

## Sutton Hoo ship replica to be built in Woodbridge

75 years after Basil Brown uncovered the early 7th century ship burial in Mound 1 at Sutton Hoo, there are plans to build a full-size seagoing replica on a riverside site to be redeveloped at Woodbridge. The Anglo-Saxon Ship Build project is being developed under the umbrella of the Woodbridge Riverside Trust, a group of volunteers running the community interests alongside a much larger commercial development that is part of the Woodbridge Waterfront. The plans are in their earliest stages, and depend on fund-raising and grant-giving, but the trust expects to begin building in two years time and finish it by the end of 2018.



*The planned redevelopment of the Whisstocks site in Woodbridge, drawn by architect Paul Weston.*

The project already has a firm legal commitment from developers FW Properties to provide a purpose-built shed in which to build the ship. The idea is feasible because of the urgent need to redevelop the old Whisstocks Boat Yard (and Nunn's Mill) which have been vacant for sixteen years, and which locals are determined should bring some benefit to their community in the form of riverside access and facilities.

An early attempt to buy the site failed, but under the name of The Whisstocks Project, the Riverside Trust has campaigned hard over the last five years for an acceptable compromise. A Planning Application submitted last April by developers FW Properties was unanimously approved in outline at the end of August by Suffolk Coastal District Council. The plans provide for flats and holiday homes, but also a large public open space linking up with the Tide Mill, where Maritime Woodbridge events have been held in recent years, a waterfront restaurant and bar on the site of the old chandlery, a two-storey building (or Heritage Hub) to house Woodbridge Museum, as well as the 5,500 sq. ft. ship shed.

"The developers have been excellent", Trust organiser Paul Constantine told **Saxon**. "They won't be putting money into the ship project itself, but they want to see it built." FWP are building the £700,000 ship shed and gifting it to Woodbridge Town Council, who will then lease it to

the Woodbridge Riverside Trust. The Council will retain a large stake in the site management company and the Sutton Hoo replica is seen as just the first of many community-run projects on the whole site.

The Trust is planning to build the replica ship as authentically as possible and hopes to access preparatory planning carried out several years ago under the auspices of National Trust Sutton Hoo. At the centre of both projects is an apparently arcane debate about whether to saw the planks laterally or radially cleave them, which is actually of critical importance for the strength of the ship, especially if it is to be put under the strains of a mast and rigging.

In the first instance, the new replica will be built as a rowing ship with forty oars, as its scantlings and rowlocks indicate it might have been. After launch, there will be a "flexible period" when it could be sailed: "Inevitably, someone will want to row it across to Denmark", remarks Peter Clay, a leading member of the project. Later, there will be an "end of life" period when the ship might be dragged up to Sutton Hoo, but that could be ten or more years from now. The Trust does need not to own the ship in perpetuity. "We have quite a small focus", says Paul Constantine, "currently our magnifying glass is only on the building of the ship."

A surprising number of 1st millennium Scandinavian ship replicas have been built since the first one sailed from Norway

to Chicago in 1893. More recently, the Viking replica ship Sea Stallion, which the Society visited at the Danish Ship Museum in Roskilde in 2009 (**Saxon** 50) which in the previous two summers was sailed and rowed from Denmark to Dublin and back, though it almost sank when its planks started. Most recently, the replica of the 4th century Nydam ship was launched in Denmark last August. Everything is still to be done for the Sutton Hoo replica, not least finance and sourcing the timber, but it has a good start with an organisation, design planning and a ship shed to be completed in two years time before construction can begin.



*Nydam Tveir (Nydam Two) shortly after launch at Allsund, Denmark on 18 August 2013 (photo Ole Brixen Søndergaard).*

# Back in the heart of Cambridge



*The Wren Library, Trinity College Cambridge (© The Master and Fellows of Trinity College Cambridge)*

The Society's second trip to Cambridge last year was organised by Megan Milan and Bryony Abbott in September, though with some trepidation about its falling on Friday the Thirteenth (triskaidekaphobia). In the event, goodwill and hospitality awaited the Society at three of the loveliest Cambridge colleges and also the Fitzwilliam Museum, where members were treated to a private view of the Anglo-Saxon coin collection. BRYONY ABBOTT describes the day.

## Newnham College

Dr. Sam Lucy

Our first stop was for tea and biscuits at Newnham College, an elegant Victorian foundation with beautiful buildings and extensive gardens. The herbaceous borders, from an original design by Gertrude Jekyll, were still flowering in

the late summer sun as we made our way to the conference room where we were greeted by Dr Sam Lucy, a Fellow of the college and Post-Excavation and Publications Officer at the Cambridge Archaeological Unit.

