

ALTOGETHER ARCHAEOLOGY



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Editor's Update...

Welcome to the 2022 Spring edition newsletter. We've already packed a lot into this year with an assortment of walks and talks which we hope you've enjoyed. Here's a snippet of what's been happening:

In January, members were treated to a brisk walk across a breezy **Cockfield Fell** led by local guides Jeanette Newell and Chris Mills. Cockfield Fell is England's largest scheduled ancient monument – almost 350 hectares in size (fig.1-3).

The fell has a rich historic past, which includes pre-Roman settlements and industrial evidence that dates back to the fourteenth century. Jeanette gave a follow-up talk in February at Mickleton Village Hall with a summary of life on the fell over the ages.



Fig.1: A bracing walk across Cockfield Fell



Fig.2: Lands viaduct crossing the River Gaunless designed by Sir Thomas Bouch and opened in 1863



Fig.3: Skew Bridge built without a keystone

Also in January, two second-year students from Durham University shared their excavation experiences: **Faye McLean** discussed community-based digs at Scarborough and Richmond and **Iga Dorczynska** spoke about the recovery excavation of WW2 American aircrafts in Arundel and Sicily (fig.4). Both delivered very insightful talks. Our chairman, Tony Metcalfe, followed on with a precis of his knowledge of Tees-ware pottery (fig.5).



Fig.4: Veterans and volunteers at work sieving excavated material during the Arundel B-21 recovery dig 2021



Fig.5: (L-R) Faye McLean, Tony Metcalfe, Iga Dorczynska

In February, AA member **Brian Page**, a keen railway enthusiast, delivered a very interesting story of railway stations in the Pennine Hills. Moving into March, Fieldwork Co-ordinator **Martin Green**, gave us an update on the Gueswick excavation. A picture is now emerging. AA's magnetometry/walk-over survey and trial trenches in 2019, followed by an excavation in 2021 indicates a possible swing from medieval to Romano British. How exciting! **Tony Metcalfe** also gave us a greater insight into some of the Gueswick finds (fig.6).



Fig.6: Some of the wonderful finds from the Gueswick excavation

Faunal remains specialist, **Louisa Gidney**, was previously tasked with examining the bone finds from Gueswick. Altogether Archaeology invited her along in March to deliver a 'show and tell' presentation. Dressed in clothing akin to The 'Woman from Huldremose' (a 2nd century BC bog body recovered from the Jutland area of Denmark) she discussed animal husbandry and the uses people would have made of all parts of animals during the Iron Age (fig.7). A truly engaging presentation!



Fig.7: Louisa Gidney in Iron-Age Danish costume demonstrating how to weave using a 'drop spindle whorl'

A special mention...

Following the AGM and talks on 26th March members of the Fieldwork Task Group were invited to Rob Pearson's home, where the family presented the Stonex GPS equipment and a laptop computer to Altogether Archaeology in memory of his late wife, Val. On behalf of our members, the Chairman, Tony Metcalfe, thanked them for their very generous donation which will be a useful asset for our fieldwork (fig.8).



Fig.8: AA members at the presentation of the GPS equipment

Still to come...

- **A guided walk to Ravensheugh Crag: 26th May**

Members can explore the prehistoric landscape to the north of Hadrian's Wall (**Note:** this activity is now FULLY BOOKED)

2022 Excavations

- **Greta Valley: 2nd July – 24th July**

Beverley Still, a PhD researcher at Durham University has kindly invited AA members to an excavation at Plover Hall in the Greta Valley to explore the prehistoric landscape of Upper Teesdale.

- **Gueswick (near Cotherstone, Teesdale): 8th August – 28th August**

We will be returning to this multi-period site to continue our investigations. Dr Rob Young will again be the lead archaeologist and this season he will be joined by a number of archaeology students from Newcastle University.

Dust off your trowels and join us if you can. Please register your interest by emailing altogetherarchaeology@gmail.com

In this edition...

