



ULSTER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



Centre for
**COMMUNITY
ARCHAEOLOGY**
Queen's University Belfast

DISCOVERY 2017!

INAUGURAL ANNUAL REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN ULSTER

Saturday 21st October 2017

Main Lecture Theatre, Elmwood Building

Queen's University Belfast

Welcome from the Ulster Archaeological Society

On behalf of the Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society (UAS) I would like to welcome everyone to the **Discovery 2017! Inaugural Annual Review of Archaeological Discoveries in Ulster** conference organised by the Ulster Archaeological Society and Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast.

The UAS is the longest established specialist archaeological society in Ulster and it was founded at Queen's University Belfast as a support group for the Third Series of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, a peer-reviewed academic journal, first published in 1853. The *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* is the foremost repository of excavation reports and other papers on archaeological research in Ulster.

One of the fundamental aims of the UAS has been to help educate and promote the involvement of the public in local archaeological activity. As such, it is uniquely placed to bridge the gap between archaeology as an academic discipline and the interpretation of our heritage to an interested public. It does this through the publication of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, which acts as a conduit to disseminate the results of licenced excavations in Northern Ireland and archaeological research in Ulster across the world and an online monograph series for reports that are too large for the Journal. The UAS also carries out a range of other activities such as open public lectures, workshops, field trips and study tours in Ireland, Britain and Europe for our members. In 2005 the UAS established a field Survey Group to survey, record and publish previously unrecorded archaeological sites. The establishment of the Survey Group was facilitated by a bequest by the late Dr Ann Hamlin, former Director of Built Heritage, Environment and Heritage Service, to purchase equipment for this express purpose. To date, the UAS Survey Group has surveyed 66 sites and published 55 of these. The UAS also promotes the archaeology of Ulster by producing a quarterly Newsletter and through its website, Twitter and Facebook sites. Throughout its history the UAS has enjoyed a very fruitful collaboration with a number of institutions and bodies, especially Queen's University Belfast, and in recent years, the National Trust for Northern Ireland, who are very supportive of the aims of the Society. The establishment of this annual archaeological conference, in collaboration with the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast, is the logical continuation of this long history of the UAS both being connected with Queen's University and also the core aims of the Society to disseminate archaeological information. The Ulster Archaeological Society has never been stronger, more vibrant or more relevant as it is today. We are proud to be part of the new Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University.

The idea of the **Discovery 2017!** conference first came about while UAS Committee members Ken Pullin and Barrie Hartwell were doing research on the original Minute Books of the UAS from the 1940s. It was noticed that the UAS was established and held its first meeting on 15th October 1947 at Queen's University Belfast, almost exactly 70 years ago (a copy of the actual Minute Book entry is reproduced on the back cover of this conference booklet), and the idea of celebrating this seminal occasion with a conference was born. This concept was then further refined by Dr Colm Donnelly and myself, when we agreed that it might be novel if the conference were to take the format of an annual review of archaeological research across Ulster.

We are intending that the annual **Discovery** conference become the most important yearly archaeological conference in Ulster, where members of the public and members of the archaeological community will come together to disseminate and learn about all the new archaeological projects, research and publications taking place in Ulster. For what is the use in us doing this research if we do not get the information out to people? Any future research agenda for archaeology in Ulster is dependent on disseminating results, especially in the form of publications, to archaeologists and those working in related fields as well as to the wider community.

The wide range of papers at this inaugural conference give a taster of the interesting work currently being carried out across Ulster by heritage institutions and bodies, commercial archaeological companies and community groups. We hope that people will find the **Discovery 2017!** conference stimulating and we hope to see many of you again at next year's conference in Queen's University.

Ruairí Ó Baoill

President, Ulster Archaeological Society (UAS)

Welcome from Archaeology & Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast

We are delighted to welcome you to the inaugural Discovery 2017! conference. Working with the Ulster Archaeological Society we hope this will become a key event in the calendar for archaeology in Ulster that brings us all together to share some of the major discoveries that have been made each year.

Archaeology and Palaeoecology has a long and respected history in Queen's University Belfast. In broad terms Archaeology studies the cultural remains left behind by past peoples, while Palaeoecology is the study of past environments and how organisms, including humans, have responded to climate change over time.