A specialist in Anglo-Saxon archaeology and an old friend of the Sutton Hoo Society, she is the author of *The Anglo-Saxon Way of Death* (2000). She brought us up to date on her research on the Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery at Spong Hill in Norfolk, where she is working with Dr. Catherine Hills, who hosted us on our previous Cambridge Tour at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Their magnum opus has just been published (see pp. 5-6).

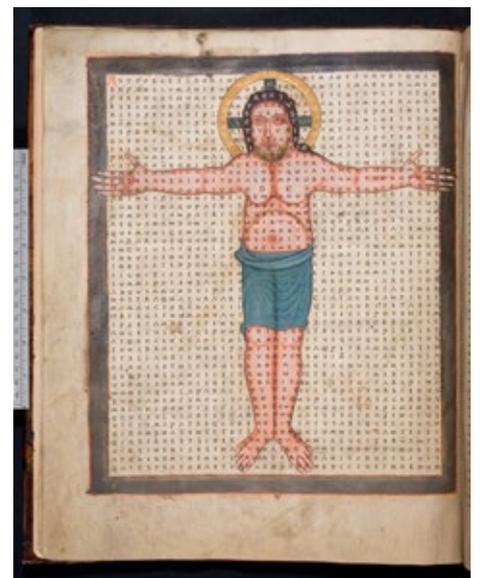
Sam described her work at several sites, including Bloodmoor Hill near Carlton Colville and Westfield, Ely. The one that captured our imagination was the recent discovery of one of the earliest Anglo-Saxon Christian burial sites in Britain, at Trumpington, near the Park and Ride to Cambridge. This fascinating medieval site contained four burials, three females and one unknown, all aligned west to east.

One was a very rare bed burial with the remains of a young girl aged between 14 and 18. The bed was made of a metal frame which completely surrounded her and still had a few shreds of fabric attached. Near the body was found a beautiful gold pectoral cross, studded with

garnets. This wonderful cloisonné artefact, one of only five ever found, could have been worn by someone permanently, as the attachments on the back of the cross were designed to be stitched onto clothing. A chatelaine, typically worn at the waist in the 7th century and usually an indicator of high status, was also found buried beside the teenage girl, again with tantalising scraps of textile still attached.



*The obverse and reverse of a gold shilling, made in southern England in the mid-7th century (© The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge)*



*One of the Anglo-Saxon manuscripts specially displayed for us: Rabanus de Laude Crucis, MS B.16.3, fol. 3v., possibly 10th century (© The Master and Fellows of Trinity College Cambridge)*



Trumpington bed burial: composite view (left); the brooch in situ (centre); the brooch after conservation (right) (© Cambridge Archaeological Unit).

**Fitzwilliam Museum  
Dr. Rory Naismith**

Our next visit was to the magnificent neoclassical buildings of the Fitzwilliam Museum for a private viewing of the Anglo-Saxon coin collection. The department of coins and medals has a rich collection of money from all parts of the medieval world covering the period 410AD to 1180AD and including precious Anglo-Saxon, Norman, Frankish and Byzantine coins.

Dr. Rory Naismith, from Cambridge University's Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic (ASNC), welcomed us and talked to us about the East Anglian coins of the early and mid-Saxon period. To our delight, he and his museum colleagues had chosen a selection of coins for us to handle. It was a tremendous

privilege and we all experienced that sense of connecting with history as Rory described how coins can shine a light on the development of the economy and provide insight into international connections. He talked to us about the role of Anglo-Saxon kings in supervising the minting of coins as the prerogative of the most powerful ruler, setting out to stamp their authority on the mints and then their kingdoms, by controlling the coinage.

**Lunch at Corpus Christi**

For those of us expecting the meal break to be a quick coffee and a sandwich at John Lewis, a special treat was in store. Megan had arranged for the Society to have lunch with college members in the upstairs dining room of Corpus Christi College, founded in 1352 in the medieval heart of Cambridge. By this time we had done rather a lot of walking to cover the ground between sites: we were ready to sit down and enjoy the wonderful backdrop of the panelled walls and the animated conversations of bright young minds.

**The Wren Library  
Sandy Paul, Sub-Librarian,  
Trinity College Library**

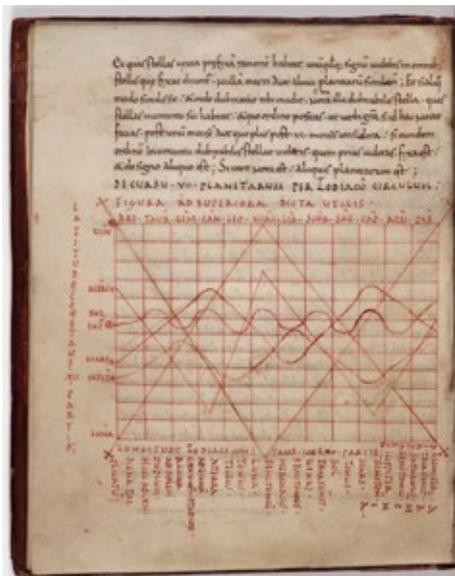
On our way to visit the magnificent Wren Library at Trinity College, we walked through the famous quadrangle with its clock, immortalised in the film *Chariots of Fire*. The Wren Library was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, built of Rutland stone, and completed in 1695. Wren was also responsible for the design of the interior, including all the furniture in the Library and the bookshelves, decorated with limewood carving by Grinling Gibbons.

