

SAXON

2017: AN UNEASY YEAR by SHS secretary and acting Chairperson, Pauline Moore

2017 was not kind to the Sutton Hoo Society. In January, our SAXON editor, Nigel Maslin, underwent heart surgery and this prevented the normal publication of our much-valued magazine. As we normally include a renewal reminder, we lost contact with quite a few members. We are doubly grateful to those stalwarts who made contact.

Our Chairman, Mike Argent, has been ill, and after the AGM in March, he began a lengthy period in and out of hospital. Eventually, the committee appointed myself as Acting Chairman. We all wish Mike well.

In spite of suffering a stroke, Nigel managed to produce SAXON in August, but has now had to retire. It is hard to express the debt of gratitude the Sutton Hoo Society owes to Nigel. SAXON is the flagship for the Society, and for so many years he has created a scholarly, visually attractive, professional publication. This raises awareness of the Sutton Hoo Society and its aims to promote knowledge of Sutton Hoo and of the Anglo-Saxon world, and has included many articles by notable academic and archaeological contributors.

The committee are very grateful to our member, Dr Caryl Dane, for undertaking the editorship. We are already benefiting from her contacts in the world of higher education.

Another notable member of the committee, Jonathan Abson, is also retiring. We thank him for many years of meticulous care of our finances, as so many successful audits reveal. He has also offered an intelligent overview of where the Society can broaden or improve its scope. Personally, I have been truly grateful for his wise support, and hope he will continue to offer ideas.

To add to our problems, poor Kate Hayhow, in charge of Publicity, was ill for a considerable time, but has plans for 2018! Anything you can do to

spread the word about the Sutton Hoo Society will be appreciated!

In spite of reduced numbers, your committee has developed a plan for 2018. In addition to the AGM (23rd Feb, 7.00pm at Sutton Hoo), our brilliant Events Organiser, Dr Megan Milan, has arranged a trip behind the scenes at Norwich Castle – courtesy of Sutton Hoo Society member, Dr Tim Pestell, the Curator! This will be June 8th. There will be a visit to see the Illuminated MSS at the British Library in October. Plans and booking to be arranged.

My sincere thanks go Marc Brewster for keeping the Sutton Hoo Society membership informed and for being our point of contact - and to all of them, and you, for keeping the Sutton Hoo Society alive.

In addition, in this significant year, we have continued to work closely alongside the National Trust, as they develop their plans for the Heritage Lottery Funded Project. They have listened, for example, to concerns about the design and placing of a tower to allow visitors to see over the Victorian wood to the River Deben, and across 7 miles to the cranes of Felixstowe Docks – thus placing the site in its landscape...or waterscape! The tower is to be beyond the south of the mounds, partly concealed by birch trees, and clad in a 'twig' effect, to help it blend in with the wood beside it.

The site is theirs to do with as they wish, but we are glad that note is made of what people like, such as using the great helmet, and keeping the video. The new plans for the courtyard, Reception and the shop and café will also be an improvement! Long may Sutton Hoo flourish! ❖

WE NEED NEW MEMBERS: INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!



Bronze head of the emperor Claudius (reigned AD 41-54) or emperor Nero (reigned AD 54-68), found in the River Alde at Rendham, near Saxmundham, Suffolk, in 1907. The head has been hacked from a life-size statue of an emperor, leaving a jagged line at the neck. There is also a huge dent in the back of the skull. Many speculate that the removal of the head might have been by Boudicca's followers during the sack of Colchester by British tribes, in AD 61.

British Museum. Photo: Caryl Dane

What have the Romans ever done for us?

The Sutton Hoo Society outings to the Colchester on
Saturday 16th September 2017
and Saturday 23rd September 2017

Jonathan Abson describes the first Sutton Hoo Society outing to Colchester and what he found outstandingly memorable about the day. **Caryl Dane** reports on the second Sutton Hoo Society outing to Colchester with more details about some of the archaeological features viewed. **Howard Brooks BA (Hons) FSA MCIFA**, deputy director of Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT), was the guide on both occasions.

Colchester, as Camulodunum, had become a major native British settlement in the south-east, before the arrival of the Romans. A legionary fortress of Claudian date, evolved into *Colonia Victricensis* ("City of Victory"), a settlement for retired Roman soldiers. In AD 61 the Roman town of Colchester was destroyed by fire during a native British (Boudiccan) revolt. Soon after, the rebuilding of the Roman town began, including a defensive wall around it. In the early second century AD, a Roman circus was built at Colchester, beyond the town wall.