The University's first lecturer in Archaeology was Professor K. T. Frost, appointed on 14th July 1909, but killed in the Battle of Mons in Belgium in 1914. The tradition of teaching Classical Archaeology at Queen's continued under Oliver Davies, but the inspired appointment of Estyn Evans in 1928 led to the archaeological study of Irish sites and, in time, the establishment of a formal Department of Archaeology in 1948, under the direction of Professor Martyn Jope. Martyn's interest in scientific archaeology led to the establishment of the Nuffield Research Centre in 1968, and this was the foundation for the Palaeoecology Centre, with its emphasis on scientific dating techniques and ancient pollen studies. The pioneering and internationally renowned quality of the research undertaken by the Centre earned the University a Queen Elizabeth II Anniversary Award in 2000, while SPUR2 funding, awarded in 2003, enabled the Centre to establish a state of the art new AMS radiocarbon laboratory (the 14CHRONO Centre) and an associated building on Fitzwilliam Street which brought both Archaeology and Palaeoecology together under a single roof.

While Archaeology and Palaeoecology has a long tradition of researching Ireland's past, our staff are also involved in projects across the globe, in Africa, Asia, America and Europe. Our work stretches from the time of the early hominins, hundreds of thousands of years ago, right up to the twentieth century and staff have a diverse range of areas of interest, including prehistoric stone technology and metalworking; medieval buildings; human and animal bones; tree-ring dating; pollen analysis; tephrochronology; childhood in the past; trading networks and migration, world heritage and computational approaches to archaeology and paleoecology.

Now based within the School of Natural and Built Environment. Archaeology and Palaeoecology are inherently research-driven disciplines, and we have consistently remained in the Top 100 Archaeology departments in the QS World University Rankings. Most recently, we were ranked joint first in Archaeology across the UK for student satisfaction in the 2017 National Student Survey; we were also the only subject within our University to score 100% overall satisfaction with the course.

Our fieldwork unit is the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF) which was established in 2002 and currently has a team of nine professional field archaeologists. Over the past fifteen years the CAF have undertaken over 125 large scale research excavations and the unit has always sought to facilitate public involvement in their projects. The CAF is currently working across Northern Ireland with a range of Heritage Lottery Fund-funded landscape partnerships and has a host of partner organisations such as the Ulster Archaeological Society, the Belfast Young Archaeologists' Club, the National Trust, and the Historic Environment Division. This work enables an average of 1,500 school children and 400 adult volunteers to be directly involved in fieldwork projects. We relish the opportunity that our involvement in these projects has enabled us to act as ambassadors for Queen's University across Northern Ireland, and our activities have brought us into contact with a wide range of fascinating people. Such community outreach, however, is also being undertaken on our international fieldwork projects such as Professor Caroline Malone's research in Malta (FRAGSUS project), Dr Ryan Rabett's work in Vietnam (SUNDASIA) and Dr Laura Basell's research in East Africa. In recognition of our desire to further develop archaeological projects that have a positive impact on society we have established our new Centre for Community Archaeology which brings together all strands of this work and provides a solid foundation upon which we can build.

Dr Eileen Murphy

Senior Lecturer, Archaeology & Palaeoecology

School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast

Programme

Friday evening, 20th October 2017

Common Room, Elmwood Building, QUB & Lecture Theatre (Room OG-029), Elmwood Building, QUB

- 6.30** **Wine Reception.**
- 7.00-7.20** **Launch of the new *Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's* by Professor Mark Price** (Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, Queen's University Belfast)
- 7.20-7.40** **Keynote Speech: Joe Mahon** (UTV's *Lesser Spotted Ulster*)
Archaeology and Community.
- 7.40-8.30** **Keynote Speech: Robert Heslip** (Belfast City Council)
The importance of Community, Heritage and Archaeology.

Saturday, 21st October 2017.