The huge leaded-light windows reach up to the massive ceiling, reminiscent of cathedral windows found in Wren

churches, flooding the room with light like in a medieval scriptorium. Marble busts of Isaac Newton and Francis Bacon give the Library a stately appearance and there is a statue of Byron by Thorvaldsen, originally destined for Westminster Abbey. Trinity College snapped up the sculpture of their alumnus and it now takes pride of place.

Our knowledgeable host had made a special display for us of Anglo-Saxon books and manuscripts drawn from Trinity's special collection of 1,250 medieval manuscripts. They included the 12th century *Eadwine Psalter* from Christ Church Canterbury; the 13th century Anglo-Norman Trinity *Apocalypse* and the *Romance of Alexander*; and from the 14th century, a treasured manuscript of *Piers Plouman*, all now available digitally in the Library section of the College website at [www.trin.cam.ac.uk](http://www.trin.cam.ac.uk). There were also many books from Sir Isaac Newton's own library alongside editions of Shakespeare and an original manuscript of *Winnie-the-Pooh* from more modern times.

This was the final visit of our day of superexcellent delights! Many thanks to our wonderful hosts and we look forward to arranging further visits to Cambridge in the future.



Astronomical diagrams from Hyginus etc., MS R.15.32, p.6, early 11th century, probably from Winchester (© The Master and Fellows of Trinity College Cambridge)



In Trinity quad (photo Mike Argent)

# Remaking the Sutton Hoo stone

In the summer of 2009, master stone mason Brian Ansell sat in the visitors' centre at Sutton Hoo finishing a replica of the Sutton Hoo stone - often called the 'whetstone' or 'sceptre' - commissioned from him by National Trust (see **Saxon 49**). Now he has published his account of the 'making and remaking' of the stone, in a book with contributions from metal worker David Roper and historical researchers Paul Mortimer and Stephen Pollington, and whose launch was celebrated at Sutton Hoo on 9 November. PAULINE MOORE has been reading it.

The team of craftsmen and authors chose as their motto a quotation from Richard Underwood: "Above all, reconstruction consolidates academic knowledge into practical understanding."

David Roper, the metallurgist from Herefordshire who has created most of the splendid replicas displayed at Sutton Hoo, writes here of the re-creation of the Stag, Iron Ring, Upper Cage and Mount, and Lower Cage and Foot, explaining each part of the process and showing how he had to face the same problems as the original smith, and how interpretation of the original led him to find certain solutions. Actually doing this work has led to a few deviations from the information in Bruce-Mitford's 1978 Report - an almost inevitable result of close and expert handling of the materials.

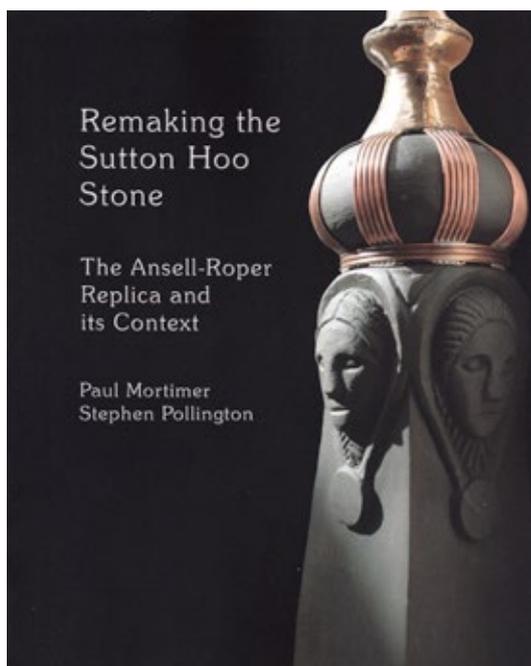
As with each section of this fine book, the writer comes to a clearly-argued conclusion. Each section is also very helpfully illustrated with photographs and drawings by Hannah Simons and Lindsay Kerr.

Brian Ansell, master stone-mason, describes sculpting the stone by direct carving: here the illustrations help the reader to follow the complex process from design, layout, templates etc., through the choice of tools to deal with the extremely hard greywacke stone, to the actual coping and carving. Here mathematical exactness, skilled hands and eyes, and a feel for stone unite to remove surface after surface, until (with surprisingly little stone removed) the smooth, round finials, the heads and the long curves of the stem are formed - all done by hand alone. Precise, proportionate geometry means that this enigmatic object can now stand, perfectly balanced, on its base.



