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IAI NEWS



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Communication has been a recurring theme this year at seminars, workshops, CPD courses and conferences. What do we think we are saying and who do we think we are saying it to? More importantly what do we actually say, who hears it and how do they perceive our message?

The methods for communication have expanded hugely and embrace everything from traditional print media to the latest social networking phenomena. However, while the media has expanded and changed, has the audience? Are new methods of communication bringing information about archaeology and what archaeologists are doing to a new audience, to a wider audience, or are we still just largely talking amongst ourselves?

It has been argued that contrasting fortunes of in the funding of Arts and Heritage in the last budget can be attributed to the contrasting quality and efficacy of communication from both sectors. Arts organisations, at all levels, are perceived as having effectively and coherently communicated the value of their endeavours not only to Irish society but (most significantly) to the Irish economy and ensured their message was heard and understood by both the general public and the political classes. This year the Heritage Council has provided specific training to the organisations and projects its supports to improve their communications skills particularly with the media and with politicians, clearly recognising this skill deficit and the need to redress it.

Communication has not been one of IAI's strong points, but it is a deficit we have recognised and are working to address. Our previous attempts to address it have had mixed success and were not always consistent. This is where our proposed Communications Strategy comes in. By defining clear aims and strategies, this should make our approach to communication more timely, consistent, coherent and ultimately effective. This will benefit the Institute, improve its profile and make it more effective in pursuing its goals.

Springboard & JobBridge

Springboard and JobBridge are two recent government initiatives to help the unemployed reskill, upskill and gain the experience necessary to secure employment.

The Springboard initiative has opened up a range of free part-time third level courses to the unemployed; the courses are focused on areas where there are recognised skill shortages or which are predicted for on-going and future jobs growth (notably ICT and pharma). In contrast to FAS training courses the syllabus includes a wide range of NQF Level 8 and 9 courses, so offers a much more advanced level of learning and the eligibility requirements are much broader than those for the back to education grants (previously the only way to access assisted 3rd level training while unemployed)—holders of third level qualifications are not excluded, though there must be three years between the completion of any NQF Level 8 course and commencing a Level 9 course under the Springboard initiative. Given the high level of unemployment within the profession this initiative offers a significant opportunity for unemployed archaeologists to access advanced-level training courses.

JobBridge allows companies and organisations to offer internships of up to 9 months duration; participants retain their full social welfare entitlements, plus a €50 per week supplement. The aim is to allow people to get the practical experience necessary to secure employment in a particular field or to get a 'foot in the door' with a company (with the internship effectively a prolonged interview/recruitment process). This could be of advantage both to the recently graduated and to those seeking to transition to a new profession.

Both schemes may benefit unemployed members of the profession, but it is still early days. It would be interesting to get some information on how archaeologists are interacting with both schemes. To that end I would like to invite any members (or friends of members) who are participating in either scheme to get touch, as I would like to feature some case studies in the next issue of people's actual experiences of the schemes, whether positive or negative.

Changes to the IAI Website

IAI has been fortunate this year to secure funding from the Heritage Council and the (former) Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, to help in supporting its activities, particularly the employment of an administrator and CPD co-ordinator. A small portion of this funding has been allocated to developing the website, which is long overdue.

The new website will be more dynamic and easier to manage; it will be based on an open-source content management system. New or improved features we hope to incorporate include:

- Members only section
- Searchable Directory
- Comprehensive events listing
- Facility to accept online payments

We will also have the option to 'move' the IAI forum from its current format (as an email discussion list) to a bulletin board type discussion forum within the actual site itself.

Hopefully the new website should be up and running before the end of the year; we would aim to preview it at the Autumn Conference in Cork.

Teresa Bolger

Editor

About the Cover Image

The cover image taken by Derek Gallagher, TVAS (Ireland) Ltd, features a finely decorated Early Bronze Age ribbed bipartite bowl, which was found at Drumgold 4 (Excavation Registration No. E4180), 3.5km east of Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford (NGR 300020, 138620), located in a tillage field on a gentle south-west facing slope overlooking a small wetland, drained by a stream that flowed westwards to the River Slaney. The vessel was inverted within upper fill of a large sub-circular pit (c. 3.2 m diam.; 1.2 m deep) located at the centre of a previously undocumented annular ringditch (c. 12m ext. diam.; 7m int. diam.). Its contents were excavated in the conservation laboratory by Susannah Kelly; no readily identifiable macroscopic remains or cremated bone were found in the fill of the bowl. Close to the base of the pit a second pottery vessel was found. Though crushed in antiquity, it too appeared to have been deposited in an inverted position. A fine flint plano-convex knife was also found in the basal fill of the pit, but not directly associated with the crushed vessel. Four small deposits of burnt bone were found separately within the pit, none associated directly with any of the artefacts. Evidence for *in situ* burning and five discrete deposits of carbonised organic material were found in the base of the pit.