Lecture Theatre (Room OG-029), Elmwood Building, QUB

- 9.00-9.30** **Conference Registration.**

Session 1: Chaired by Dr Ian Meighan (Ulster Archaeological Society)

- 9.30-9.40** **Conference Welcome: 70 Years and Counting!**
Dr Eileen Murphy (Department of Archaeology & Palaeoecology, QUB) & **Ruairí Ó Baoill** (President of the Ulster Archaeological Society).
- 9.40-10.00** **Barrie Hartwell** (Ulster Archaeological Society / Queen's University Belfast)
The formation of the Ulster Archaeological Society in 1947 and 70 years of partnership with Queen's University.
- 10.00-10.15** **Naomi Carver** (Leader, Belfast Young Archaeologists' Club)
The activities of the Belfast Young Archaeologists' Club in 2017.
- 10.15-10.40** **Dr Harry Welsh & David Craig** (Ulster Archaeological Society)
The activities of the Ulster Archaeological Society's Field Survey Group during 2017.
- 10.40-11.10** **Morning Tea/ Coffee break.**

Session 2: Chaired by Dr Colm Donnelly (Queen's University Belfast)

- 11.10-11.20** **Dr Liam Campbell** (Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership)
Introduction to the archaeological programme of the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership, 2017-2021.
- 11.20-11.40** **Dr Siobhán McDermott** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast)
Geophysical surveys conducted for the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership during 2017.

- 11.40-12.00** **Cormac McSparron** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast)
Excavations at Aghagallon enclosure, County Antrim.
- 12.00-12.20** **Colin Dunlop & Sarah Nicol** (Northern Archaeological Consultancy)
Two prehistoric timber circles excavated Armaloughey, Co. Tyrone and Clagan, Co. Derry.
- 12.20-12.40** **Johnny Barkley** (Northern Archaeological Consultancy) Excavations
at Clonboy Rath.
- 12.40-1.00** **Q & A for morning session.**
- 1.00-2.00** **Lunch**

Session 3: Chaired by Dr Finbar McCormick (Queen's University Belfast)

- 2.00-2.20** **Dr Greer Ramsey** (National Museums Northern Ireland)
Archaeology and the Treasure Act.
- 2.20-2.40** **Dr Paul Logue** (Historic Environment Division, DfC)
The Historic Environment Fund in 2017.
- 2.40-2.55** **Dr David Bell** (Researcher, Queen's University Belfast)
Foo dogs and Freemasonry: Antiquarianism in 19th century Ireland.
- 2.55-3.10** **Dr Rachel Tracey** (Independent researcher)
Post-Medieval ceramics, Carrickfergus, and the New World.
- 3.10-3.30** **Afternoon Tea / Coffee break.**

Session 4: Chaired by Barrie Hartwell (Ulster Archaeological Society - QUB)

- 3.30-3.50** **Malachy Conway** (National Trust for Northern Ireland)
The Ulster Archaeological Society contribution to National Trust archaeology.
- 3.50-4.15** **Thomas McErlean** (Ulster University)
Discovering local landscapes: Interpreting heritage to community groups in
Antrim and South Derry.
- 4.15-4.35** **Sarah Gormley** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast)
Archaeological investigations in Derry-Londonderry in 2017, undertaken on behalf of the Siege
Museum and the Friends of Derry Walls.
- 4.35-4.55** **Brian Sloan** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast)
Community Excavation at Cloghancor megalithic tomb, Co. Antrim, undertaken on behalf of the
Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership.

- 4.55-5.15** **Colm O' Brien** (Bernician Studies Group)
The Early Medieval ecclesiastical complexes of Inishowen, Co. Donegal.
- 5.15-5.35** **Cormac Bourke** (Editor, *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*)
The *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*: an editorial perspective.
- 5.35-6.00** **Q & A for afternoon session.**
- 6.00** **Conference concludes.**

Abstracts

Session 1

Barrie Hartwell (Ulster Archaeological Society – Queen's University Belfast)

The formation of the Ulster Archaeological Society in 1947 and 70 years of partnership with Queen's University Belfast.

Abstract

In order to understand why the Society was founded in 1947 we have to look at the state of archaeology in the inter-war years and the main protagonists. There had long been an interest in archaeology - the first series of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, edited by RS MacAdam, ran from 1853 to 1861 and a second series from 1894 to 1911, edited by FJ Bigger. Excavations were run by the Belfast Naturalists Field Club (BNFC) and in 1917 Henry Lawlor ran an Archaeological section of the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society (BNHPS).

The essentially amateur excavations took on a more scientific and research orientation with the appointment by Queen's University of E. Estyn Evans to Geography followed by Oliver Davies as lecturer in Ancient History and (Classical) Archaeology in 1932. By the 1930's the BNFC Journal was being clogged by excavation reports and Evans, Davis and five prominent members of the BNFC and BNHPS refounded the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* as a third series. Volume 1 appeared in 1938 with Oliver Davis as Editor. In 1947 the General Committee of the *Journal* reformed as the Ulster Archaeological Society. After Davies left, a separate Department of Archaeology was established and in 1950 Martyn Jope took over as editor offering the fledgling Society a permanent home at Queen's in his Department. Thus the subscribers became the members and these immutable links between the Journal, the members of the UAS and Queen's have been maintained to this day.

