

Guernsey Museum Archaeology Group Newsletter

July 2008

Hello all,

About time we had another newsletter, so here goes...

Vale Priory

The current phase of the excavation has almost drawn to a close. We have removed part of the stone paving possibly associated with the Priory, and somewhat unexpectedly found what may be a prehistoric structure beneath. 'Structure' is perhaps a bit generous – it's a loose pile of stones, roughly linear, with three courses in places, apparently set into a prehistoric land surface. This structure was later covered by a metre or more of wind-blown sand, and the paving then built on top in the 12th century or thereabouts.



If you would like to visit the site, there will be a good opportunity on Saturday 12 July, when the Vale Church fête takes place from 1.30pm. Tanya and I will be taking turns to make sure nobody falls in the trench, so come along and say hello.

As the Church has now secured funding for the Sunday School, there is likely to be some more excavation on this site in the coming months – I'll keep you posted.

Alderney

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Jason is leading a small excavation at the Nunnery over the August Bank Holiday weekend. If you'd like to come and haven't already contacted Jason please do so as soon as possible, jason.monaghan@cultureleisure.gov.gg.

L'Erée

Dr Duncan Garrow of the University of Liverpool and Dr Fraser Sturt of the University of Southampton have received permission to excavate at L'Erée, in the field below the Prosperity car park, where Barry Cunliffe dug a small trench a few years ago. They are planning to be here for the first three weeks of September and there should be plenty of opportunity for local involvement, particularly if you're handy with a shovel. More information about that closer to the time.

Herm

The L'Erée work will overlap with Chris Scarre's first season of excavation on Herm, planned for the latter half of September. My thanks to all of you who have taken part in the various vegetation clearing exercises, which have been very useful. These are likely to continue from time to time, and in particular as Tanya leads attempts to reconcile the plans of the monuments illustrated by Kendrick – which he mostly copied from Lukis – with what we can actually see on the ground. Once again there should be the opportunity for local participation in Chris's excavations.

Chris Hughes

As some of you will know we have a new part-time assistant archaeologist, Chris Hughes, starting at the Museum on 7 July. You should get a chance to meet him in the coming weeks and I hope you'll make him feel welcome.

Houmet Paradis

Thanks to everybody who ventured out to Houmet Paradis in early May, to see the excavation of a mostly intact Normandy Gritty Ware pot. Comparison with the pottery excavated in Southampton suggests that it's early, perhaps 11th century AD. My apologies to a couple of people who got rather wet wading back to Guernsey!



Wednesday mornings/Thursday evenings

Sessions in the store will continue at these times – if you're not a regular it's advisable to give me a ring just to check that we're not out and about instead.

That's all for now, hope to see you soon
Phil

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