Brian Ansell (left) and Stephen Pollington at the Sutton Hoo event (Photo Mike Argent).

As a result of several different crafts coming together, the conclusion in this book is that "ALL the parts were carefully designed to be put together" in a "deliberate and coordinated attempt at creating a particular aesthetic effect".



The authors go on to explore writings about what the Stone is, and to take issue with some proposals: e.g. Bruce-Mitford's repetition of the terms 'barbaric' and 'sceptre'. This is an interesting section, showing a variety of interpretations by a number of experts: "sceptre, mace, idol, ancestor staff, dynastic symbol, fertility symbol, thunderbolt, missile, weapon, symbol of mastery over weapons, altar ring, oath ring, firelighter, badge of office, symbol of an agile mind and rhetorical ability - or just a whetstone." Mortimer considers these ideas, some quite feasible, others easily discounted (greywacke, for instance, does not produce a spark of fire).

One section is devoted to M.J. Enright's 2006 book, *The Sutton Hoo Sceptre and the Roots of Celtic Kingship Theory*, by the end of which you are left pretty sure the stone is unlikely to have been a 'sceptre', and probably had little to do with being 'Celtic': a very vague term itself, and unsupported by any evidence in this case.

Pollington's interesting look at the 'Vocabulary of Rule' is enlightening, helping the reader to consider what thoughts the Anglo-Saxons themselves

might be expressing. He also writes on the stag and on Anglo-Saxon measurement systems. Consider the precision that Ansell describes during the making, and one's eyes are opened again.

Perhaps the most profound thoughts are found in the section where Pollington looks at the 'weohstan' idea - a holy stone - and remember Raedwald's ancestor, Wehha? Consider, too, the idea of a 'Stone of Destiny', which is found in various cultures from India to Ireland. "Worthy ancestors could become gods."

The final section, 'Possibilities and Conclusions' is, as ever, enhanced by illustration. Perhaps the most intriguing came from a revealing photograph of one of the bearded faces from the foot of the stone. Its left eye has been struck out and re-worked, leaving scar-marks which now became visible from the lighting of Hannah Simons's photograph.

Anyone who heard Prof. Neil Price speaking at our last SHS Conference on 'An Eye for Odin' will hear bells ringing: the god forfeited an eye for a drink from the 'well of wisdom'. In Scandinavian carvings of wood, stone and in jewellery - as well as elsewhere in the Sutton Hoo regalia - this

damaged eye recurs: in the man/god face on the thigh of the shield-eagle; in the lack of reflective foil behind the garnets on one helmet-eyebrow; and the eye of one of the men guarded by wolves on the purse-lid. All these have now been closely scrutinised and recognised as a pattern, seeming to indicate Woden-worship. The reader is left wondering if these faces on the Stone are gods and goddesses: but the authors and craftsmen rightly and wisely end by stating the need for further research.

This Stone is at the heart of the mystery of the Sutton Hoo burial and the man lying in his ship. This book draws you into the mystery in the same way the mason does - layer by layer. The volume is as delightful to look at and to hold as is the powerful stag on the crest of the Stone.

## REFERENCES

- Mortimer, P. and Pollington, S. (2013) *Remaking the Sutton Hoo Stone: the Ansell-Roper replica and its context* (Little Downham, Ely: Anglo-Saxon Books) £17.95 paperback, 196 pp., 106 b&w and 33 colour illustrations. ISBN 9781898281696. Order from [www.asbooks.co.uk](http://www.asbooks.co.uk)

# Re-dating Early England

Two new studies published this summer transform chronologies for the archaeology of early Anglo-Saxon England, and were the focus of a day-long research seminar at the Society of Antiquaries in London on Friday 8 November. Your editor was there.

Archaeological dating is no simple matter. It depends firstly on the relationship of features and artefacts in the ground (stratigraphy). This gives a relative sequence which of course we want to tie in to absolute, calendar dates. In the past this was done through the artefacts, such as pottery or weapons, which have been classified in ever more detailed typological sequences since the start of the 19th century. Sometimes the presence of coins allowed a more precise historical date, though they can be old when deposited. More recently, a battery of scientific dates from C14, dendrochronology and thermo-luminescence have been applied to artefacts and structures, and the typologies have been refined using computer-based seriation (series or sequences according to chronology and type). For the early Anglo-Saxon period, the dates produced by the older typologies were not always consistent and often gave very broad time limits, so that until now there has been 'no comprehensive chronological framework for Early Anglo-Saxon Archaeology' (Hines and Bayliss 2013, xvii).

surviving wood (dendrochronology), but the method was quite unclear and uncertain.