The first Colchester visit on Saturday 16th September 2017

The trouble with being old is that you have had time to do more things than many around you. I think it was for this reason rather than my lack of familiarity with things Roman that I was chosen to lead the first party to meet Howard Brooks and to be shown some of the Roman wonders of Colchester. Our instructions were simple: 'drive to this lay-by and Howard will be waiting for you'. Despite all our forebodings he actually was waiting precisely where the coach drew up and I realised in a flash that it was going to be a good day and that my responsibility had finished and Howard's had started at that point.

A short walk along a road beside a wall with lines of those multilayer Roman tiles and we reached the highest point, where the western gate of the town had been and had our first surprise of the day. We all thought in our ignorance that Colchester was a Roman conquest town, but Howard laid great emphasis on Colchester, post-invasion, and post-Boudiccan revolt, eventually having a distinctive Romano-British way of life, representative of what happened in the rest of the Roman province of Britain.

Here at the highest point had been the Balkerne Gate, the western gate of the old city. The north pedestrian entrance going into town and the two carriageway arches had been replaced by a



The Hole in the Wall public house and the remains of the Balcerne Gate. Photo: Michèle Abson

public house (with great originality called The Hole in the Wall), although some of the footings had been carefully preserved under a cantilevered support for the pub. However, the southern pedestrian exit from the town with its guardhouse survives and is still used as a public footpath, carefully preserved and exhibited without fuss – a level of preservation we gradually realised we were to see for the rest of the day. It was already sinking in that the city has gone out of its way to preserve what remains and to illustrate what has gone.

The walk from the old city walls to the circus was interrupted by a basilica shape outlined in the sand by stones, and suggestive of a very early church, unfortunately without documentation, so ‘suggestive of’ rather than ‘was’.

Lunch was taken at the headquarters of The Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT), a café in the old NAAFI building. When I did National Service the NAAFI was a sort of soldiers relaxation place and I was delighted to discover that the food was of

an altogether higher quality than the last time I’d been in a NAAFI.

Just outside the CAT headquarters was the starting gate end of the Circus – think hippodrome and chariot racing rather than acrobats and elephants. From here on it was a sheer delight to be taken round by someone with so much knowledge of the site. The starting gates were at an angle to the oval course to give each chariot an equal run to the start of the oval. The gates themselves may have been light rush matting which dropped down. The number of laps run was signalled by an official in the narrow middle of the oval pulling down a dolphin’s head (yes, a dolphin, really!).

Facts and figures kept coming and all the time Howard was pointing out what the modern City had done to marry successfully the old with the new. Every so often one came across a piece of the original oval displayed in the right place, or an explanatory noticeboard, but also the aerial outline of the whole circus was shown in different colours

on the ground. Where the building line crossed a modern road at an angle, there was coloured pavement and road at the appropriate angle contrasting with the modern tarmac. In one place some old barracks buildings had been modernised and revamped as desirable flats and the position of the circus was shown as a grassy hump in the owners' common lawn. Where a line of buildings crossed the old circus, a passage had been made through the building at ground floor level with the first floor on RSJ beams, so that you could walk the original line right through the building. Where there was nothing of the original to show there were thoughtful silhouettes of a cross-section of the circus. The City fathers have tried very hard to combine their undoubted pride in their Roman origins with the need for modern life and living.

On our way back, not far from the circus, we went down a narrow terraced street of houses set on

a steep hillside and Howard let us into one of them. The whole of the ground floor had been opened up to show the seating of the Roman theatre beneath floor level, viewed from a narrow gallery. This was a house, the use and income of which the modern Council had foregone, to display some of its Roman origins.

Finally, walking back to the bus through the Castle Park and on to a café, where we thought we were going to have a cuppa. Yes, there was a nice café on the left of the ground floor, but on the other side were the remains of a Roman precinct under glass.

Altogether this was a great day. We went to places we would never have seen, we were told about things we would never have imagined and we met, indirectly, a town council who have gone out of their way to bring the past to life. Well done Colchester, and thank you, Howard. ❖



The remains of the Butt Road 'church', laid out as a public monument. Viewed from the west, the oak stumps indicate the positions of the internal posts. Missing parts of the foundations are marked with strips of plain, modern mortar Photo: Michèle Abson.

