEBURGH AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
<http://www.adlhs.org.uk/>

ARCHAEOLOGY RHEESESEARCH GROUP
 . <http://www.rheeseearch.org.uk/>

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AYLSHAM ROMAN PROJECT

<https://aylshamromanproject.com/>

BRAUGHING ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

<https://www.ehas.org.uk/html/bag.html>

CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

<http://www.cafg.net/>

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

[Talks & Lectures - Colchester Archaeological Group \(caguk.net\)](#)

EAST HERTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<https://www.ehas.org.uk/html/events.html>

FANE ROAD ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP (PETERBOROUGH)

<https://peterborougharchaeology.org/>

FEN EDGE ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

<https://feagblog.wordpress.com/>

FENLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<https://www.fenarch.org.uk/>

GREAT YARMOUTH LOCAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<https://www.greatyarmouthlocalhistoryandarchaeology.com/meetings>

HISTON AND IMPINGTON ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

<https://hiarchaeology.wordpress.com/#>

MIDDLE NENE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

<https://www.midnag.org.uk/events.html>

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

<http://www.nahrg.org.uk/>

NORFOLK INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

<http://www.norfolkia.org.uk/>

NORFOLK AND NORWICH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.nahrg.org.uk/>

ROCHFORD HUNDRED FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

<http://rhfag.dubsnet.co.uk/>

SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

<https://www.sgsoc.org/lectures>

SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD GROUP

<https://www.suffolkinstitute.org.uk/fieldgroup>

THE SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

<https://www.suffolkinstitute.org.uk/>

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.walthamabbeyhistoricalsociety.org.uk/>

WELWYN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<https://welwynarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com/>

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

[Lecture Programme – WEAG](#)

WEST NORFOLK AND KING'S LYNN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

[West Norfolk & King's Lynn Archaeology Society \(greyhawk.org.uk\)](http://greyhawk.org.uk)

LOCAL SOCIETY PROFILES

Tell other members about your Group or Society! Send a brief profile or report to the editor for inclusion in a future Newsletter.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Some Members have **still** not provided us with an e-mail address. If you have received this Newsletter by post, PLEASE let us have your e-mail address at CBAEast@archaeologyuk.org. This will be used purely for contact purposes and will not be passed to other organisations.

Without a current e-mail address, you may not receive details of CBAE events.

Some e-mails are still being returned to us. If you expected to receive information by newsletter but have a printed copy instead, please supply us with an up-to-date e-mail address.

Please also contact us if you no longer wish to receive communications from us.

GRANTS

CBA East awards **individual grants of up to £250** in support of archaeological study. We are keen to support a broad range of activity, and particularly wish to promote education, research, public awareness and participation in archaeology in the region. The criteria are flexible and hence appropriate for individuals or newly formed groups who are seeking funding for training, help with investigation of potential sites, or informal publication of initial work. Applications from young people who live in the region are welcome.

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to cbaeast@archaeologyuk.org, by 31st December each year. These will normally be acknowledged within fourteen days, either indicating that the application meets the criteria, or with a request for more information. All valid applications will then be considered together at the first committee meeting of the following year, with one or two grants being made. Further details at <http://cbae.archaeologyuk.org/grants/>.

COPY FOR THE NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter is due to be published in June 2022. **Please send items for inclusion to CBAE.Newsletter@archaeologyuk.org by the end of May.**