This excavation was one of 125 undertaken by TVAS (Ireland) Ltd during pre-construction mitigation of the archaeological impact of the M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy road scheme in 2010 and 2011; post-excavation analyses and reporting is on-going. It is planned to publish a monograph on this scheme as part of the NRA Scheme Monographs series in 2013.

James Eogan & Ed Danaher, Members

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN QATAR

IAI member Jacky Sommerville started work in January on a multi-strand five-year project in Qatar, a joint international multi-disciplinary project between the Qatar Museums Authority and the University of Birmingham. The Remote Sensing and Qatar National Historical Environment Record Project (QNHER) is entering its third year of archaeological investigations.

To date, Jacky has been involved in the terrestrial survey of sites and monuments in the south and north of Qatar which will be subsequently incorporated into the QNHER database. She has also been excavating numerous burial cairns possibly associated with the site of Wadi Debayan (QNHER 141) and assisting with the magnetometry survey. Jacky will also be involved in fieldwalking at Wadi Debayan and further work on the geophysics project, including use of the differential GPS and total station.

In addition, Jacky will have the opportunity to assist within the post-excavation laboratory including the cataloguing and analysis of flint, and the preparation of archives. She will also gain experience in environmental archaeology including developing sampling strategies, environmental coring and the subsequent sorting and analysis of the samples.

QNHER

A major component of the project is the creation and development of a National Historical Environment Record for Qatar. The QNHER is a systematic digital record and centralised database of all the known archaeology and built heritage sites within both the terrestrial and marine areas. It serves as an important educational and research resource, and as an important tool in the planning and development of the landscape of Qatar.

Marine

The marine aspect of the project includes the analysis of high resolution 3D seismic survey data and side-scan sonar data in order to begin to piece together the former off-shore Pleistocene and early Holocene palaeogeographical features, with the aim of reconstructing these submerged landscapes and piecing together a history



Jacky Sommerville surveying a cairn near Al Wakra

of the marine transgressions of the Arabian Gulf. The project also harnesses orthorectified maps and topographic mapping to increase the accuracy of the reconstruction of the submerged landscapes and possible underwater sites.

The results of the side-scan sonar contacts have enabled a programme of underwater survey and investigation of previously unknown shipwrecks and possible archaeological sites during the 2011 season. This is a pioneering endeavour as it is the first time such a systematic archaeological investigation of the Arabian Gulf will take place. All the results will be integrated within the QHNER as a comprehensive archaeological resource.

Terrestrial

The terrestrial aspect of the project involves initially the large-scale surveying of targeted areas proposed for development and areas of high research potential. All the monuments and sites discovered are recorded and subsequently integrated into the QHNER. The project is also carrying out a number of excavations, most significantly in the north-west of Qatar at the site of Wadi Debayan (QNHER 141), the first Neolithic-Chalcolithic site discovered in northern Qatar to date. Another important element of the project has been the development of a laser scanning programme to record some of the most important monuments in Qatar, including Al Zubarah fort and the Al Jassasiya rock engravings.

Wadi Debayan

The site of Wadi Debayan (QNHER 141) is a flint surface site covering an area of 240 m². The site was discovered in 2009 through survey in the area, with preliminary test pitting undertaken during the 2010 season.

Field walking and test-pitting produced over 1500 lithic objects, four fragments of worked obsidian and over 50 sherds of Ubaid pottery. Obsidian is not native to Qatar; Ubaid pottery was manufactured in southern Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) and is dated to 6500-4000 BC). The flint artefacts recovered included those of the Arabian Bifacial Tradition (ABT), in particular a small biface, a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead, an axe and an adze.

Prior to test-pitting, a magnetometer survey was carried out at the site which highlighted areas of possible burning. One such area was subsequently investigated in further detail and was revealed to be a hearth. Within the hearth pottery fragments, lithics, animal bone fragments, shark vertebrae and seeds were recovered. Radiocarbon dating of the hearth revealed a date of AD 1350-1390, firmly placing it within the Islamic period.

Wadi Debayan is evidently a site that has been re-visited and re-occupied over time and it is the diversity and longevity of occupation which contributes to the importance of the site.



Burial cairn at site QNHER 141, mid-excavation

Environmental

A further facet of the project is the first large-scale assessment of the palaeoenvironmental resource in Qatar, which will evolve concurrently with the QHNER. This aims to employ a variety of proxy techniques and dating methods to interrogate two, over-arching research themes: 'Prehistory: Palaeoecology, Palaeoenvironments, Sea-level and Climate Change' and 'Historic Palaeoecological Investigations: Diet, Domestic Activity and Industry'.