The second Colchester visit Saturday 23rd September 2017

As with the first party, we all met Howard at the Balkerne Gate. The gate's earliest beginnings were as a triumphal arch, most likely built at the time of the founding of the *colonia* in AD 49, which was then incorporated into a massive entranceway of 30m wide, consisting of a double-arched

carriageway flanked by walkway arches and external guardrooms. Today, only the southern pedestrian way and a guard tower survive. Most of the gate was demolished and the space filled in *c.*AD 300.

From the Balkerne Gate, we followed the Roman town wall perimeter (built *c.*AD 65-80) northwards, downhill, to view and (some of us) climb the remains of one of the lookout towers. We



600mm-high wall stumps built immediately above the actual Roman foundations of the starting-gates, made from stone and 'Roman' bricks. Photo: Michèle Abson

then retraced our steps, following the wall southwards, passing the best-preserved section of the Roman wall, where approximately 100 metres of it still stands to a height of around four metres. After a detour to see the St Mary at the Walls church, a mainly Victorian church, but with a fifteenth-century tower, we stopped at the south-west corner of the wall. Here, where the Roman earthen rampart has been removed to accommodate adjacent, modern building work, the wall is leaning forward at a precarious angle, revealing the shallow foundations.

Beyond the town walls, lie the foundations of what may have been the oldest Christian church in Britain, preserved as a public monument. A roofed, rectangular structure was originally built on the site between AD 320 and AD 340. Later *c.*380, an apse was added and aisles were inserted at the eastern end of the building. Elsewhere in the Roman Empire, early Christian churches tended to take the form of aisled basilicas with an apse at the eastern end. A cemetery and the remains of the associated building were excavated in the 1970s and 1980s. The earliest graves were mainly orientated north-south and accompanied by grave goods, such as pottery and

glass vessels and also personal ornaments; regarded as indications of pagan practice. However, subsequent fourth-century burials were aligned east-west, with very few objects, suggesting Christian burial rites.

Another interpretation of the basilical structure is that it could have been a Mithraeum; a temple for worshippers of the god Mithras. Mithraism was popular with the Roman military.

Identified in 2004/5 and therefore a relatively recent discovery, the Colchester circus is the only Roman circus so far discovered in the British Isles. Probably built in the early second century AD and oriented east-west, the circus is long and narrow, measuring 448.2 meters in length and between 71.1 and 74.2 meters in width.

The Colchester Roman Circus Centre has a scale model of what the Roman circus may have looked like. Before we walked around the footprint of the Roman circus, which was about a quarter of a mile long, we got a sense of the sheer scale and form of it.

A Roman circus was a large, open-air arena that was mainly used for chariot racing, an extremely

popular spectator sport throughout the Roman Empire. In the centre of the arena was a long, low barrier (length: c. 250 metres), running lengthways down the course; the spina, around which the chariots raced. At each extremity of the spina were placed, upon a base, a group of three large conical shapes as turning posts (*metae*). Fragments of one of these have been discovered during excavations, establishing the position of the western end of the spina. A narrow iron band discovered close to part of a Roman water-main, may have been from a thick wooden pipe and suggests a pressurised water supply being taken to the central barrier. The spina would have been decorated with many objects, such as obelisks and statues, but could also have incorporated basins, fountains, and possibly lap-counters in the form of spouting dolphins as depicted on a second-century mosaic from Lyon.

internal and an external wall. External buttresses strengthened the outer walls of the circus and the excavated foundations of one of these can be viewed under glass near the Centre. At intervals, between seating-stands, were public access passages (*vomitoria*).

The main structures had mortared stone foundations and walls built of rubble faced with courses of brick and Kentish ragstone. There were probably also stone decorative architectural details and stone monuments. As with most other Roman buildings in Colchester, much of the masonry above ground had been plundered in later times for re-use elsewhere.