We start with a summary of this years' AGM. Kay Fothergill then tells us about potential Roman sites south of the River Tees. Our Archaeology Advisor, Paul Frodsham, updates us on the St. Botolph's finds and their new home in the Weardale Museum. John Goldsborough reviews Caitlin Green's Book '*Britons and Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire AD 400-650*' which covers that little known era when the Romans leave and life changes for the British inhabitants. Alan Newham's Church Corner provides us with an insight into the architecture to be found in St. Michaels Church, Heighington. Another article by Paul Frodsham informs us of an exciting project called 'Belief In The North East' which aims to explore the rich archaeology of the belief, religion and ritual of North-East England.

I hope you enjoy these articles...and finally, to test your brain cells, have a go at the latest Picture Quiz.

Also, please let us have your suggestions if there is something you want to see in the Newsletter.

Sue Goldsborough

Editor

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Annual General Meeting...

The Annual General Meeting took place at Mickleton Village Hall on Saturday 26th March 2022. This was the first in-person meeting since 2019 and was well attended.

The following is a summary of the meeting compiled by Kay Fothergill (Secretary):

1. Management Committee Election	<p>a) We welcomed two new members onto the Management Committee and also as AA Trustees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Margaret Ablett• Bob Abrams <p>b) The Term of Office of two existing committee members had expired. Both were prepared to continue in their roles and were unanimously re-elected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rob Pearson (Place Names Project Co-Ordinator)• Elaine Vallack (Events Co-Ordinator)
2. Fees	<p>These remain unchanged and are due from 1st April 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single: £25• Joint: £35 (residing at the same address)• Student: £15
3. Financial Report	<p>The Financial Report had been circulated before the meeting. A member asked if the fee level was sufficient to meet the needs of AA. Greg Finch (Treasurer), confirmed that the current fees were sufficient to support the running costs of the group and to be able allocate some money into the Fieldwork Fund. Greg did emphasize the importance of the post-excavation work that we do; this can be expensive but is a necessary and important part of carrying out archaeological fieldwork.</p> <p>Tony Metcalfe (Chairman) also confirmed he will be applying for grants from CBA Yorkshire and the Durham Foundation to help fund our projects.</p>

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Archaeology South of the Tees...

Our 2021 winter edition featured an article on recent Iron Age and Romano-British discoveries in the Tees Valley and Durham regions. AA secretary, Kay Fothergill, has put together a further summary of potential Roman sites in these areas.

Saunas, pets and mysterious ditches (What were the Romans doing in the Tees Valley?)

Areas of high ground above the River Tees seem to have been favoured sites for villas. There is a villa site at *Dalton-on-Tees* and another further downstream at *Quarry Farm, Ingleby Barwick*.

Dalton-on-Tees

Local farmers had long been aware of a stony area in one corner of a field above the River Tees. The potential villa site was identified by aerial photography (Blaise Vyner) (fig.1). It was excavated in the 1990s by members of Tees-Side Archaeological Society. Excavation found two Roman-period buildings here: one was a winged corridor type building and the other an aisled building. Animal lovers may be interested to know that the site provided evidence of what may be the

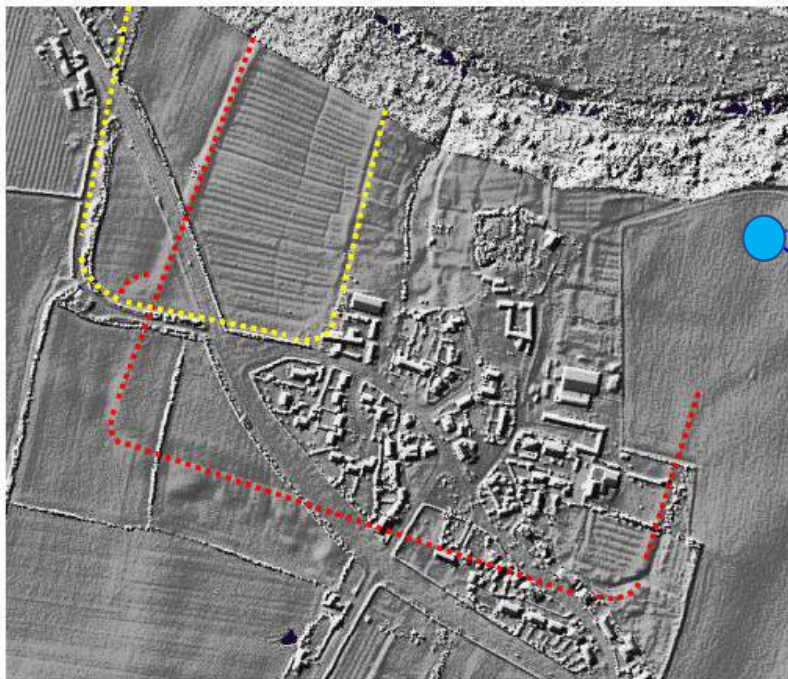


Fig.1: Probable Roman Fort (red) and [possible earlier fort (yellow)