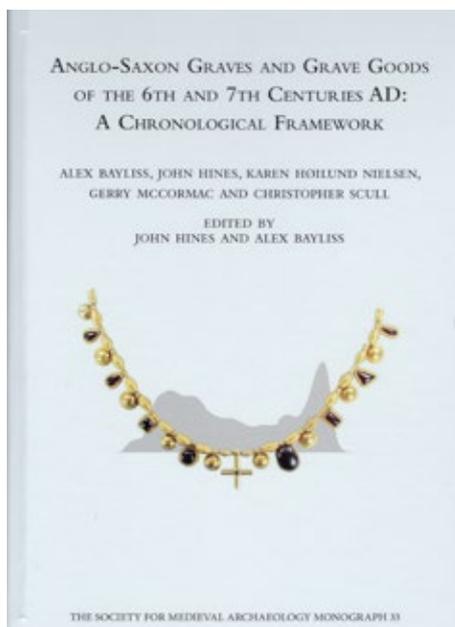
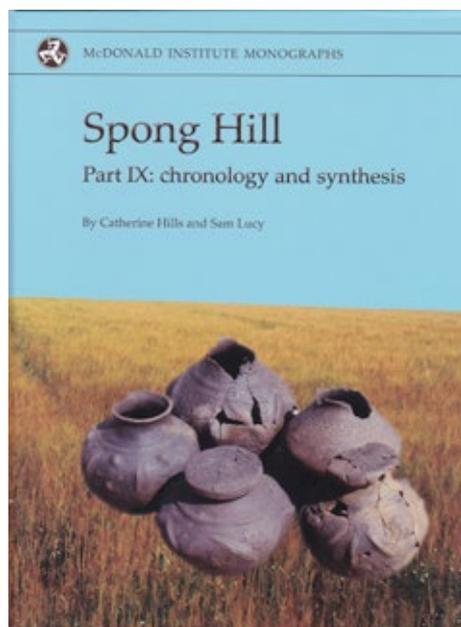
In 1997, Chris Scull, an archaeological consultant and now a visiting professor at both Cardiff and UCL's Institute of Archaeology, together with Dr Alex Bayliss, now head of scientific dating for English Heritage, devised a project to improve matters. Both had co-operated on the analysis of the Buttermarket cemetery site in Ipswich, which involved the latest high-precision versions of radiocarbon dating, coupled with analysis by the increasingly widely-used statistical methods of 'Bayesian modelling' and 'correspondence analysis'. All these techniques are explained in detail – certainly more detail than the amateur will need – in Hines and Bayliss's second chapter, which will stand as a technical locus classicus. The course of the project - which focused on 300 male and female burials of the 6th to 7th centuries furnished with grave-goods - is described in a short chapter by Chris Scull.

the centuries. But there is an additional complication. Bone collagen (protein) is built up from dietary foods, with a time lag of eight or nine years, and if those come from non-terrestrial sources (eg, freshwater or marine fish, from river and coastal sites respectively) they can produce another statistical distortion. The sample of human skeletons from 90 burials at 17 sites therefore had to be analysed (by Nancy Beavan and Simon Mays) in terms of carbon/nitrogen isotopes and amino-acids, as recorded in many pages of statistical tables.

The male and female burials were treated separately and are described in separate chapters (by Alex Bayliss, John Hines of Cardiff University and Karen Høilund Nielsen of Århus). Karen Nielsen also provides a hundred-page discussion of the typology of the artefacts, the buckles and bosses, swords, seaxes and spears, and personal and dress ornaments. Buckles are particularly useful because they are found in both male and female graves, and easily key into continental and Scandinavian chronologies and typologies of the last thirty years.

Marion Archibald, formerly of the British Museum, reviewed the much scarcer coin evidence: only one grave contained as many as three coins, seven graves contained two, and six graves just one coin, demonstrating yet again how exceptional Sutton Hoo is, with its 37 coins in Mound 1. The historical numismatic dates accord fairly well with the archaeological chronologies, except for a discrepancy in certain coins at around the time when gold coins were giving way to silver ones in the mid 7th century. This means that the dates given for the end of furnished burial in the new chronology are up to twenty years earlier than the dates suggested for the coins in some of those graves, a discrepancy which has yet to be resolved.