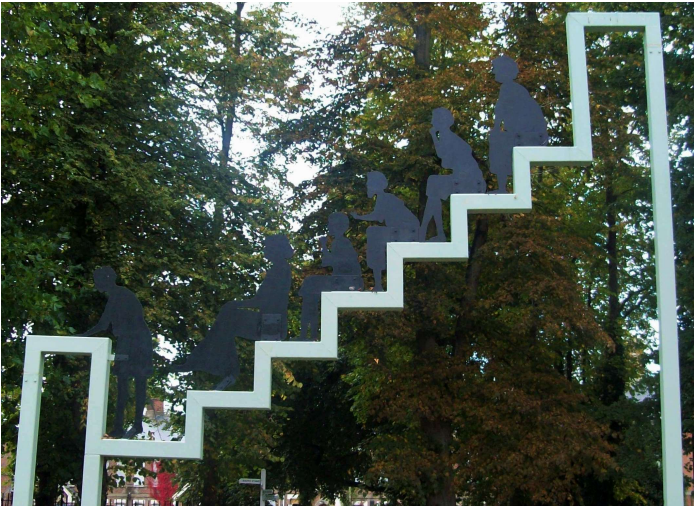
Close to the Centre, at the western end of the circus, the foundations of the starting gates (*carceres*) have been found. These would have been eight arched or vaulted openings, four bays on either



A modern mosaic designed by artist Peter Froste and hand-made by Colchester schoolchildren, using more than 200,000 tiles to complete the work. The mosaic's design was based on a second-century Roman mosaic from Lyon, showing a birds' eye view of a Roman circus. The ancient mosaic including details of the structure, which is similar to that found at Colchester, and also, depicts a chariot race in progress. The new mosaic is the product of a community project initiated by the Colchester Archaeological Trust and made possible by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Size: 6 metres x 3 metres. Photo: Caryl Dane.

The timber seating-stands (*cavea*) flanking the racing track, along the lengths of both straight sides and around the eastern curved end, were on top of a massive earth bank, which was revetted by an

side of a central entrance. Low 'Roman' stumps of masonry and brick have been built on the footprint of the actual foundations of the starting-gate walls.



Silhouetted metal figures on a profile representation of the tiered seating stand (cavea), facing the site of the circus arena, positioned at the conjectured height of the stands. The cavea varied between 5.8-6.0 metres in total width and the outer cavea wall has been estimated to have been at least two metres in height. The circus had a seating capacity for around 8,000 to 15,000 spectators. Photo: Caryl Dane

From the starting-gates, we walked the length of the site of the circus, which has been marked out on the ground surface using earth banks, where possible, and by coloured bricks or asphalt on hard surfaces. Howard pointed out where various features had been discovered along the way. On return to the Centre, we boarded the bus to be taken to Colchester town centre.

Off the High Street runs Maidenburgh Street, where, mostly to the west of the street, the partial remains of a second-/third-century, D-shaped theatre were excavated in 1981/2. It was built facing northwards down the slope to the River Colne. The D-shape formed the seating facing a stage and it is estimated to have been large enough to have accommodated an audience of about 3,000 people. The position of the theatre's easternmost outer wall is marked out on the surface of Maidenburgh Street in dark grey coloured block-paving.

When the west side of Maidenburgh Street was re-developed for housing, the design of one of the buildings was altered to preserve the theatre remains. The ground floor is now a museum with viewing platforms overlooking a small section of the exposed Roman foundations. On a back wall is a picture of how the theatre may have looked and the

museum also includes a scale model.

St Helen's Chapel at the end of the street stands partly on the site of the Roman theatre. It incorporates a wall of the theatre in its foundations.

In Castle Park, close by, is the Norman castle keep, which was built on the foundations of an originally much bigger building, the focal point of the Roman city and what would have been the largest classical-style temple known in Britain; a temple to the deified Roman emperor Claudius.

In Hollytrees Meadow, part of the park, are two grates through which some Roman drains can be viewed. These lead down to Duncan's gate, in the north wall of the city. Duncan's gate was built in AD 85 and provided access to the River Colne. Also within the park is an area that has been left exposed by archaeologists in the 1930s. This is the remains of one of the many Roman town houses that are known to have been here. The red clay tesserae of the floors and stone slabs mark the position of the building's walls.



Exposed remains of tesserae floors of a Roman house. Photo: C. Dane

In 2016, hidden under modern buildings, fragments of a massive monumental arcade, a 120-metre-long covered walkway, built in the first or early second century, which would have fronted the temple precinct, revealed the vast scale of the temple complex. On public view, in part of a newly-built cafe, beneath glass panels, are the cores of the supports of the arches, which would have risen to about 8 metres in height. From the recent and previous excavations, it has been possible to ascertain the dimensions of the columns and calculated that the arcade originally comprised

twenty-eight arches fronting the precinct of the Temple of Claudius, with a grand gateway in the middle. A video of a digital 3-D-model of how the arcade might have looked was projected on the back

wall above the glass floor.