Learn more about the project

Further details of the project are available at <http://qatararchaeology.com/> and <http://www.qma.com.qa/>

Jacky Sommerville
Member

The National Museum of Ireland's Collections Resource Centre in Swords, Co. Dublin

The National Museum of Ireland, as the national repository for archaeological objects, is responsible for a constantly growing collection of excavated finds. Housing and caring for this material has always been a challenge for the Museum and more so since the rate of excavation began to increase in the early 1990s. The temporary storage space originally allocated in the Museum's premises at Collins Barracks reached capacity after less than 10 years of receiving excavation material. Since then the Museum has been working hard to provide suitable long-term storage for this material.

After many discussions and proposals it was decided that it was best for the Museum to acquire off-site, centralised storage, which would provide space for excavation finds and other Museum collections needing improved storage facilities. Temporary stores in Daingean (Co. Offaly) and Beggars Bush (in Dublin), housing Irish Folklife and Natural History collections respectively, need to be upgraded. A new facility was sought to provide high quality and secure storage for all Museum collections, bringing large collections together and providing the opportunity for more effective collections management. From the outset, it was envisaged that such a facility would also function as a collections resource centre with facilities for research, conservation and documentation, allowing for greater access to the Museum's collections, opening up many new possibilities.

In 2008 a suitable site was sourced by the OPW in Swords, Co. Dublin. This building was previously the production warehouse for Celestica (and Motorola before that), both producers of telecommunications hardware. The facility is well suited to the needs of the Museum, with a large central, air-conditioned warehouse area, loading bays to the rear, offices and conference rooms suitable for staff and researchers, and all necessary fire, security and maintenance facilities. It is also large enough to accommodate the archive of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht (formerly of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government).

The building was handed over to the Museum in September 2010 and the past six months have been spent preparing it to accommodate material. A Manager, Judith Finlay, has been appointed, while Ed Bourke is managing the National Monuments side of the house. The central storage area has been subdivided with the use of caging, and shelved to accommodate various Museum collections. The Excavation Finds area is the largest of these, because of the expected volume of finds and to allow for expansion. A separate area has been prepared for human remains and a Low Humidity Store for metal finds is planned. The facility also contains a functioning conservation laboratory. We hope to be able to begin receiving material from excavators from April 2011—although clearly, it is going to take time to clear the backlog of excavated material which has built up over recent years.



Front entrance of the Collections Resource Centre, Swords



Conference room at the Collection Resource Centre, Swords

The potential of Swords is clear. It will allow us to open up this material to everyone who is interested—professionals, students, educators and the public. We hope to provide multiple wifi-enabled research areas for visitors and eventually to provide online cataloguing of the collections. This will enable our collections to be browsed online in universities and schools, by researchers and the general public, making it available to a much broader audience. For professional researchers the ability to search and request access to the collections online will save time and also enable more effective, targeted research. For archaeologists in particular, the added presence of the National Monuments Service's archive provides the potential for Swords to become a 'one-stop shop' for much archaeological research.

If these plans are to be realised, however, it is essential that material deposited in Swords is properly documented, numbered/labelled and packed and that the intake of material is managed in a systematic manner. In 2010 the Museum issued revised *Advice Notes to Excavators*, providing guidance and standards in these areas. Consistent implementation of these standards is essential if Swords is to become an effective research facility. Otherwise (as previous experience in Collins Barracks has shown), it will simply be a store where material is kept, but cannot be made available for research. Given the restrictions on staffing and funding under which we will be operating for the foreseeable future, the Museum will not be able to make good deficiencies in how material is presented to us by excavators. Thus we have no option but to insist on the standards outlined in the *Advice Notes* being met by excavators. We will be carrying out on-site inspections of material, prior to its being accepted in Swords, to ensure these standards are adhered to and to provide advice on how this should be done. Only when these standards are achieved can material be accepted into Swords.

We would appeal to our professional colleagues for their support and cooperation in this. We are acutely aware of the financial and resource difficulties faced by commercial archaeologists, and we appreciate the efforts already made by most archaeologists to maintain the highest standards in caring for excavated finds. We trust you will understand that it is ultimately to everyone's benefit for the Museum to insist on proper standards. With your cooperation, Swords can become not just a store, but a world-class research facility and an invaluable resource for the archaeological profession in the future.