Profile barriehartwell@hotmail.com

Barrie came to Belfast from Middlesex to study archaeology at Queen's University. After graduating he joined the Department of Archaeology in 1973 as a research assistant working for Professor Martyn Jope. After a course of photography at Belfast College of Art and Design he established a studio and darkroom in the Department and became responsible for the artefact Teaching Collection, founded in 1910. With the post of Research Officer and

Senior Research Officer he specialised in air photography, geophysics and survey and developed taught modules in artefact studies and site location techniques and the Easter field school. Aerial surveys followed including Crom and Castleward for the National Trust. Surveys for Queen's University of Donegore Hill, Navan and Haughey's Fort led to extended excavations by Jim Mallory at these important sites. An aerial survey of the Giant's Ring in Co Down in 1989 led to his 10 year excavation of the Ballynahatty timber enclosure. During this time he was aided by two stalwarts of the UAS - Ken Pullin and the late Billy Dunlop. He retired in 2010 but still looks after the Teaching Collection on a voluntary basis. From his time as a student he regularly attended UAS lectures and could see at first hand the close association between the Department and the Society. He became involved as a Committee member, then Honorary Secretary for several years until he was elected President from 2010 until 2015. He is currently one of the Society's vice presidents and nominal archivist.

Naomi Carver (Leader, Belfast Young Archaeologists' Club at Queen's University Belfast)

The activities of the Belfast Young Archaeologists' Club in 2017.

Abstract

Belfast Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) at Queen's University Belfast was founded in June 2006 by members of staff and students from the university. Since then, Belfast YAC members have enjoyed sessions on a wide range of themes. These are not solely archaeological but also include history, geology, palaeontology etc. This paper will report on the club's activities in 2017.

Profile naomicarver28@gmail.com

Naomi Carver is a 2nd year PhD student at Queen's University. Her research focuses on 17th-19th century glazed coarse earthenware. Prior to commencing her post-graduate research, Naomi worked at the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF). During almost twelve years as part of CAF, Naomi participated in and directed a wide range of excavations and projects around Northern Ireland. Naomi is the Branch Leader and a founding member of Belfast Young Archaeologists' Club.

Dr Harry Welsh & David Craig (Ulster Archaeological Society)

The activities of the Ulster Archaeological Society's Field Survey Group during 2017.

Abstract

This joint paper will provide a summary of the field surveys undertaken by the UAS Survey Group in 2017. This turned out to be a fascinating year of survey, with many new discoveries made, enhanced by the deployment of the recently-acquired geophysical survey equipment and the use of drone and photographic technologies. The sites investigated include a prehistoric landscape, an early medieval ecclesiastical site, a later medieval industrial site and a scheduled planned landscape. The paper will also present some examples of drone mapping from a selection of the sites that the UAS has surveyed over the past few years.

Profiles h.welsh@qub.ac.uk david@classicsolutions.co.uk

Dr Harry Welsh has taken part in archaeological excavations for almost twenty years, in the commercial and public sectors. He has written several books and articles on various archaeological subjects, such as excavation and survey reports, safety at excavations and many public outreach events. He has been a Committee member of the Ulster Archaeological Society for fifteen years and has coordinated the work of the Survey Group since its foundation in

2005. He has been employed within the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork at QUB since 2009 and is the unit's Health, Safety and Welfare Officer.

David Craig is a CAA permit holder for commercial drone operations, trading as Irish Sights and specialising in drone mapping and surveying. He is also on the Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society and an active member of the Survey Group leading the Geophysics sub -survey group.

Session 2

Dr Liam Campbell (Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership)

Introduction to the archaeological programme of the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership, 2017-2021.

Abstract

The archaeological programme of the HLF funded Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership which runs from 2017 until 2021 seeks to increase our understanding of the lough's unique built and cultural heritage through new research and digs in partnership with the local communities, the CAF and the HED. It also aims to repair and consolidate archaeological monuments and enhance public access but overall it seeks to connect and reconnect local people to the heritage and heritage skills. There is varied programme containing some 27 projects from schools programmes, conferences, experimental archaeology and conferences to numerous cultural heritage events and publications.