Many thanks to Howard Brooks for a most enjoyable and fascinating tour. It was a grand day out. ❖

Further reading:

Crummy, P., 1984, *In Search of Colchester's Past*

Crummy, P., 1997, *City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town.*

Wheeler, R. E. M., 1921, The Balkerne Gate, Colchester, *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Volume 15, 179-89.

For the sparser archaeological evidence of Anglo-Saxons:

Crummy, P., 1981, *Aspects of Anglo-Saxon and Norman Colchester*; Colchester Archaeological Report 1, CBA Research Report 39.

Mortimer Wheeler directed men from his Battery to discreetly dig beneath the King's Head pub (now The Hole in the Wall), to investigate and record the Balkerne Gate – by candlelight - when he was briefly stationed in Colchester in 1917. His biography:

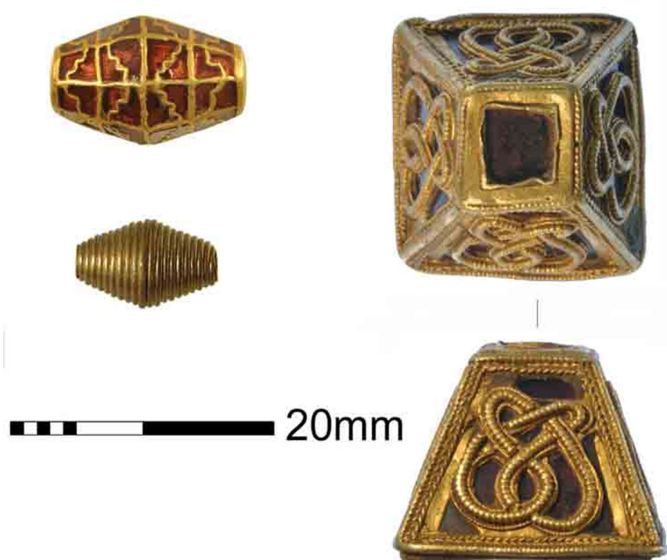
Hawkes, J., 1982, *Mortimer Wheeler: Adventurer in Archaeology.*



Systematic metal-detecting survey at Rendlesham, undertaken by Rob Atfield, Roy Damant, Terry Marsh and Alan Smith with professional support from Suffolk County Council. © Suffolk County Council

Following a successful application to the Leverhulme Trust, **Professor Christopher Scull** (Institute of Archaeology, University College London) explains the significance of the award to the Rendlesham Survey.

Landscape and Lordship in East Anglia AD 400–800



Elite gold-and-garnet metalwork (two beads and a pyramidal scabbard mount) from Rendlesham.

Finds from Rendlesham are on display at Ipswich Museum (High Street, Ipswich, IP1 3HQ, admission free, open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00–17.00 and Sunday 11.00–17.00). © Suffolk County Council

The Sutton Hoo Society has been a supporter of the Rendlesham Survey since its inception in 2008, and featured the project in *SAXON* 59 (July 2014). Now the Leverhulme Trust has awarded a Research Project Grant that will enable the survey and its wider implications for our understanding of early England to be fully analysed and published.

The survey at Rendlesham has identified a high-status settlement of the fifth to eighth centuries AD. Covering 50 hectares, the site has evidence for a royal or aristocratic presence, with fine metalworking, early monetisation, and direct trading contacts with the Mediterranean world. Unique in early England in its size, wealth and complexity, similar sites in Scandinavia are understood as the central places of regional kingdoms. This is almost certainly the East Anglian royal establishment

recorded at *Rendlaesham* by the Venerable Bede in his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*. The ‘long eighth century’ (c. AD 680–820) is usually seen as the first major threshold of complexity in the long-term transformation of post-Roman England. Rendlesham, however, suggests that this view seriously underestimates the sophistication of society in the fifth to seventh centuries.

Taking the radically new perspective offered by Rendlesham as its starting point, the project will re-examine early East Anglia as a case-study that will also throw a broader light on the origins of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. Does Rendlesham represent uniquely sophisticated early lordship in south-east Suffolk, or were there similar places elsewhere? What networks of extraction, production and exchange—local, regional, inter-regional—sustained elite settlements and allowed magnates to exert social and political influence, and how did these develop? How did early economic specialisation and coin-use at elite centres influence the development of monetisation and markets? How did elite settlements of the fifth to eighth centuries influence subsequent patterns of settlement and activity?