Shelving in the Excavations area of the Collections Resource Centre, Swords



Alternative shelving photograph if necessary – Also shelving in the Excavations area of the Collections Resource Centre, Swords

The Museum's *Advice Notes for Excavators* can be downloaded from our website (www.museum.ie/en/list/policies.aspx). Any queries about the *Advice Notes* or about depositing excavated material with the Museum should be addressed to Andy Halpin at ahalpin@museum.ie. For further information on the Swords Collection Resource Centre, please contact the Manager, Judith Finlay, at jfinlay@museum.ie.

Andy Halpin and Judith Finlay
National Museum of Ireland

Exciting museum developments in Waterford

The Viking Triangle Project in Waterford, Ireland's oldest city, is the most exciting urban cultural regeneration programme ever undertaken in Ireland. It will see three museums developed in the historic core of the city, an area known as the Viking Triangle. This small area, which can be traversed in 1000 paces, contains a series of buildings and National Monuments, which, together, tell the 1000 year story of Waterford from its Viking origins right through to the 19th century.

What we are aiming to do in Waterford is to present the story of Ireland's oldest city in a holistic display; to extract the best from the historical and archaeological assets by relating the museum displays to the buildings and the streets. This is not possible everywhere—we are just very fortunate that in Waterford all the buildings are aligned in chronological order, allowing us a walk through history, where the objects displayed are associated with the buildings that relate to their era in history.



So objects relating to Waterford's Viking origins including the internationally significant assemblage from Woodstown are on display in Reginald's Tower. The exhibition in the Georgian Bishop's Palace, begun in 1743 by Richard Cassels, tells the story from 1700 to the 1970s. The first floor rooms are laid out as an 18th century bishop's residence and relates the history of the various denominations—Catholic, Church of Ireland and Quaker—in the 18th and 19th centuries, through a superb collection of objects. The floor above has displays on John Redmond, World War I, growing up in the Irish Free State and other aspects of social history for example the Showbands, all told through a Waterford lens. The exhibitions in Reginald's Tower and the refurbished Bishop's Palace were opened by Leo Varadker TD, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport last June.

Excavations to facilitate construction of the new medieval museum—which will incorporate the 13th century Choristers' Hall and the 15th century Mayor's wine vault (both below present ground level)—have been taking place under the direction of Órla Scully (see below). We look forward to welcoming you all to Waterford.

Rosemary Ryan
[Waterford Museum of Treasures](#)

Excavations at Waterford's new medieval museum

The new medieval museum in Waterford is currently under construction. It is being built over a well preserved thirteenth century undercroft, which has just undergone conservation. The project has been carried out under ministerial consent with guidance from Dept. Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht archaeologist for Heritage and Planning in Waterford, Maeve O' Callaghan. The undercroft is located in the former garden of the 17th century deanery. It would once have upheld the original medieval deanery, the undercroft forming a semi-basemented lower ground floor, which is thought to have functioned as the choristers' hall. Excavations in the area of the undercroft were first carried out by Celie O Rahilly in 1984, and continued by Órla Scully in 1998, 2009 and 2011—the latter (E4188) in conjunction with an experienced team from Archer Heritage Management. The excavations fully exposed the east and west façade of the undercroft which had hitherto been buried. To the east of the undercroft the archaeological layers underlying the Deanery garden were fully excavated. Under a sequence of stone property boundaries, was a plethora of medieval pits, some up to



Interior of 13th century undercroft looking south to doorway to stone spiral stair

2m deep. At the south side of the site, which is bounded by the city wall, the flattened remains of the Viking Age earthen defences were exposed, into which the later stone wall was revetted. An occupation deposit sealed by the bank yielded the as yet earliest radiocarbon date from excavations in Waterford's city centre, cal AD 898-920.

At the west side of the undercroft a series of small stone structures with paved surfaces abutted the undercroft. These overlay more medieval pits. The site lay on a gravel substratum; in the absence of anaerobic conditions the organic remains were sparse. The finds more than compensated for this, with a varied assemblage of medieval pottery and an extensive collection of line-impressed and two-colour tiles, with a broad range of roof tiles. Metal finds included a 10th century decorated ringed pin, several keys, knives and a complete lead stylus. The exterior of both sides of the undercroft were excavated to the base of the footing (Illus. 2). Both façades will be visible to the public in the finished museum; the east wall within the building, the west on show through glass pavement at street level at the east of the 18th century cathedral, within which the remains of the 13th century earlier church can be seen, a tangible connection with the Choristers' Hall.



Exterior footing at west wall during excavation, 2011

It is an unusual situation for medieval finds to be unearthed to facilitate the building of a museum in which they are to be displayed, along with contemporary charters, books and artefacts illustrating life in this vibrant medieval city. The museum will open in the summer of 2012 and will tell Waterford's story from the Norman invasion up to the Battle of the Boyne; forming the link with the Viking material on display in Reginald's Tower and the post-medieval and modern material exhibited in the Bishop's Palace.