earliest pet cat. The skeleton of the animal revealed that it had suffered several broken bones which would have prevented the animal hunting for itself. However, it had apparently survived for several years after these injuries so it seems that someone must have been caring for it. There is nothing to see now at the actual Roman Villa site (marked in blue on the lidar map) but in 2016 there was a further excavation at Dalton-on-Tees. This was a community project carried out by archaeologist Robin Daniels, as part of the

River Tees Re-Discovered Project. The initial aim of the project was to investigate the extent of the medieval village of Dalton-on-Tees. However, during the course of that project it became apparent that a large ditch (figs.2,3) and bank which ran

behind the medieval village street was very unusual and probably not related to the medieval village. The bank is still visible on the ground in the fields at top-left and right but it was now realised that it formed a U-shape which enclosed most of the existing modern village. The River Tees provides a fourth side. A further excavation in 2017 found evidence of a box-rampart type construction but sadly only one piece of Roman mortaria (fig.4).



*Figs. 2 and 3:
the ditch
looking top-left
and top-right*



Fig.4: Rim of a mortarium found in the 2017 dig

There are various theories as to the date and purpose of this bank and ditch. It encloses an area of around 16 hectares which is quite large. Initial hopes were that it possibly represented a hitherto unknown Roman fort or forts. However, the lack of Roman period finds makes this seem unlikely. Current theories are that it may have been an early Roman attempt to aid Cartimandua (the village is only about 10 miles from the famous Stanwick Camp and Scots Dyke area), an enclosure associated with the

villa or possibly a dark age construction of some sort. Apparently, the Saxons liked to build enclosures which used a river as the fourth wall.

The river Tees is fordable at Croft just 1.6km away. From there the route to the West would have been towards Scotch Corner and then to the Stainmore Pass. Recently, another marching camp has been identified at Newsham (2 miles to the east of Middleton One Row) in a loop on the north side of the river. It is just less than 10km (as the crow flies) downstream from Dalton-on-Tees. This is also close to a ford across the river Tees. This is the furthest point downstream that evidence of Roman military activity has been identified.

Quarry Farm, Ingleby Barwick

The villa site at Quarry Farm near Ingleby Barwick was excavated by Archaeological Services, Durham University in 2003-2004 as a large housing development was planned for the area. The villa itself was not excavated but has been preserved under a green in the centre of the development. This site did not have a bath-house as such but did have a free-standing heated room in a prominent position on the site which suggests that the owners were proud of their sauna.

The Quarry Farm site continued in occupation into the post-Roman period. A Roman crossbow brooch from the 4th century had been re-used in the 5th century and was buried with a dog. Perhaps it had been attached to the collar of another beloved pet.

A bath-house was found at the Holme House villa near Piercebridge and the Romano-British site at Symmetry Park on the East side of Darlington has a small two-roomed structure which has been provisionally identified as a free-standing bath-house.

Another common feature of the villa sites are circular buildings which may have had an agricultural function. There is one at the Quarry Farm site and Dalton-on-Tees had a polygonal structure of similar size. Perhaps they could have been a horse or donkey powered mill. Holme House Villa at Piercebridge and Old Durham Villa, which was excavated in the 1940s, also had circular buildings.

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Dalton-on-Tees

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Symmetry Park Darlington

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Kay Fothergill

(Photos: 2-4 by K. Fothergill)

(Photo1: Lidar image, courtesy of R. Daniels, Tees Archaeology and Stephen Eastmead)

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An Update on the Finds from St. Botolph's Chapel, Frosterley...