The project will integrate the evidence of archaeology, place-names, landscape history and numismatics to analyse the Rendlesham settlement and locate it within its immediate physical, economic and cultural landscapes. It will investigate settlement and landscape in the Deben valley and more widely in south-east Suffolk, linking Rendlesham with Sutton Hoo, Snape and Ipswich; compare south-east Suffolk with other areas of East Anglia to investigate whether similar or different factors are in play; and assess the results against the broader contexts of Britain, northern Europe and Scandinavia. As part of this there will be innovative metallographic and morphometric studies of Rendlesham’s metalworking debris to characterise the technology, scale and organisation of production, and the nature and reach of the social and economic networks

within which it was embedded.

The result will be a comprehensive analysis and publication of one the most significant archaeological discoveries of recent years, unlocking information with the potential to transform understandings of early England and its place in the North Sea world.

The project is led by Professor Christopher Scull (Institute of Archaeology, University College London) with Professor Tom Williamson (University

of East Anglia), Dr Martin Allen (Fitzwilliam Museum) and Dr Tim Pestell (Norfolk Museums Service), with an inter-disciplinary research team specialising in archaeology and spatial analysis (Dr Stuart Brookes, Faye Minter and Jude Plouviez), early medieval coinage (Dr Andrew Woods), place-name studies (Dr Eleanor Rye), and materials science (Professor Marcos Martinòn Torres). The project runs from November 2017 to April 2020. ❖

In Little Egypt

Trespassing one winter afternoon
on green earth between the high tumuli
of Saxon Kings and random graves of
lesser men, the mysteries bear down;
even after years, we never cease to feel
disturbed at this dumb legacy.

A treasure ship without a king? The poet
sang and said it all; barley-gold, wolf god,
hero, sage, dissolved on his ten day pyre,
the heavens swallowing his smoke; only then
his prized accoutrements, the priceless hoard
was banked beneath a mound on Whale Ness.

That prince's coffin tilted, deep askew
would first have rested square on swathes,
of ivy, golden yew. The wooden bucket
buried as an afterthought? Some distraught
groom has ticed his master's mare for her
last foraging. It has no further use.

Along the downside of the ridge,
A baleful scatter of death pits, leaves
from the gallows tree, crow bones from
a keeper's gibbet. How many Lindow Princes
here; ergot staining teeth and tongue, rictus
for a smile, fee for the coming corn?

There is another unsung poem in the sand:
for all those simples, finished or struck down,
before their tale was told; nameless didikois,
bearers of secrets, those of another form
or stranger turn of mind; so close in annex
to the graves of famous and forgotten kings,

Mike Bannister: Sutton Hoo 2017

The Second Scrivener

**'...on a height they kindled the hugest of all funeral
fires...Heaven swallowed the smoke.'**

('Beowulf' - Seamus Heaney 1999)

Someone other started this, before my time;
at Evesham and Crowland Isle, he kept
the Chronicle, told, by heart the Homilies,
the Book of Beasts, entire; could say and sing
this hero's tale in several different ways,
combed out its tangle on his poets' loom,
weaving history, years past. Call him Wiglaf.

He inter-leaved the chalky hides,
incised it, got it down as elegy, the glorious
death of a warrior-king, seed of the sheaf,
who, like our first gold barley god, arrives
across the sea, lifts a curse, lays waste
the hell-hound and his dam, pays in his own
heart's blood for heavy twists of gold.

Almost two thousand lines were dry
when Wiglaf died of time; his poem less
than half complete, for me to find, fading
in a cell of flint, at Dummoc, where the winds
moan and waves consume the land. Expedient
with repairs and emendations, by reed-fire
on winter nights, I capture the cadences.

By goose quill, palm, and paring blade,
four thousand words are brought to book, quiet
as bees in winter. And in another year, at Eastertide,
I am prepared for the firelit hall. The Linden harp is
plucked, people look up. I give my voice
to time, and the unforeseen millennium;
**"Listen! The fame of Danish kings in days
gone by, the daring feats..."**

('Beowulf' - Kevin Crossley-Holland 1982)

Mike Bannister 2017

Tollund Man

Silent sleeper of the peaceful face
 tell me your story.
 So many lifetimes of consciousness
 separate you from me.
 Yet, your serene countenance smiles
 a knowing wisdom.
 Each contour of your face
 expressing your secret life.
 Did the familiar seeds of your last meal
 anticipate a feast to come?
 Were your final sacrificial moments -
 symbolic of your status
 A release from the haunting knowledge
 of a fate destined to be?