Profile liam.campbell@loughneaghlp.com

Dr Liam Campbell is the Built and Cultural Heritage Officer at the Lough Neagh HLF Landscape Partnership based at Ballyronan. A native of Donegal now residing in the Sperrins he has an M.Sc. from the Gibson Institute for Land, Food and Environment at QUB and a Ph.D. in Cultural Landscapes from UU. He worked for twenty years as a television producer of rural and cultural programmes before returning to academia to pursue landscape research and teaching.

Dr Siobhán McDermott (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast)

Geophysical surveys conducted for the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership during 2017.

Abstract

This paper will present a series of geophysical surveys from around the shores of Lough Neagh on behalf of the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership. The sites range from the prehistoric enclosure at Aghagallon, Co. Antrim, through to the Medieval ecclesiastical sites of Cranfield Church and Ardboe Abbey up to the 17th century Mountjoy Fort at Brockagh, Co. Tyrone. The paper will discuss the latest results from these surveys as well as giving insights into the techniques used and how the distinct geology of Ulster has effected their application.

Profile s.mcdermott@qub.ac.uk

Dr Siobhán McDermott specialises in digital data capture, including shallow geophysical survey, visualisation and interpretation. As a digital archaeologist working in the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast, Siobhán has been instrumental to the expansion of non-invasive survey techniques within the discipline of Archaeology. Much of this has focused on expanding the scale and range of methodological approaches used.

Cormac McSparron (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast)
Excavations at Aghagallon enclosure, County Antrim.

Abstract

This summer a team from the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork and undergraduate students from Queen's University Belfast carried out an excavation at the enigmatic enclosure at Aghagallon, Co. Antrim, on behalf of Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership. The huge circular enclosure has a diameter of about 150m, defined by an external bank, and raised about 1m above the surrounding countryside. Until now archaeologists have been uncertain as to the true nature of the site. This year geophysical survey and excavation revealed a second, internal enclosure, within the outer enclosure, as well as evidence of copper and glass working, indications of some light wooden structures inside the outer enclosure, and the remains of what may have been a shallow ditch on the inside of the bank surrounding the enclosure. In addition to metal slag a small amount of Early Medieval Souterrain Ware was found in the internal ditch and around the light structural remains. In the fills of the ditch located just inside the external bank some struck flint and some coarse pottery, different in fabric from the Souterrain Ware, and possibly Neolithic in date, was found. Although post-excavation analysis is ongoing, initial indications suggest that the enclosure may have begun life as a late Neolithic henge-type monument, but that it was reused as an element of an *aonach*, a multi-purpose Early Medieval assembly for fairs, royal or lordly events, legal proclamations and sporting games.

Profile c.mcsparron@qub.ac.uk

Cormac McSparron is an excavation director with the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast. He has directed and published a number of important excavations of varying types and periods and has a wide range of research interests, including; Bronze Age funerary archaeology, archaeological theory, multilineal social evolution, cognitive archaeology, the early Irish Neolithic, early and later Medieval coarse potting traditions and the application of radiocarbon dating to archaeological problems.

Colin Dunlop & Sarah Nicol (Northern Archaeological Consultancy)

Two prehistoric timber circles excavated Armaloughey, Co. Tyrone and Clagan, Co. Derry.

Abstract

This paper will discuss the relationship between two recently excavated late-Neolithic wooden henges one located in central Co. Derry, one in central Co. Tyrone. While being separated by many miles these important sites bear striking similarities to each other and also to the henge at Ballynahatty, Co. Down. This paper will also located the two new sites within the wider Neolithic ritual landscape of Ulster.

Profiles colin@northarc.co.uk sarah@northarc.co.uk

Colin Dunlop and Sarah Nicol have 18 years of experience in commercial archaeology and they currently work for Northern Archaeological Consultancy. They have published papers in academic journals and in popular archaeology magazines on the excavations they have directed. They have also led public outreach projects on a number of archaeological sites on behalf of NAC and undertaken several previous talks.

Johnny Barkley (Northern Archaeological Consultancy)

Excavations at Clonboy Rath.