Órla Scully
Member

Reflected in the Eyes of the Pharaoh

The much heralded exhibition 'Tutankhamun—His Tomb and His Treasures' opened at the RDS, Dublin, on 17 February 2011, and runs until July. Mary Hanafin, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, attended the launch, in the company of the Egyptian ambassador to Ireland, Mr Amr Helmy. The exhibition has no original artefacts from the pharaoh's tomb, but contains full scale reproductions of over 1000 items, including the sarcophagus and death mask, and three of the tomb chambers.

Tutankhamun (meaning 'the living image of Amun') lived during the years 1341–1323 BC before his death at age 19 after a ten-year reign as pharaoh (belonging to the 18th dynasty of the New Kingdom). He was unknown outside academic circles before the archaeologist Howard Carter opened his tomb on 26 November 1922, and revealed its riches to an astonished world.

The exhibition comes here at a very significant time for both Ireland and Egypt. Egypt dominated world headlines

in the weeks preceding the opening of the exhibition, due to the extraordinary pro-democracy uprising that culminated in the toppling of President Hosni Mubarak. Disturbances related to the unrest included the looting of Cairo Museum, in the course of which eighteen objects were taken, including a gilded wooden statue of Tutankhamun.

In Ireland, less dramatic, but equally traumatic, events have made a mark on the national psyche, as the deepening recession trundles bleakly onward. Although there were no mass demonstrations directed at the government, worsening circumstances led to an early general election, campaigning for which was in full swing on the opening day of the Tutankhamun exhibition. No doubt the thoughts of Minister Hanafin, while momentarily distracted by the wonders of ancient Egypt, were otherwise focused on the business of battling to retain her Dáil seat in the Dun Laoghaire constituency.

In the midst of this unprecedented climate of challenge and change arrives the Tutankhamun exhibition with attendant fanfare. As one despotic Egyptian ruler is deposed, we are invited to celebrate the mysterious life and glorified death of another. Apart from the political message, the excitement generated by the exhibition demonstrates the huge popular interest in the subject of archaeology, and archaeological discoveries of a spectacular kind.

However, it is important while we marvel at all things connected with the dazzling world of ancient Egypt, that the Irish public and our elected representatives not put a lesser value on the treasures of Irish archaeology.

Budget 2011, unveiled by the Minister for Finance last December, ushered in further swingeing cuts in public spending, as outlined in the public statement issued by the IAI Board on 21 December 2010. These cuts promise to have a potentially damaging impact on the protection of archaeological resources, on employment opportunities for archaeologists at all levels of experience, and on the future of archaeological research. Another statement issued by the IAI Board, on 18 February 2011, comments on the failure of the government to implement EU directives concerning Environmental Impact Statements for large-scale developments, which has caused destruction of natural and archaeological heritage, and resulted in legal actions against the Irish government.

There has been no looting of artefacts from Irish museums, but in light of the threatened whittling down of staff levels in the National Monuments Service and the National Museum of Ireland, and the continued absence of archaeologists in most of our local authorities, much of the national store of archaeological wealth is put at risk. As part of the run-in to the election the political parties issued their manifestoes, but these documents had little if anything to say about the importance of heritage, and the protection of archaeological sites and monuments. There is a consensus that tourism is a significant industry for the future of the Irish economy, but few politicians seem able to make the connection between tourism and the built heritage that visitors wish to see. Investing in archaeological sites and monuments is good for tourism, but a policy of cutting archaeological jobs and reducing archaeological services is harmful to tourism in the long run.

Ireland has its own Howard Carters, intrepid archaeologists whose ground-breaking endeavours have helped to transform our view of the past and forge our identity. Think of Peter Woodman's excavations at Mount Sandal, George Eogan's extraordinary discoveries at Knowth, and Pat Wallace's epic campaigning at Wood Quay, to name a few examples. How great it would be to see the public flocking to the RDS to acclaim the great heroes of Irish archaeology and the treasures they have given the Irish people. How wonderful if a government minister stood to proclaim, 'these are our finest archaeologists, they have helped to make this a country to be proud of, and we are



Tutankhamun death mask, from 'Tutankhamun—His Tomb and His Treasures'. Reproduced by kind permission of MCD Productions

going to give archaeology and archaeologists all the support they need to maintain this level of achievement'. What a much-needed boost for the profession that would be right now.

Instead, visitors to the RDS will be filled with awe and admiration for the greatness of an ancient non-Irish civilisation. It is difficult to see how the event will raise awareness of Ireland's archaeological record, as the exhibition is clearly not designed for such a purpose.