The sixteen-year project, sponsored by English Heritage, has been cumulative. To the traditional dating techniques were added revised typologies of the individual grave goods; the charting of the sample grave-assemblages as chronological series (seriation by correspondence analysis); the physical and chemical analysis of the bone samples to achieve high-precision radiocarbon dates; and finally the repeated statistical re-analysis of all this data (Bayesian modelling), carried out



Such schemes did exist on the continent - for example, for Frankish burials with grave goods (Merovingian furnished burials). These could be used to estimate absolute calendar dates, with a little help from the dating of coins and

As Society members will know, dating by measuring the remaining carbon in organic material, like wood or bone, involves testing against a 'calibration curve' that takes into account the varying amount of carbon in the environment over

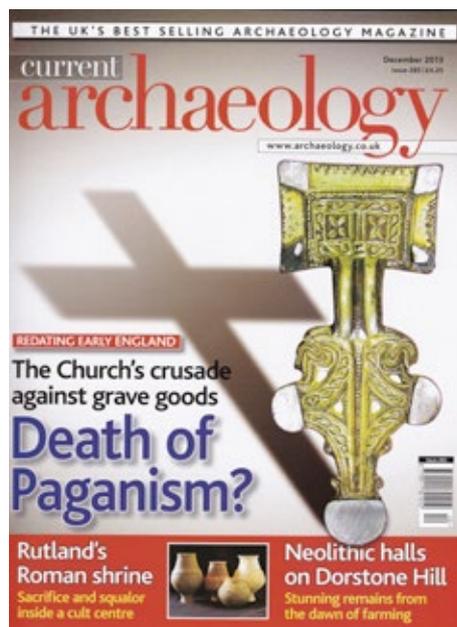
separately for male and female burials, then reconciled and retested against continental and numismatic models. Such is the complexity of modern archaeological dating.

The result is not so much a new set of dates, but five newly defined 'phases' for the years 525-680 and the chronological boundaries between them, based on leading types of artefacts. For the male burials in the study, at 95% probability, phase A starts about 525-550 cal AD, the boundary with the next phase B is calculated to be 545-565, the boundary with phase C is 565-595, with phase D it is 580-610, and with phase E it is 610-645, ending in about 660-685 (Hynes and Bayliss 2013, 460 table 8.2). The first four of those five phases each last only a generation or two, and their commencement dates also span two or three decades each: change does not happen neatly. Figures for female burials differ somewhat, mostly by about five to fifteen years.

Historically, the most notable of these chronological/stylistic divides is the time when the practice of furnishing male graves with personal possessions declined sharply, which the report concludes is 660-685, rather than about fifty years later, around 720, as had hitherto been believed. This highlights a long-standing controversy about the influence of the church. There is an entrenched misunderstanding that burial with grave goods equates to pagan custom and practice, which is why a slide of the front cover of the December issue of *Current Archaeology* (no. 285), proclaiming 'The Church's crusade against grave goods: Death of Paganism?', caused laughter in the seminar.

Even the Society of Antiquaries had got it wrong in their online newsletter, and Chris Scull had had to email to explain that traditional burial with grave goods had in fact continued among Christian communities, both in England and on the Continent, for three or four generations after conversion. It is within these

Christian communities that the change is to be sought, possibly influenced by the reforming ministry of Theodore of Tarsus, who arrived in England as the newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in 669. Christian practice was more varied, and changing more rapidly, than has usually been recognised, and the end of furnished burial is not to be associated with the break from paganism. Indeed, in the 620s and 630s the practice actually increased for female burials. Canonical Christian burial in shrouds or coffins, in graves aligned east-west in bounded churchyards, was not securely established until the 9th or 10th centuries.



The seminar at the Society of Antiquaries began with the other major chronological publication of the summer, the crucial ninth volume on Spong Hill in Norfolk, the largest Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery to have been excavated in Britain. It offers a synthesis of the evidence of more than 2,500 cremations, over 1,200 objects of bone, antler and ivory, 120 brooches, other

personal jewellery and weapons, and suggests a revised dating and phasing of the site that recognises it as mainly 5th century. The result is a chronology for 5th century cremation pottery which, while it is site-specific, is applicable across eastern England. It is the work of Dr Catherine Hills and Dr Sam Lucy, both good friends of the Sutton Hoo Society. Dr Hills has worked on the interpretation of the site since directing the excavation and the post excavation project in the 1970s and 80s. Dr Hills emphasized that many people have been involved in this project, from its initiation by Peter Wade-Martins in 1968 to the final editing and compendious index by Dora Kemp of the McDonald Institute, Cambridge.

They were able to sequence stylistic changes in the style, decoration and stamping of the pottery in more than eighty style groups, and to establish three phases of use (A, B and C) specific to Spong Hill. The cemetery was first used in the first quarter of the 5th century, for cremation only, continuing through phase B starting in the middle third of that century. Phase C is dated to the last quarter of the 5th century and has inhumations as well as cremations, ending in the mid 6th century, by which time the early Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Sutton Hoo was in use.

The conclusion is that from the early 5th century there was a significant influx of Anglo-Saxons to parts of eastern England, especially Norfolk, with continual contact across the North Sea. By contrast, it seems that much of the rest of England probably saw limited Anglo-Saxon settlement until late in the century.