Abstract

Clonboy rath is an enclosure discovered on a hilltop outside of Randalstown during dualling works for the A6 Randalstown to Castledawson road. The site was notable for the level of organic preservation within the ditch, and the recovery of over 120 wooden items. This is a presentation on the preliminary results of the excavation, and will provide detail of the site and some of the artefactual material recovered as well as the early results of the radiocarbon dates and environmental sampling.

Profile jonathan@northarc.co.uk

Jonathan Barkley graduated in Archaeology from Queen's University Belfast in 2003 and is currently a Site Director for Northern Archaeological Consultancy.

Session 3

Dr Greer Ramsey (National Museums of Northern Ireland)

Archaeology and the Treasure Act.

Abstract

The implementation of the *Treasure Act* has accounted for the Ulster Museum acquiring some magnificent objects – but what is 'Treasure' and can the Museum afford it? An explanation of the Treasure Act and examples of objects purchased under the scheme will hopefully provide some answers. These range from Bronze Age jewellery to the mysterious case of an Anglo- Saxon goldfish!

Profile Greer.Ramsey@nmni.com

Dr Greer Ramsey is Curator of Archaeology, National Museums of Northern Ireland. He started his undergraduate degree in Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast in 1978, going on to complete a Ph.D. on Bronze Age metalwork also at Queen's University. He worked for the Archaeology Survey, Belfast before starting a career in museums. This began in Fermanagh County Museum before moving to Armagh County Museum and then taking up his current post.

Dr Paul Logue (Historic Environment Division, DfC)

The Historic Environment Fund in 2017.

Abstract

The HEF was set up in 2016-17 with one of its funding streams seeking to support opportunities for local communities to become engaged in archaeological projects in their own areas. A key HEF principle is that projects must be initiated, designed and led by local communities. Paul's talk will include HEF projects from 2016-17 with examples from around Northern Ireland showing the variety, strength and creativity of heritage groups throughout the north.

Profile Paul.Logue@communities-ni.gov.uk

Dr Paul Logue is a senior archaeological inspector with the Historic Environment Division (HED) and one of his roles is to help manage the Historic Environment Fund (HEF).

Dr David Bell (Queen's University Belfast)

Foo dogs and Freemasonry: Antiquarianism in 19th century Ireland.

Abstract

Hobsbawm's long 19th century saw a dramatic rise and fall of empire across the globe. Throughout Europe, an increasing sense of nationhood required a suitably noble origin myth and for the Anglo-Irish antiquarians of Victorian Ireland, this could only lie in a very specific interpretation of the ancient East. The curious case of the Chinese Seals serves not only as a cautionary tale on provenances but also highlights the perils of viewing the past through a contemporary socio-political lens. While there is a well-established historiographical approach to this subject, consideration of what insights might be afforded by a study of the relevant material culture is somewhat neglected.

Profile dbell26@qub.ac.uk

Following retirement from Secondary School teaching, David Bell came to realise that his future now lay in the past. A B.Sc. in Archaeology and Palaeoecology was followed by a Ph.D. focusing on the use-wear analysis of Middle Bronze Age swords. His intention was to determine if these were primarily of symbolic importance or if they were fully functional weapons. Edge damage on blades from Britain and Ireland in particular appeared to support the hypothesis that these were indeed practical close combat arms. Closer examination, however, revealed a clear and highly significant distinction between the Irish and British material.

Dr Rachel Tracey

Post-Medieval ceramics, Carrickfergus, and the New World.

Abstract

From the sixteenth century onwards, aesthetics, tastes, and consumption, were fuelled by a rapidly changing social, political, and economic world, stimulated by New World expansion, burgeoning colonialism, and the emergence of global exchange networks, and markets for new commodities. The late Tom Delaney's excavations of Carrickfergus in the 1970s, unearthed a vast ceramics assemblage, which sheds valuable light on British and European trade connections in the seventeenth century, and the post-medieval ceramics revolution. A selection of pottery examples is presented to highlight the social status and cultural identities existing in Carrickfergus, their trading networks, and their personal tastes and aspirations.

Profile rachelsarah.tracey@googlemail.com

Dr Rachel Tracey is an historical archaeologist, specialising in post-medieval material culture and buildings, with a particular interest in historic ceramics. Rachel graduated with a Ph.D. from Queen's University Belfast earlier this year; her Collaborative Doctoral Award research, in partnership with the National Museums of Northern Ireland and the Arts and Humanities Research Council UK, focused on the sixteenth and seventeenth-century material culture of the Ulster port town of Carrickfergus, and its wider relevance in terms of colonialism, conflict, and identity in plantation-era Ulster. She is currently involved in archaeological projects in Ireland and the United States.