*Fig.1: aerial view of the St Botolph's Chapel site.
The site is the mound, clearly visible here, in the field north of the village car park.*

Many readers will remember with fondness the weeks back in 2013 and 2014 spent digging in the field behind Frosterley Village Hall. Excavations were undertaken by what was then the Altogether Archaeology project (managed by the North Pennines AONB Partnership and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund) in partnership with Archaeological Services Durham University. They followed geophysical survey undertaken by AA volunteers, and were designed to establish how much of the chapel survived in the ground and to investigate its chronology. The results were spectacular!

The comprehensive report is available on the AA website, and thanks to their owner, all the finds (of which there are hundreds) have now been deposited at the Weardale Museum, Ireshopeburn, where a selection of the most important are on display. The museum is hoping to expand into the adjacent chapel over the next few years, providing an opportunity to develop a much larger permanent exhibition about St. Botolph's.

The oldest known reference to the chapel dates from 1346, but finds from the excavation date at least as far back as the eighth century - almost to the time of St. Botolph, a seventh-century contemporary of St Cuthbert, once much more famous than he is today. Although dismantled in post-medieval times, the original chapel probably looked quite similar to the famous church at Escomb. It probably stood within a small monastery at Frosterley, about which we know nothing for sure. This is a period about which we know very little about Weardale, so the site is of very great importance.



Fig.3: The top of the shaft of the stone cross can be seen here as found, directly on top of the skeleton of a man who was buried face-down.



Fig.2: An arm of the 8th century stone cross, found in a corner of the trench in 2013.

The most spectacular find from the excavations is undoubtedly the early eighth-century stone cross, found in fragments demonstrating that it had been deliberately smashed up. The first fragment to be found, part of one arm of the cross (fig.2), was found poking just into a corner of the first year's trench; had our trench been a few centimetres smaller in this corner, we would never have found it! Looking for more of the cross was one of the key objectives of the second year. Several further fragments were recovered, one of which was found in association with a skeleton of probable tenth-century date, so the cross had clearly been destroyed by this time, though no-one knows why (fig.3). The cross is Roker dolomite, quarried not far from the famous monastery at Wearmouth and presumably shipped up the river. This suggests an intriguing link between the monastery at Monkwearmouth/Jarrow and Frosterley, where it is now thought that a small monastery, focused on the chapel, probably existed. Unfortunately, Bede didn't write anything about Weardale, so we can't be sure about this. Further excavations will be necessary to investigate the possibility.



About half a millennium later in date, but still very important, is the rim of an ornate Frosterley marble font (fig.4) that stood within the medieval chapel following its refurbishment in the twelfth century. The decoration surviving on this shows that it must originally have been a very fine font, similar in appearance to the magnificent example still used within Beverley Minster.

Fig.4: The magnificent medieval Frosterley marble font in Beverley Minster, still in use today. Note the similarity of the decoration to that of the St Botolph's fragment.

We found two fragments of the St Botolph's font, one each year, at opposite ends of the site; several months after completion of the dig, while examining the finds at the university, it was noticed that two fragments fit together! The fact that they were found so far apart illustrates how much the site has been disturbed following closure of the chapel. Much of this disturbance must have been linked to creation and operation of two large limekilns, originally located by geophysical survey. One of these was excavated and radiocarbon dated to AD1430-1630, by which time the chapel must obviously have become redundant. Some artefacts, including part of a medieval stone cross, were recovered from within this kiln.

Also found (on the final day of the second season!) was a fine carved stone head, known from the moment of its discovery as 'Alan's head', though it has also been labelled the Frosterley Madonna! Its chronology remains unresolved, but it is probably the oldest representation of a human head known from Weardale.

Although AA has completed lots of important work over the past decade, and everyone will have their own particular favourite project, the recognition of such an early chapel at St Botolph's is undoubtedly one of the group's most significant discoveries. The project is now rendered even more valuable through the presentation of the results in the local museum.



Fig.5: Perhaps the most iconic of all AA photos, Alan Newham with his stone head!