Closing the seminar, Professor Andrew Reynolds of the Institute of Archaeology (UCL) - known to us for his work on deviant burials - hoped that, based on such powerful data sets, critical thinking will help frame new questions in Anglo-Saxon archaeology, which still awaits a comprehensive synthesis. He concluded, "This is a very exciting time to be in the field of early medieval archaeology".

## CORRESPONDENCE ANALYSIS

Correspondence analysis involves three-dimensional plotting of data as a cloud of points in space: the greater the similarity, the closer the points. The data is eventually presented in two-dimensions to show the relationships between combinations of things, such as finds and decorative details in assemblages of grave goods, for example.

## BAYESIAN MODELLING

A statistical method in which the graphic peaks in a range of estimated dates can be reanalysed repeatedly, to arrive at a narrower date with a higher degree of probability. Originally devised by the Presbyterian minister Thomas Bayes in the middle of the 18th century, the method was practically unusable before computers were available to crunch the numbers.

## REFERENCES

Hills, C. and Lucy, S. 2013: *The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham*, vol. IX Chronology and Synthesis (Cambridge: McDonald Institute) ISBN 978 1 902937 62 5

Hines, J. and Bayliss, A. (eds.) 2013: *Anglo-Saxon graves and grave goods of the sixth and seventh centuries AD: a chronological framework* (London: Society for Medieval Archaeology) Monograph 33, ISBN 978 1 909662 06 3

# British Museum to open new Sutton Hoo gallery

The Sutton Hoo treasures, which have been in a temporary display for the last couple of years, will reopen in a new gallery at the British Museum on 27 March, marking the 75th anniversary of their discovery in July 1939. Room 41 has been fully refurbished for the first time since 1985, with new flooring and roofing, sponsored by Sir Paul and Lady Jill Ruddock. Sir Paul is a financier and chairman of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

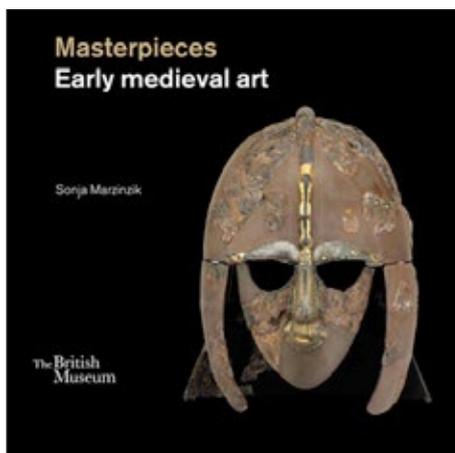
The new layout, curated by Sue Brunning, Curator of Insular Medieval Collections, will make Sutton Hoo the centrepiece of the British Museum's Early Medieval collections, and the gateway to the other cultures of early medieval Europe. Arranged culturally, geographically and chronologically around the perimeter of the new gallery will be the material from the late Roman and Byzantine empires, Celtic Britain and Ireland, Germanic migrations, northern and eastern Europe, as well as the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. British Museum Press has just published an accompanying book, *Masterpieces: Early Medieval Art*, by Sonja Marzinzik. Sonja is well known to the Society as Sue Brunning's predecessor: in 2012 she returned to Munich as Registrar of the Bavarian State Archaeological Collection.

## Vikings: Life and Legend

Two weeks before the new gallery opens, the remains of the longest Viking ship ever found will go on display elsewhere in the museum. The surviving timbers of Roskilde 6, one-fifth of the 37 metre-long ship, have been reassembled in a stainless steel frame outlining the whole structure.



The remains of Roskilde 6 (© National Museum of Denmark).



The ship, seen as a warship of Cnut the Great of about 1050 AD, is one of nine excavated in the late 1990s during the building of an extension for the Viking Ship Museum (Vikingskibsmuseet) which overlooks Roskilde Fjord in Denmark. The museum itself had been built to house five Viking ships deliberately sunk at Skuldelev, 20kms further up Roskilde Fjord, and which had been discovered in 1962 (the Skuldelev ships).

Roskilde 6 will be the centre piece of the first exhibition in the new Sainsbury Exhibitions Gallery. *Vikings: Life and Legend* is sponsored by BP, the National Museum of Denmark and the Museum for Pre- and Early History, one of the state museums in Berlin.

After years of re-accommodation of the Viking character and artistic achievement, the press release promises that this exhibition will 'place warfare and warrior identity at the centre of what it meant to be a Viking; cultural contact was often violent, and the transportation of looted goods and slaves reflects the role of Vikings as both raiders and traders'.

We are promised 'real Vikings' in the form of recently excavated skeletons from an execution mass grave near Weymouth, and the hundreds of silver coins and other items that form the Vale of York Hoard (see **Saxon** 50) will be on display all together for the first time since their discovery in 2007.

Dr Gareth Williams, who gave the Society's Basil Brown lecture in 2012, has co-edited the exhibition catalogue (£45 or £25 p.b.) and also written a gift book, *The Viking Ship* (£9.99). Both will be published by British Museum Press in February.