Session 4

Malachy Conway (National Trust for Northern Ireland)

The Ulster Archaeological Society's contribution to National Trust archaeology.

Abstract

Following its first fieldwork outing in 2006, the Survey Group of the Ulster Archaeology Society have undertaken 66 field surveys, the majority of which have been targeted upon sites and monuments contained within the landholding of the National Trust in Northern Ireland. The UAS have also been a key partner in recent archaeological excavations on National Trust properties including Castle Ward and Divis Mountain and are the recognised backbone of much of the community archaeology that is generated not only on National Trust sites but beyond. The presentation will summarise, highlight and review the plethora of surveys and excavations undertaken by the UAS and assess the real value that this fieldwork and its report output has on the Trust in its responsibility for the care and management of its historic estate. The future too looks bright, through the added capability of the UAS to undertake recording through UAV/aerial drone and geophysical survey, using earth resistance.

Profile malachy.conway@nationaltrust.org.uk

Malachy is the Regional Archaeologist with the National Trust, covering the Northern Ireland region and has over 28 years professional experience. He is a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland and is a former member of the Historic Monuments Council. His interests cover prehistoric archaeology, historic gardens and designed landscapes, industrial archaeology and Heritage Management and Conservation.

Thomas McErlean (Ulster University)

Discovering local landscapes: Interpreting heritage to community groups in Antrim and South Derry.

Abstract

The short paper will summarise recent interaction with local groups in North and Mid-Antrim and South Derry into the interpretation or re-interpretation of their local landscapes. In recent years archaeology has progressed steadily in re-evaluating the historic landscape and placing sites and monuments in their original context. Sadly, very little of these new perceptions have filtered down to local communities. It is felt that archaeologists have a duty to provide them with information that both enhances and celebrates the landscapes in which they live. The paper attempts to demonstrate some ways in which this can be achieved.

Profile tc.mcerlean@ulster.ac.uk

Thomas McErlean graduated in archaeology from Queen's University Belfast in 1977 and since then has had a varied but very fulfilling working life in the subject. Over this 40-year period he has worked for the old NIEA, the National Trust as well as some years as a contract archaeologist. More recently he has spent some 15 years in the Centre for Maritime Archaeology (CMA) in the UU campus at Coleraine. His central focus and major interest has been research into all aspects of the Irish Landscape.

Sarah Gormley (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast)

Archaeological investigations in Derry-Londonderry in 2017

Abstract

During the course of 2017 the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork has undertaken a number of investigations on behalf of the Siege Museum and the Friends of the Derry Walls exploring the archaeological potential of the Walled City. Sarah will present the results of the work that included a community excavation at Lumen Christi College and geophysical surveys at Nailor's Row, Society Street and Long Tower Street.

Profile s.gormley@qub.ac.uk

Sarah Gormley is an archaeologist with the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast.

Brian Sloan (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast)

Community Excavation at Cloghancor megalithic tomb, Co. Antrim

Abstract

Cloghancor is a small megalithic tomb on the outskirts of Cushendall Co. Antrim. In partnership with the Heart of The Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme, the CAF carried out a community-based excavation at the site during September 2017. The excavation revealed an interesting story of the tomb, and emphasised the importance of community involvement in such investigations.

Profile b.sloan@qub.ac.uk

Brian Sloan has worked for the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University Belfast, since 2003 and has been directing archaeological projects since 2005. He has carried out a variety of excavations, most notably on Rathlin Island, Co. Antrim, and at Tullaghogue Co. Tyrone. Brian has a particular interest in the study of lithic artefacts and has compiled a number of specialist reports.

Colm O' Brien (Bernician Studies Group)

The Early Medieval ecclesiastical complexes of Inishowen, Co. Donegal.

Abstract

This paper will review the findings from magnetometry survey and test excavation at a set of early ecclesiastical centres on the Inishowen peninsula of County Donegal. Double-circle precinct boundaries have been detected, allowing us to define a spatial context for high crosses and other visible features; in the case of Carrowmore, radiocarbon dates have been obtained. A group of cross-carved grave markers at Cooley, near Moville, is distinctive and study of their affinities, now in progress, is pointing towards Iona and western Scotland.