Fig.6: The new St Botolph's display in the Weardale Museum

Whether or not you were involved in the St Botolph's excavations, a trip to the Weardale Museum this summer should prove very rewarding. You will be able to see some of the St Botolph's finds, along with many other fascinating objects relating to the history of Weardale, as well as supporting an important local institution. Lots of information about the museum is provided on its website: <https://weardalemuseum.org.uk/>

Weardale Museum Opening dates 2022

Daily opening times: 1pm to 4.30pm

- 1 April to 1 June: Wednesday to Sunday.
- 1 June to 2 Oct: 7 days a week.
- 5 Oct to 30 Oct: Wednesday to Sunday

(The museum can be open at other times, by arrangement, for groups)

Admission:

- Children and young people under 18 years: **FREE**
- Adults: £5 (or join the 'Friends of the Museum' for £10 per adult and get free entry for a year!)

Paul Frodsham (Photos: P.Frodsham)

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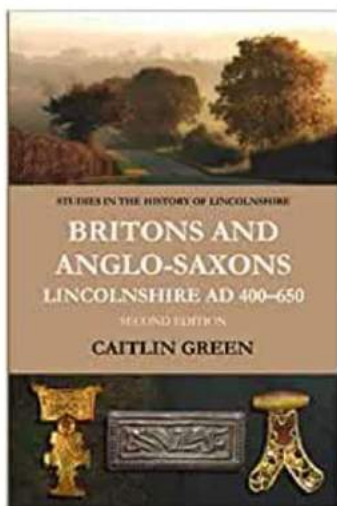
Book Review...

'Britons and Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire AD 400-650'

(Caitlin Green)

Dr Caitlin Green is currently a tutor at the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education, and completed her doctorate at the University of Oxford. Her principal research interests

lie in the history, archaeology, place names and literature of early medieval Britain.



This particular book was first published in 2012. A second edition published in 2020 includes an introduction

which contains an additional commentary focussing on information which has been discovered since 2012. It is this second edition that I will be reviewing. Green uses an interdisciplinary approach using the available linguistical, historical, and archaeological evidence which was available at the time of writing.

This is not a large book amounting to 270 pages split into six chapters. Whilst some history books can be heavy reading (try reading Sarah Semple's book *Perceptions of the Prehistoric in Anglo Saxon England* 2013) this book is refreshingly easy.

It starts off with what we think we know of the area of Lincolnshire in AD 400. From the fragmentation of Roman Britannia we see the emergence of a Romano-British province, centred on the old provincial capital of Lincoln. There were dispersed rural farmsteads and small towns, one being Kirmington covering 20 hectares with high levels of activity. Some 1,511 Roman coins have been found here from the period AD 364-388, but only 102 from 388-402. Also found were numerous belt fittings which may indicate the presence of Romano-British militia.

Ancaster, Caistor and Horncastle were settlements enclosed by impressive walls, the last two being of the same class as the 'Saxon Shore Forts' (a specific group of later Roman coastal defensive forts). It seems plausible that they may have been collection points for taxes paid in kind (the *annona*), in addition to being defensive strongholds. According to Green, this 'payment in kind' reflects a serious decline in the money supply. The archaeological record appears to back this up with no new bronze coins dated after AD 402 and no new silver or gold after 411. This lack of coinage must have led to great changes in the Romano-British society.

Green then describes what we see in the area in the early 7th century, namely the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Lindsey (Old English: Lindissi). There is an 8th century regnal list of their kings and an associated tribal hidage assessed at 7000 hides (a unit of land measurement) being the same size as Essex and Sussex. Bede describes Lindissi as a *provincia* (his name for a kingdom) and describes the inhabitants as a distinct people, the **Lindisfari** (Old English: Lindisfaran) who had their own bishop from the 7th to 9th century. The last king was Aldfrith who ruled up to 679 and then became a Mercian lordship.

In addition to the Lindisfaran, three other population groups are recorded in the tribal hidage. One is the **Bilmigas** assessed at 600 hides and associated with the Billingas population group. Another is the **Spalde** assessed at 600 hides and underlie the place name Spalding, and include much of the modern fenland district of Holland. Finally, the **Gyrwe** population group (from the Old English Gyr meaning 'Mud') were assessed in two equal parts of 600 hides placed in the fens of southern Lincolnshire and northern Cambridgeshire.