# Award for the wolfcoats

Wulfheodenas, the re-enactment group whose visit to Sweden in May was reported in the last issue of **Saxon**, have had a very pleasant surprise as a result of their visit. The Royal Gustavus Adolphus Academy for Swedish Folk Culture – who sponsored the Society's last conference in 2010 - honoured the group with an award from the Torsten Janckes Minnesfond, "for their unique contribution through experimental archaeology to the greater understanding of the material culture from Vendel Period Sweden and Anglo-Saxon England." The award was accepted by Paul Mortimer, best known for his re-enactment of Raedwald, on behalf of

Wulfheodenas at a formal meeting of the Academy, on the 6th of November in Uppsala. The Academy always meets on the 6th November, the anniversary of the death of King Gustavus.



Wulfheodenas parade at Gamla Uppsala (photo Vince and Grace Evans).

## Join us on e-mail!

Don't miss out! To receive notices and reminders of Sutton Hoo Society events by e-mail, please send an e-mail to Nan Waterfall at [thesuttonhoosociety@gmail.com](mailto:thesuttonhoosociety@gmail.com) with your name and 'Please add me to the Sutton Hoo Society e-mail list' in the subject line.

Please be assured that we will only use your e-mail address to communicate with you about Society matters and that we will not disclose it to third parties.

# 2014 is the 75th ANNIVERSARY of Basil Brown's discovery of the Sutton Hoo Ship in Mound 1 and the 30th ANNIVERSARY of the Sutton Hoo Society.

**The  
Sutton  
Hoo  
Society**



See special events below

[www.suttonhoo.org](http://www.suttonhoo.org)

## Tuesday 21 January, 18.00 *BM/IOA Medieval Seminar*

Dr Alex Bayliss, Prof. John Hines, Prof. Chris Scull, Anglo-Saxon graves and grave-goods of the 6th and 7th centuries – a new chronology and its implications

Room 612, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1 0PY

## Tuesday 4 February, 18.00 *BM/IOA Medieval Seminar*

Rosie Weetch, Carolingian brooch fashions and the construction of social identities in late Anglo-Saxon England

Room 612, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1 0PY

## **SUTTON HOO SOCIETY NOTIFICATION OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Sutton Hoo Society will be held on Friday 14 February 2014 at 7.30pm in the King's River Restaurant at Sutton Hoo.

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last AGM
3. Reports and Accounts
4. Election of Auditors
5. Election of Committee

Following the business meeting, Prof. Chris Scull will talk about the archaeology of Rendlesham.

**Michael Argent  
Chairman**

## Thursday 6 March – Sunday 22 June *Vikings: life and legend*

Sainsbury Exhibitions Gallery, British Museum

## Sunday 9 March, from 11.30 *Annual pre-season guides meeting*

The Court, NT Sutton Hoo  
(followed by lunch in Melton)

## Thursday 27 March *New British Museum Early Medieval Gallery opens*

Sutton Hoo and Europe AD 300-1100  
Sir Paul and Lady Ruddock Gallery, Room 41, British Museum

## Saturday 14 June, 11.00-12.30 *Basil Brown Memorial Lecture*

Riverside Theatre, Woodbridge  
Details TBC

## Friday 25 July *Reception by invitation only*

Tranmer House, NT Sutton Hoo

## Saturday 26-Sunday 27 July *Commemorative Tea Party*

NT Sutton Hoo

## Saturday 20 September *Sutton Hoo Society Conference*

University Campus Suffolk  
Waterfront Building, Ipswich  
Defining Kingdoms: 6th-10th centuries  
Speakers include Dr Noel Adams, Dr Stuart Brookes, Dr Sam Newton, Prof. Neil Price, Dr Sarah Semple, Prof. David Gill and SHS President, Lord Cranbrook.  
Please book places on the enclosed flyer.



[WuffingEducation.co.uk](http://WuffingEducation.co.uk)

## *Wuffing Education Study Days*

Saturdays, 18 Jan.-12 Apr. 10.00-16.00  
(excl. 22 Feb.) The Court, NT Sutton Hoo

## **Anglo-Saxon topics include:**

15 Jan *An Introduction to Beowulf and Sutton Hoo*, Dr Sam Newton  
8 Feb *Burial and Belief in Anglo-Saxon East England*, Dr Richard Hoggett  
15 Feb *An Introduction to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, Dr Sam Newton  
15 Mar *Reading Old English Poetry*, Dr Richard Dance, Cambridge University

Visit [www.wuffingeducation.co.uk](http://www.wuffingeducation.co.uk) for the full programme. Places must be pre-booked on the website at £38, or by calling Cliff Hoppitt on 01394 386498.

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The Earl of Cranbrook

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