Kay Davidge, Denmark - June 2016

**WUFFINGS EDUCATION STUDY DAYS**

The Court, NT Sutton Hoo, £38. Prior booking essential as many days are over-subscribed. Call Cliff on 01394 386498 or email cliff@wuffingeducation.co.uk
 See website for full programme
www.wuffingeducation.co.uk

February 3rd**The Oldest Extant Houses: The Homes of Medieval Rural Folk in East Anglia.**

Philip Aitkens (Historic Buildings Consultant).

A study of the little open-hall houses found in most of the villages of High Suffolk and some of South-east Norfolk; the best evidence we have of medieval rural lifestyle, varying greatly in plan-form, size and quality.

FULL – Please email to be added to the waiting list.

THE SUTTON HOO SOCIETY DIARY

23rd February 2018, 7 pm, AGM and talk by Dr Duncan Sayer (University of Central Lancashire). King's River Cafe, National Trust, Sutton Hoo.

28th April 2018, 11 am, The Basil Brown Lecture: Professor Nancy Edwards (Bangor University), "Western British Archaeology in the Age of Sutton Hoo". Riverside Theatre, Woodbridge. Tickets available from the box office.

8th June 2018. Trip behind the scenes at Norwich Castle – courtesy of Sutton Hoo Society member, Dr Tim Pestell, the Curator. To be arranged.

WE NEED NEW MEMBERS: INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

February 24th**The Kingdoms of East Anglia and Kent.**

Dr Sam Newton (Wuffing Education at Sutton Hoo).

On the festival-day of the famous Kentish king, St Æthelbert, we shall reassess the relations between the Wuffing dynasty of East Anglia and the Æscing dynasty of Kent during the sixth and seventh centuries, as indicated by archaeology, art, and documentary sources.

March 3rd**Raising the Dead: The Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon Death and Burial.**

Dr Richard Hoggett (Heritage Consultant).

Burials constitute a large part of the archaeological record from Anglo-Saxon England, and this study-day uses the rich East Anglian burial record to explore the range of burial rites practised by the Anglo-Saxons. Subjects to be covered include the human skeleton, cremation, inhumation, the use of grave-goods and the impact of Christianity. The day will be illustrated with examples drawn from recent and unpublished excavations, as well as some classic sites.

March 10th**Death, Loss, and Dragon Hoards: Early Anglo-Saxon Art.**

Dr Angela Evans, former Curator, British Museum.

The Anglo-Saxons had a powerful visual imagination

whose legacy is seen in the decoration of their personal possessions, but interpreting the designs can often be challenging. The day will be devoted to looking in detail at the background and development of the extraordinarily complex ornament on early Anglo-Saxon metalwork, then following some of the motifs to their adoption on early manuscripts and, finally, to their flowering on high status metalwork during the later Saxon period.

March 17th

St Patrick (c.390 – c.461) – His Life, Times, and Legacy.

Dr Maire Ní Mhaonaigh (University of Cambridge).

The fame of St Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, is associated today with banishment of snakes and (primarily in America) green beer. We will examine sources for his life, times and legacy and explore the making of this very famous saint.

March 24th

The Story of European Armour, c.600 – 1650.

Tobias Capwell (Curator of Arms & Armour, The Wallace Collection, London).

As a protective system designed to augment the human body, the history of European armour follows paths and patterns remarkably reminiscent of biological evolution in the natural world. In this series of lectures we follow the development of 'human exoskeletons' across more than a thousand years, watching as one remarkable species, the élite armoured warrior, evolves to survive in a dangerous and ever-changing environment.

FROM THE EDITOR

It is both an exhilarating and daunting task to be taking over the editorship of SAXON. Over the past years, Nigel has transformed SAXON into an attractive, readable and informative bulletin for the Sutton Hoo Society. I hope I will be able to perpetuate the high standard that he has set.

Caryl Dane

THE SUTTON HOO SOCIETY

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WE NEED NEW MEMBERS: INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

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