The book is well researched with a wealth of linguistic evidence and a story emerges of an Anglo-Saxon polity with close Romano-British ties. From a North East perspective, the last chapter of the book is intriguing with Green's ideas on the naming of the island of Lindisfarne. The Brittonic name **Medcaut**, and the Old Irish name **Ines Medcoit**, both derive from the latin **Medicata (Insula)** meaning

the Island of Healing. Green's conclusion is that Lindisfarne is not a Brittonic word but must be from the Old English, which she claims means the 'exiles from Lindsey'. Because Lindisfarne/Bamburgh were the first centres of power for Anglians in Bernicia, she also states that the Bernician royal family could also have come from Lincolnshire as might the inhabitants of Billingham (from the Billingas tribe) and Jarrow (Old English Girwe/Gyrum from the Gyrwe tribe).

I am a bit wary about whether the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries described by Green contain actual Anglo-Saxon bodies. With advances in isotope analysis lots of skeletons have been found to be Romano- British people who have been acculturated as Anglo-Saxon with corresponding grave goods. I will be more accepting of her findings if further scientific research is possible on these sites. Green has undoubtedly a thorough knowledge of archaic Welsh and Irish poetry/ literature as well as Anglo-Saxon literature which brings a new insight into events of this period. The book contains a lot of convincing evidence and I found it to be thought provoking and very interesting. I would recommend this to anyone with an interest in the early Anglo-Saxon period, particularly as the conclusions could have resonances with other parts of England. A score of 4.5/5.

John Goldsborough

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Church Corner...

St. Michael's Church, Heighington, Co. Durham

Dominating the north side of a large divided green surrounded by cottages stands Saint Michael's church. There are possible references to a church of early post – conquest date when the secular cannons were discharged from Durham Cathedral, some of whom went to 'Heighington'. The antiquarian, The Rev. J. F Hodgson, suggested that they went there because there was a church in existence at that time and would '...therefore necessarily be of Pre-Conquest date...'.¹ In 1981, an excavation took place at the base of the tower and on the south side of the church exposing wall footings and their relationship being interpreted; concluding that the core c12 cell of nave and chancel may have had a predecessor.²

The church has undergone many additions between the 13th and 19th centuries, and now consists of Tower, aisled nave, and chancel in two phases, porch, organ chamber and vestry. The core cell of nave and chancel with added tower (best in the county: Pevsner) and chancel extension soon after, is considered to be all of C12 Norman construction.³ A dowsing survey, published in 1988, was carried out in the church and included a dowsed apse-like feature below the junction between the chancel and its eastern extension.⁴

Look Out For...

- The **Tower twin belfry windows** (fig.1) distinguished from the similar looking late Saxon by the mid-wall spandrel above the arches.



Fig.1 The Tower

- **South Porch door** (fig.2) with billet, lazy zig-zag and roll mouldings in the arch and single colonnettes with well-worn cushion capitals. Above the arch, a small panel with two figures that may be a king and a bishop (Pevsner) or Saints Cuthbert and Oswald (Rev. Hodgson). Door and panel removed from the north nave wall and repositioned

in 1875, their condition due to their exposure to the elements for centuries.



Fig.2 South Porch Door

- **External east wall of south aisle** (fig.3). See the original roofline of what was a 13th century chapel incorporating a triple stepped lancet window. The chapel was later extended to the west to form the south aisle.

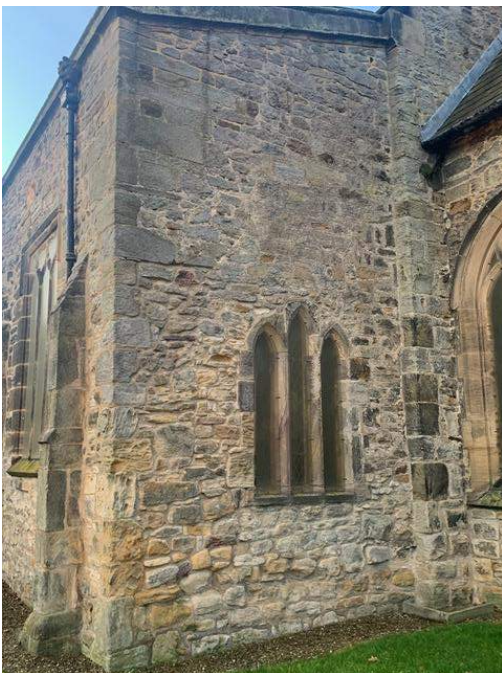


Fig.3 Triple-stepped lancet window

- **External south chancel wall** (fig.4). See evidence of the western jamb of a tall blocked lancet window to the right of the door.