And yet, living as we do in the age of celebrity, the fuss surrounding Tutankhamun is not without some benefit. As the 'poster boy' for the ancient world, the king retains an uncanny power to command a vast audience. By making the past amazing, Tutankhamun continues to attract and inspire many converts, imbued with the desire to seek a greater understanding of ancient culture, not just that of Egypt, but of our own land as well. On these terms, Tutankhamun's temporary manifestation in Ireland is to be warmly welcomed. All this, and more, is reflected in the eyes of the pharaoh.

Ken Wiggins

Membership News

Membership of IAI at the end of 2010 stood at 332, comprising: 281 Full members, 7 Corporate members, 13 Associate members, 23 Graduate members, and 8 Student members. The total number when compared with the overall figure of 315 for the year 2009, as quoted in the Spring 2010 issue of the Newsletter, shows a rise of 17 (5.3%). This steady consolidation of the membership numbers, in the face of the harshest economic climate imaginable for the profession, is encouraging. The IAI provides a voice to all those pursuing a career in professional archaeology, and the stronger IAI becomes, the better equipped the profession is to survive the current bad times and to chart a course towards recovery and growth.

The following were elected at the AGM held in Galway on 17th April 2010:

Member: Eamon Cody, Ed Danaher, Colm Donnelly, Maria Fitzgerald, Christine Grant, Sebastien Joubert, Daniele Lyons, Eileen Murphy, Patrick Neary, and Neil O'Flanagan;

Associate: Richard Warner;

Graduate: JJ McDermott and Ita O'Brien;

Student: Aodhán O Murchu

Transfer: Paul Duffy (Graduate to Full Member)

The following were elected at the OGM held in Belfast on 5th November 2010:

Member: James Bonsall, Emer Dennehy, Scott Harrison, Victoria Ginn, Emma Devine, Fionbarr Moore, Margaret McCarthy, Jacky Sommerville and Bruce Sutton;

Associate: Ian Riddler and Nicola Trzaska-Nartowski;

Student: Robert Power

Transfer: Clíodhna ní Mhurchú (Graduate to Full Member)

The significance of IAI membership in professional archaeology in Ireland today is more pronounced now than ever before. The landmark report *Discovering the Archaeologists of Europe: Ireland 2007* estimated the number of archaeologists working in the archaeological sector in the Republic of Ireland to be 1709. Only a small proportion of that number were members of IAI. At the present time, it is almost certain that the number of people

making a living in the profession is less than 500, well below the estimate of 650 for archaeologists, North and South, working in Ireland in March 2002, as suggested in the report *Profile of the Archaeological Profession* by CHL Consulting. The Heritage Council hosted a one-day workshop at Kilkenny on 8 March 2011, entitled 'The Archaeological Profession in Ireland'. The announcement of the event on the Heritage Council website stated that the numbers working in commercial archaeology in Ireland had slumped to an estimate of 350, and put the sustainable number for commercial archaeologists at an estimated 500.

These figures mean that, as a body with a membership of 332, IAI for the first time since its inception embraces a clear majority of professional archaeologists in Ireland. The biggest economic catastrophe in recent Irish history has caused hundreds to abandon the profession. Consequently, the value of and the need for an organisation that represents what is left of this embattled profession has never been greater. It is in the interests of those archaeologists lucky enough to be in employment, whether in the public sector, in research or teaching, or in the commercial area, who have chosen thus far to opt out of IAI membership, to opt in and help strengthen IAI as the voice of the profession in Ireland, one that aims to make itself heard in the struggle to protect the precious heritage of this country, and in defence of the prospects for those wishing to make a sustainable living as archaeologists in this country.

IAI welcomes our new members, and we are very pleased to have your support. The election of so many in 2010 is very encouraging, and it is hoped that several more archaeologists will step forward for election in 2011. IAI subscription rates have remained steady for a number of years, despite the ebb and flow of Ireland's economic fortunes. The rates are: €100/£75 (Full member), €500/£400 Corporate member, €40/£35 (Graduate member), €40/£35 (Associate member), and €20/£15 (Student member). As fees for membership of a professional body, the charges are relatively modest, especially when compared with annual subscriptions of other professional bodies.

Take for example the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland. The RIAI carries out a statutory function as the Registration Body and Competence Authority for architects in Ireland, under Part 3 of the Building Control Act (2007). A Member of the Institute (MRIAI) has automatic admission to the Register for architects, and pays €490 annually. An application to join RIAI carries a one-off application assessment fee of €145. Other grades of RIAI membership are Architectural Technician (€240 annually) and Architectural Graduate (€150).