Profile colm.francis@hotmail.co.uk

Colm O'Brien has now retired from a lectureship in lifelong learning and is currently a Visiting Fellow in the University of Newcastle. His interests are in the early medieval era and he has published on settlement and kingship sites in Northumbria and on matters of territorial organisation. Colm is currently co-directing a project on the early ecclesiastical centres of the Inishowen peninsula as part of a collaboration between the Bernician Studies Group and the locally based Lands of Éogain group.

Cormac Bourke (Editor, *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*)

The *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*: an editorial perspective.

Abstract

The *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* traces its roots to 1852 and is Ireland's only provincial archaeological journal. Its purpose is documentary and its primary terms of reference are spatial and geographical. This paper looks briefly at the hierarchy of places and place-names essential to its integrity in the context of indiscriminate geo-political labelling.

Profile cormacbourke@btinternet.com

Cormac Bourke has been honorary editor of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* since 2002. He specialises in the archaeology of the early medieval Church and his catalogue of hand-bells from Ireland and Britain is to be published next year by the National Museum of Ireland.

Further information and acknowledgements

Further information about the Ulster Archaeological Society

The current Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society comprises: Ruairí Ó Baoill (President), Prof Audrey Horning, Barrie Hartwell and Patrick O'Neill (Vice Presidents), Ken Pullin (Honorary Secretary), Cormac Bourke (Honorary Editor, *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*), Lee Gordon (Honorary Treasurer), Anne MacDermott MBE (Assistant Secretary Events), Dr Duncan Berryman (Honorary Editor: UAS Newsletter), Dr Harry Welsh, Ian Gillespie, David Craig, Aaron McIntyre, Dr Ian Meighan, Randal Scott, John Moore OBE and Roisin McCaughan (Committee members).

For further information about the Ulster Archaeological Society and its activities please see our

Website: <https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/uas/>

Facebook: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/The-Ulster-Archaeological-Society-190943297657719/>

e-mail: ulsterarchaeolsoc@gmail.com

The Ulster Archaeological Society is registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC101151

Further information about Archaeology-Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast

For further information about Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's and our activities please see our

Website: www.archaeology-palaeoecology-qub.com

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Facebook: [@archaeologyatqueensbelfast](https://www.facebook.com/archaeologyatqueensbelfast)

Twitter: [@ArcPalQUB](https://twitter.com/ArcPalQUB)

Email: arcpal@qub.ac.uk

Acknowledgements

The Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society and the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast would like to thank the following people for their assistance with the conference: Grace McAlister, Libby Mulqueeny, Georgia Vince, Lauren McCann, and the very many enthusiastic Queen's University Belfast Archaeology and Palaeoecology students who have helped with this event. Lastly our thanks are due to all the participants of the conference who have so generously agreed to share their discoveries with us today.

The annual meeting was held on 15th Oct. 1947 in the Geographical Dept. Queen's University, Mr. Parker in the chair.

There were also present at this meeting F. Oliver Davis, Prof. Evans, A. H. Danson, W. M. Gilmore, A. M. L. May, S. Turner, & Prof. Walmsley.

Apologies for absence were rec^d. from the following -
 F. J. Cole, T. S. F. Paterson, ^{Rev} Canon McWilliams, & J. Leeds.
 The minutes of the last meeting were read & passed as correct.

The following Office-bearers were elected -
 Chairman, Viscount Charlesmont Vice-Chairman Mr. Parker,
 Hon. Treasurer Alfred George, Hon. Secretary J. Skillew,
 Editorial Board Prof. Evans & J. Skillew
 Hon. Auditors F. J. Cole & W. M. Gilmore

The Treasurer presented the financial report which showed a balance to the credit of the journal of £¹⁰⁰ less cost of printing the 1947 Vol.

The hon. Secretary reported that two members of the editorial board had left Belfast viz J. M. Moggey & E. R. R. Green and Mr. Davis having stated that he also was leaving Belfast which left the office of editor vacant. Warm tributes were paid to Mr. Davis for his work in connection with the journal and on the motion of the chairman Prof. Evans was elected editor, and joint trustee in his place.

It was decided that the editorial board along with Davis should arrange for the co-opting of two members to fill the vacancies.

(over)