Fig.4 External South chancel wall

- **The Norman chancel arch** (fig.5). The engraving⁵ of 1845 has mouldings of a soffit roll with two outer hollow quarter circles on either side or an outer square cogged/billet hood mould. The mouldings are identical to the tower arch. The engraving also shows the original position of the early and rare pre-reformation 16th century pulpit now repositioned west of the south west side of the chancel arch.



Fig.5 Norman chancel arch

- **Cresset stone** (fig.6) sat on the windowsill in the south aisle east window. Cresset stones were used to light the church whereby wicks were set floating in oil. My photograph shows what may have been a bowl-shaped stone with a carved head in relief set in an oval ribbed moulding that seems to have been carved at a later date. The bowl is damaged to an extent. It is a curious object to me.



Fig.6 Cresset stone, St. Michael's

- Medieval cressets that have survived are generally associated with monastic buildings and are rarer in churches, their design being rather crude; a typical example is of rough stone with five individual holes for the oil and wick (fig.7). Was it originally a stoup perhaps for holy water?

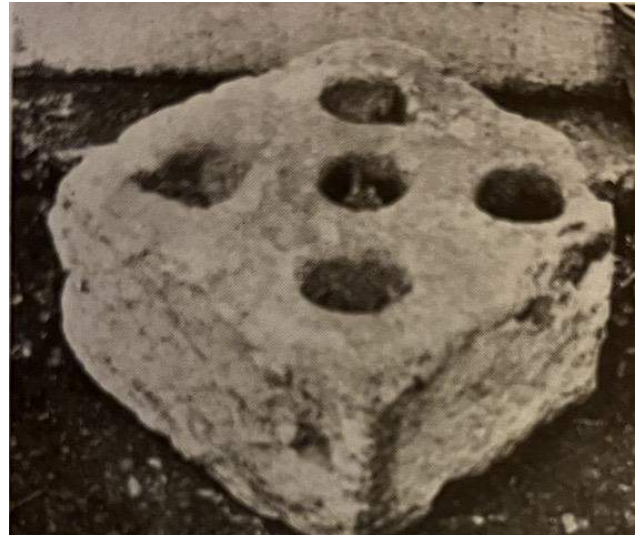


Fig.7 Medieval cresset with cup-shaped hollows

Heighington has two pubs: the *Bay Horse Inn* (on my last visit I had an excellent pint of Taylor's Landlord from the hand pump) and the *George and Dragon*. Whilst both pubs serve food, unfortunately, as far as I can tell, neither pub sells mince pies. A wander round the interesting village might assuage disappointment.

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Alan Newham

(Photos: Alan Newham)

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**BELIEF in the
NORTH EAST**



The Belief in the North East community archaeology project, based at Durham University and funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, has been on hold for much of the past 2 years due to Covid. But it now has an extension through until 2023 and is aiming to complete much fieldwork this year.

The project is designed to study aspects of the rich and fascinating archaeology of religion in north-east England through fieldwork, events and presentations. It will study subjects ranging from prehistoric rock art and burial mounds, through Roman temples, to historic churches and graveyards, and hopes to shed new light on the complex religious beliefs of past populations of Teesside, County Durham, Tyne and Wear and Northumberland.

The story of belief in the North-East over the past 10,000 years is complex, and there is much that we do not (and probably never will) know for sure. Without doubt, people from the Stone Age onwards have grappled with the mysteries of life, and over time have come up with a bewildering array of creation myths and 'religious' beliefs to account for their place in the cosmos. In modern Britain, as astonishing scientific developments teach us more about the nature of the universe and our place within it, fundamental questions (for example, regarding the nature of consciousness) remain unanswered and perhaps unanswerable. Some people turn to conventional religions to help them address such issues, while others believe that science will eventually explain everything without the need to introduce deities of any kind. Many of us opt to hedge our bets and just get on with enjoying life! Whatever our personal views, it is fascinating to explore the ways in which people in the past have addressed the mysteries of life. While there is much documentary material available for recent centuries, we are reliant for much of the story on archaeological investigation, the results of which are often open to alternative interpretations.