The Institute of Engineers of Ireland is one of the oldest and largest professional bodies in Ireland. An ordinary member pays €255 annually (€220 NI). The Institute has four grades of professional title: Fellow (CEng FIEI), annually €380/€335 (ROI/NI); Chartered Engineer (CEng MIEI), €285/€265 (ROI/NI); Associate Engineer (Aeng AMIEI), €195 ROI and NI; and Engineering Technician (Eng Tech IEI), €155 ROI and NI. An interview for a professional title carries a fee of €275; there is an application assessment fee of €50.

The Institute of Geologists of Ireland was formed in 1999 to promote the geosciences in Ireland and to represent the professional interests of its members. There is a professional member application fee of €50, and the annual subscription (2009) is €145. Since 2002, members of IGI can apply for the title of European Geologist (EurGeol), for an annual subscription of €25. The Associate member application fee is €20 (annual subscription €35). There is also a Member-in-Training grade, with an application fee of €20 and annual subscription of €35.

It can be seen from the above that IAI membership rates are very reasonable, and at the lower end of the scale. There is no application charge for IAI membership, and no interview process related to membership for which fees are charged. IAI is committed to maintaining affordable membership rates, and we ask in return that members support IAI by making sure that subscriptions are kept up to date. As soon as you've finished reading this, please check to make sure your subscription is topped up.

Ken Wiggins

Book Review

Chapple, R. M. 2010 *The Excavation of an Enclosed Middle Bronze Age Cemetery at Gransha, Co. Londonderry, Northern Ireland*. BAR British Series 521. Archaeopress, Oxford. ISBN 9781 4073 0724 4. 151 pages, 77 figures, 75 plates, 12 tables. GBP35.00.

Over the past decade and a half compliance-driven archaeology has led to the excavation of a wealth of new Bronze Age settlement, burial and ritual sites. As it is made available the evidence from these excavations is changing our perceptions of the period and the volume under review is a valuable contribution to that on-going process. It is an example of how this new data can be made accessible to field-workers and researchers alike.

This report describes the results of two phases of excavation carried out at eight locations (Sites 13 to 20) within the c. 40 acre development site for Oakgrove Integrated College in 2003 and early 2004. The site lies on the east bank of the River Foyle on the northern outskirts of Derry City. The author had previously carried out excavations at twelve other locations within the same development in 2002 (Sites 1 to 12); these have already been published (Chapple 2008).

Three of the areas identified during monitoring turned out to be of natural or modern origin and are not discussed in any detail in the report. The other five areas, located in an area approximately 130 m long by 70 m wide at the north-eastern side of the development site, contained sub-soil cut archaeological features and these are fully described in the report.

A series subsoil cut features were uncovered in Sites 13, 14, 17 and 18, however, the main focus of this report is a 25 m long oval enclosure, Site 19. The remains are described according to nine structural/functional groups, somewhat confusingly ferrous metal working belonging to the Iron Age is described before the Middle Bronze Age enclosure. The report is comprehensively illustrated with plans, sections, photographs and artefact drawings.

Site 19 contained a sub-circular enclosure defined by a segmented gully (approx. 12 m internal diameter); the gully enclosed at least 45 features, 14 of which are partially stone-lined and which the author has interpreted as 'atypical cists'. It should be noted that burnt bone was recovered from only two of these features and in neither case could it be identified to species. Fifteen of these features contained deposits of coarse ware pottery; an extraordinary feature of the site is the deposition of significant quantities of charred barley grain in some of these features, flotation of a sample from one 'cist' recovered an estimated 70,000 barley grains. This complex is enclosed by the oval, ditched enclosure, which has a distinct kink on its north-eastern side. The sub-circular enclosure occupies the southern part of the oval enclosure in plan. The northern portion of the oval enclosure contains a variety of pits and postholes, none of which can be satisfactorily resolved into any structural groupings, though the author bravely makes one suggestion, which is not particularly convincing. A number of these features also contained sherds of coarse ware in their fills. The oval enclosure ditch was cut into the bedrock in places. Its maximum recorded width was 0.79 m and its greatest depth was 0.68 m, so it cannot be considered defensive; no evidence was uncovered for an associated enclosing bank. There was no obvious entrance gap, though the scale of the ditch is such it could easily have been stepped over. Sherds from 19 coarse ware vessels were recovered from the upper fill of the enclosure; the pottery was concentrated on the east and northeast sides of the enclosure though the author points out that post-depositional factors may have influenced this pattern. The author makes the observation that the construction of the oval ditch could have post-dated the segmented gully and the other features it enclosed.