Although the original project programme was decimated by Covid, some fieldwork was completed during 2021, and several very popular online presentations covering a range of themes were delivered to large audiences via zoom. Further online presentations are planned for later this year. All are recorded and made available on the project's YouTube channel, where thirteen presentations (along with several other short features) can currently be enjoyed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs2vbPu7WK-d7uAKMOCbN7g>



Most recently, in March, project volunteers undertook a programme of scrub clearance at the England's most extensively decorated cup-and-ring marked rock, Roughting Linn in North Northumberland, in preparation for geophysical survey. Survey work has now been completed here and at Lordenshaw near Rothbury, although at the time of writing we don't yet have any results. It is hoped to use the results of these surveys to inform small-scale excavations to be undertaken by volunteers this summer. Excavation is also planned at an early medieval cemetery, though the details of this are yet to be confirmed. Other events planned for this summer include a survey of Frosterley marble at churches and other locations throughout the region, and surveys of holy wells

and church graffiti. Results of all project fieldwork will eventually be made available on the website.

Anyone interested in the archaeology of religion is welcome to sign up as a volunteer, whether to actually take part in project fieldwork or just to attend events (online and in the real world). The project currently has over 1,200 signed-up volunteers, so it doesn't need any more; but no-one is ever turned away! Volunteers receive updates on all project events by email, including invitations to join in with lots of exciting things! If you would like to register as a volunteer, or to ask a question about the project,



please complete the form on the CONTACT US section of the website. (Please note that the project is managed on a part-time basis, so you may not receive an instant reply - please be patient! And feel free to send a friendly reminder if you haven't received a reply after a few days!)

Information about the project can be found on its website, www.beliefne.net

Images: Two views of the magnificent cup-and-ring marked rock at Roughting Linn, north Northumberland, recently cleared of scrub by BitNE volunteers and subjected to geophysical survey. When were these strange carvings made, and what were they for? The BitNE project aims to address such questions through its fieldwork programme later this year

Paul Frodsham (Photos: P. Frodsham)

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Picture Quiz...

Name the **objects**. Some are quite well-known, others are a little more tricky.

Answers on the final page.

a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.



g.



h.



i.



Don't forget...

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Contribute to the Newsletter...

We produce two newsletters each year: a shorter Spring edition with news and updates after the AGM and another, longer issue at the end of the year. The Winter edition is a celebration of the year's events with contributions from members about activities, their particular archaeological/ architectural/historical obsessions or interesting sites they have visited.

We are always on the lookout for contributions, and welcome submissions of general archaeological interest as well as those about AA activities, so please let us know what you have been up to!

If you would like to contribute an article or photographs for the next edition, contact the Newsletter Editor, Sue Goldsborough at:

sgoldsborough2002@yahoo.co.uk

Many thanks to the following members for this edition's contributions and photographs:

- **Kay Fothergill**
- **John Goldsborough**
- **Tony Metcalfe**
- **Paul Frodsham**
- **Alan Newham**
- **Elaine Vallack**

(Front cover: Professor Antony Brown – Tromsø University – Terrace Project Leader – investigating the archaeology of terrace and lynchet systems, AA Gallery)

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Quiz Answers

- Frank's Casket (lidded rectangular box made of whale bone, early 8th century)
- St. Cuthbert's pectoral cross (made of gold and garnet; found on his incorruptible body)
- Lewis chess set (medieval chess pieces, late 12th – early 13th century found on a beach at Lewis, Scotland)
- Sutton Hoo helmet, iron and tinned copper
- Great square-headed brooch c. 7th century (found Isle of Wight)
- The Celtic Prince of Glauberg statue (Germany, c.500 BC)
- Alfred Jewel (enamel and quartz enclosed in gold)
- Sanctuary door knocker (Durham Cathedral)
- Antikythera mechanism, an ancient Greek orrery