A sub-rectangular pit to the northwest of the oval contained evidence for iron working, charcoal from its fill was radiocarbon dated to the Developed Iron Age. However, this feature is not discussed in any detail and the metal working waste does not appear to have been subject to any specialist analysis.

The report contains comprehensive specialist reports on the ceramics by Catherine M. Dunne, the lithics by Maria B. O'Hare, animal bone by Sean Denham and the non-wood, macrofossil plant remains by Meriel McClatchie.

This publication is a significant addition to Irish Bronze Age studies and Robert Chapple and his colleagues in Northern Archaeological Consultancy are to be congratulated on getting it published in a timely fashion. This reviewer would have liked to have seen a greater exploration of alternative interpretations for the use of Site 19, in the absence of confirmed human remains it seems to be pushing the evidence to classify the site as a cemetery; the form and scale of the segmented gully is not dissimilar to a number of Bronze Age houses (Doody

2007). Indeed, as Kerri Cleary has demonstrated, in the Bronze Age there may not have been the same social or cultural demarcation between spaces for the living and spaces for the dead (Cleary 2005). The strength of this publication and its lasting value is that a comprehensive record of the excavation has been published and this data can be examined in the light of different interpretive and theoretical frameworks into the future.

References

Chapple, R. M., 2008, 'The excavation of Early Neolithic and Early Bronze Age sites at Oakgrove, Gransha, Co. Londonderry', *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, Vol. 67 (3rd series), 22–59.

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James Eogan

Notes

UCD Industry and Innovation Officer

The UCD School of Archaeology have recently assigned Dr Graeme Warren to act as their 'Industry and Innovation Officer' for 2011-2013. This is a new School Officer role, which has been created in order to foreground consideration of the interface between the School and the broader contexts of archaeological education and research in Ireland. Several areas will be particularly important in developing this new role; firstly, interaction between UCD School of Archaeology and archaeological and cultural heritage professions more widely, including all sectors of archaeological practice. This will involve ongoing dialogue with the Institute of Archaeologists Ireland, including issues such as CPD. We will focus on the employability of our graduates (both undergraduate and postgraduate) in archaeology, cultural heritage and other fields; ensuring that alongside other skills, they can promote, communicate

and enhance public understanding of Ireland's cultural heritage, at a national, regional and local scale. We will continue to take part in important initiatives including the UCD/TCD Innovation Alliance, and the general focus on innovation as a way of overcoming some of the problems Ireland currently faces; demonstrating that archaeology and cultural heritage has an important contribution to make in this regard. In this we will be following the strong tradition of the UCD School of Archaeology contributing to, and in some cases leading, debates about the future of archaeology in Ireland. We hope that this new post and the emphases on industry, innovation and employability are of interest to members of the IAI. Any queries, comments or suggestions should be addressed to Graeme in the first instance: graeme.warren@ucd.ie; +353 1 7168613.

Contributions for the next issue

Contributions are invited for the next issue of IAI news and the deadline for submissions is 25 November 2011.

Articles should be short (500-1,500 words), topical and relevant to Irish archaeology (including recent discoveries, research programmes or issues of archaeological practice) with a maximum of four small or two large illustrations.

Submissions should be in a suitable digital format—MS Word compatible for text, JPEG, PNG or TIF for graphics.

Please contact the editor (newsletter@iai.ie) in advance prior to any formal submission.

The IAI reserve the right not to publish any particular item submitted.

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Membership Numbers

To date in 2011, IAI has accepted 7 new members: 5 Full Members, 1 Graduate Members and 1 Associate Members. One graduate member was upgraded to full membership. There were 8 resignations and 1 member passed away. This brings the overall membership (by mid 2011) to 331: 277 Full Members, 24 Graduate Members, 14 Associate Members, 9 Student Members and 7 Corporate Members.

IAI Staff and Office

The IAI offices are located at 63 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Office Hours: Tuesday 9.30am – 5.00pm

At the start of March IAI appointed Christine Baker to the part-time role of Administrator and CPD Coordinator. This position is funded by the Heritage Council and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Events

IAI Conferences

4-5 November 2011
Conference: **Autumn Conference 2011**
2-day conference including the AGM
Venue: The Gresham Metropole, Cork

CPD Programme 2011

28 September 2011
Communicating Archaeology II
Venue: NRA, St Martin's House, Waterloo Road, Dublin 4

14 October 2011
An introduction to Conservation Plans
Venue: Heritage Council, Kilkenny

22 October 2011
LiDAR and GIS
Venue: University College Dublin

5, 12 and 19 November 2011
Open Source GIS Modules 1-3
Venue: CRDS Office, Dundrum, Dublin

November 2011
First aid for finds
Venue: National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin