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**Edited by Wendy Carruthers and Vanessa Straker**

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AEA website <http://www.envarch.net/>

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**EDITORIAL**

This summer edition of the Newsletter contains further information about the Autumn Conference in Reading in November. A booking form is provided at the end of the Newsletter for members wishing to pay by cheque, but please note that payment online by credit card is open from mid June.

We are currently catching up with publishing past winners of the John Evans Dissertation Prize; two of the winners' abstracts are presented in this Newsletter. Submissions for the 2012 prize are invited in the News from the Committee section below. The AEA also seeks nominations for the Managing Committee, as described in the following section.

**NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

**NOMINATIONS TO THE AEA MANAGING COMMITTEE**

The AEA Managing Committee seeks nominations for the following positions:

- Three Ordinary Members (each a four-year position);
- Student Representative (two-year position)

Elections will be held at the AEA AGM, during the autumn meeting, **November 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> 2012**, Reading.

**General Committee information**

The AEA Managing Committee usually meets four times a year (usually in April, July, October and January). The main items of business discussed are the organisation of conferences and the publication of the Journal, as

well as issues relating to the Newsletter, website maintenance and membership. All nominees must be AEA members in good standing.

### **The role of Student Representative**

Student Representatives have sat on the AEA committee for the past three years, one new Student Representative being elected every year, and their term of office lasting two years. The post is open to both undergraduates and postgraduate students. During their first year of office, the newly elected Student Representative will 'shadow' the student completing their second year of office. During their second year of office, the student representative will take a more active role in the Committee, as well as guiding the newly elected student representative. The Student Representative will be expected to promote the AEA within the undergraduate and postgraduate communities, and also encourage the establishment of student-led meetings/seminars.

**To make your nomination:** Any AEA member can make a nomination, but this must be seconded by another AEA member. A brief personal statement from the nominee (which implicitly indicates the nominee's willingness to stand) should accompany nominations. This can be received by e-mail or regular mail. This statement will be published in the August Newsletter or, if received afterwards, posted at the AGM. Nominations can be received up to the time of the AGM, although the committee would like to encourage members to submit nominations before the August Newsletter deadline (**20<sup>th</sup> July 2012**).

Nominations and personal statements can be e-mailed or posted to the AEA Secretary, Fay Worley.

E-mail: [fay.worley@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:fay.worley@english-heritage.org.uk)

Postal address: See: <http://www.envarch.net/membership/committee.html>

Current Committee details can be found at: <http://www.envarch.net/membership/committee.html>

The AEA constitution is also on the AEA website: <http://www.envarch.net/membership/constitution.html>

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### **THE JOURNAL**

The Journal's editor, Ingrid Mainland, would like to encourage AEA members to submit research papers, review articles or short contributions on any aspect of environmental archaeology. Full details regarding submission to the Journal can be found at the following website: <http://www.maney.co.uk/journals/env>, or contact Ingrid Mainland for further information.

#### **Journal Editor:**

Dr Ingrid Mainland,  
Co-ordinating Editor of Environmental Archaeology,  
Department of Archaeology  
UHI Millennium Institute  
Orkney College  
Kirkwall  
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#### **Online access for all subscribers**

Online access to all volumes of *Environmental Archaeology* is now available to all AEA members. If you would like to register for access the Journal online, please email James Morris, the AEA Webmaster ([envarch@envarch.net](mailto:envarch@envarch.net)), with your chosen username and a password. Your password must be at least 6 characters long and include at least one upper-case letter and one number. When your registration has been accepted, access to the Journal will be available through a link on the AEA website ([www.envarch.net](http://www.envarch.net)). Please note that access will only be made available to fully paid-up members.

Institutional subscription to *Environmental Archaeology* is £154 (\$285 in USA) and includes online access to the full text. Institutional subscription with online access only is £145 (\$268 in USA). If your institution is not currently subscribing to the Journal, please encourage them to do so. Information on institutional subscriptions to the Journal is available at: <http://www.maney.co.uk/journals/env>

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### **JOHN EVANS DISSERTATION PRIZE**

John Evans (1941-2005) was an inspirational environmental archaeologist, responsible for advancing the discipline and fostering many of today's top researchers in the field. His many books continue to make a contribution to practical and theoretical aspects of environmental archaeology.

To honour the memory of John and his achievements within environmental archaeology, the AEA is announcing its annual dissertation competition. Prizes of £75 will be awarded to the best undergraduate and Masters dissertation, which may be on any aspect of environmental archaeology worldwide. Abstracts from the winning dissertations will be published in the AEA newsletter (this is a condition of entry that all entrants will be agreeing to on submission of their dissertation). The John Evans Dissertation Prize winners will also be encouraged to submit an abridged version of their dissertation for publication in the Association's journal, Environmental Archaeology, subject to the usual review process.

We invite each Department of Archaeology (or other relevant department) to submit the dissertation of their best candidate by **31st July 2012**. Submissions from individual students are not accepted. We are sorry, but we are only able to accept dissertations written in English.

All submitted dissertations will be read by two AEA committee members, with a short list of four being read by a third member of the committee. The result will be announced at the AEA meeting in Reading, November 2012.

Bound copies or pdf versions should be sent to Dr Zoe Hazell, who should also be contacted for further information:

zoe.hazell@english-heritage.org.uk  
English Heritage, Fort Cumberland  
Fort Cumberland Road  
Eastney  
Portsmouth  
PO4 9LD

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## JOHN EVANS DISSERTATION PRIZE ABSTRACTS

*We are currently catching up with the publication of past John Evans Prize winners and will be including abstracts from the last three years winners in the next two Newsletters:*

### Abstract from the Winner of the 2009 Prize

#### The snail's trail

By Amy Jeffrey

Division of Archaeological, Geographical and Environmental Sciences, University of Bradford

Land snail shells are potentially excellent climate and environmental indicators because they are often abundant in archaeological sites, have small home ranges, and preserve an incremental isotopic record. This project explored the relationship between the isotopic composition of *Helix aspersa* shell carbonate, and climate and environment, by comparing records from three locations and using available climate data. Shells from two cool, temperate regions in England and one from a Mediterranean location in central Italy were incrementally sampled to produce high resolution oxygen and carbon isotope profiles recording each snail's development through the spring-summer-autumn period. Winter hibernation and other aestivation events, visible in each shell, were used as time markers. As in previous studies, a strong correlation was found between  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of the shell and local meteoric water. Bulk  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values for the Italian snails were indistinguishable from the Yorkshire shells, while their bulk  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values were significantly higher than all the English shells, reflecting the more xeric Mediterranean vegetation. High resolution isotope profiles display considerable variability, suggesting that particular precipitation events, and emergence from short-term aestivation, are recorded. The patterning of the profiles in snails from England and Italy differs; the latter show a series of negative  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  excursions probably associated with reactivation after dry episodes, while the former show a consistent but unexplained reduction in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  in the second summer. Snail biology and metabolism in response to short-term external shifts is undoubtedly a complicating factor in interpretation of high resolution isotopic profiles that requires further study.

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### Abstract from the Winner of the 2010 Prize

“Red Herring or Dietary Reality?  
The Utilisation of Aquatic Resources in Upper Palaeolithic Europe”

By E R R Blake

Aquatic resources were important to the diet of early *H. sapiens* in Africa and subsequent populations in Mesolithic Europe. It is therefore logical to expect that they were utilised in the intermediary Upper Palaeolithic of Europe, especially considering the effect of sea-level rise following the Last Glacial Maximum and issues surrounding the preservation and recovery of fish remains on obscuring the evidence available for their exploitation. This dissertation is a focused investigation into how aquatic resources were utilised to a far greater extent in Upper Palaeolithic Europe than is currently recognised in the archaeological literature.

A novel research strategy which correlates previously uncorrelated lines of evidence has been implemented. The depictions of aquatic resources in Palaeolithic art have been catalogued and analysed to demonstrate the *likelihood* that aquatic habitats were utilised. Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic stable isotope data from across Europe have been rigorously compared to provide *direct* evidence for the procurement and consumption of aquatic resources in the Upper Palaeolithic. The now submerged Upper Palaeolithic coastal landscapes contemporary to the human isotope data from various sites have been reconstructed to elucidate how marine resources were *strategically utilised* in particular locales. The core traits of the subsistence strategies of a selection of historically-known Arctic hunter-gatherers have been identified and extrapolated back to the Upper Palaeolithic to demonstrate how the consumption of aquatic resources may have been vital to the *survival* of some human groups in "Ice Age" Europe.

By analysing the Upper Palaeolithic archaeological record which *is* available in a myriad of different ways, this dissertation has compiled a wealth of evidence in support of the consumption, strategic use and possible importance of aquatic resources during this period. It is hoped that the findings of this dissertation will be integrated into wider studies of Upper Palaeolithic diet and that future research will continue to investigate the role of aquatic resources in Upper Palaeolithic Europe.

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## CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

### Association for Environmental Archaeology Autumn Conference 2012

#### *Environmental Archaeologies of Neolithisation* *University of Reading (UK), 9-12 November 2012*

##### **Conference abstract**

The origins and spread of Neolithic life-ways represent a pivotal change in human ecology and society. Communities transformed their relationships with the world around them, shifting away from reliance upon hunted and collected wild resources, to the management and domestication of plants and animals, alongside a pattern of increasing sedentism. These processes were played out at differing temporal and spatial scales; from the life-cycle of a single organism of a population on the path to domestication, to the dissemination of 'new' farming economies around the world.

The varied fields within environmental archaeology are providing increasingly detailed understanding of the agencies, processes and pathways in these transformations. These include work in the established fields of geoarchaeology, archaeobotany and zooarchaeology, alongside the major advances and exciting vistas opened in recent decades by techniques such as stable isotope analysis, geometric morphometrics and genetic studies, as well as interdisciplinary studies that integrate these approaches.

The organising committee invites oral and poster presentations that examine any aspect of Neolithisation at the varying scales of analysis that environmental archaeology can offer, from changes within a single site to those played out over continents. We encourage interdisciplinary contributions, as well as those that integrate archaeological science and cultural interpretations.

Please send proposals for papers and posters to [AEA2012@reading.ac.uk](mailto:AEA2012@reading.ac.uk). Abstracts should be sent as text documents (preferably in Word format) by **15 June 2012**. Please include a title, complete name(s) of author(s), affiliation(s), and full postal and email addresses. Abstracts should be a maximum of 200 words and contain a clear description of the topic of the presentation. We will also be pleased to respond to informal enquiries

##### **Conference programme**

Friday 9 November

Keynote address (17:00 – 19:00)

**Dr Jean-Denis Vigne**

CNRS/Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris

Followed by welcome wine reception

Saturday 10 November	Conference day (10:00 – 17:00) Conference dinner (19:00)
Sunday 11 November	Conference day (09:00 – 17:00)
Monday 12 November	Optional excursion – Avebury World Heritage Site (09:00 – 17:00) Led by Prof Richard Bradley (Reading), including Avebury henge and stone circles, Silbury Hill and West Kennet long barrow.

**Conference organisers:**

Robin Bendrey, Sarah Elliott, Wendy Matthews, Amy Richardson, and Jade Whitlam  
Department of Archaeology, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 226, Reading, RG6 6AB, UK

## TAG CONFERENCE 2012

*17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> December, University of Liverpool*

The 34th Annual Conference of the Theoretical Archaeology Group is returning to Liverpool for the first time since 1996. TAG 2012 is hosted by the School of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology at the University of Liverpool and will take place from Monday, 17 December to Wednesday, 19 December. Our theme for TAG 2012 is “**live archaeology**”, and throughout the conference we shall be having a number of activities celebrating becoming an archaeologist and doing archaeology.

The TAG 2012 Committee now welcomes proposals for sessions, individual papers and posters for the conference. If you are interested in proposing a session, paper or poster, please go to our [Submission of proposals](#) page for information about guidelines and deadline dates.

For further information please visit the TAG Liverpool 2012 website (<http://www.liv.ac.uk/sace/livetag/index.htm>)  
For queries please email the conference organisers at [sinclair@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:sinclair@liverpool.ac.uk)

## CONFERENCE ON THE BIOARCHAEOLOGY OF EGYPT

*31 January-2 February 2013, American University in Cairo*

Our understanding of ancient Egypt has long been rooted in the more obvious manifestations of its material culture in the form of monumental architecture and a vast variety of artefacts. Increasingly, however, attention is given to the less spectacular, but equally, if not more informative bioarchaeological remains that answer questions on health and nutritional status of ancient populations, animal husbandry, diet, agricultural practices, the economy and the natural environment. This conference, the Bioarchaeology of Ancient Egypt, will provide a venue for scholars from the different disciplines of Egyptology, archaeozoology, physical anthropology, and archaeobotany to meet, present and discuss their research in the hopes of future integrated collaboration.

**Call for Papers**

Please send paper title, abstract, and your affiliation to:

[bioarchaeology@aucegypt.edu](mailto:bioarchaeology@aucegypt.edu)

- The first day of the conference will be devoted to papers relating to Human Remains.
- The second day will be divided evenly between papers on Zooarchaeology and Archaeobotany.
- Topics can include anything related to the Bioarchaeology of Ancient Egypt (particularly drawing from the fields Archaeozoology, Archaeobotany, Physicalanthropology, etc.).
- Posters will also be accepted.

Deadline for abstracts: **October 1, 2012.**

**Conference Venue:**

Oriental Hall - Tahrir Campus - American University in Cairo

**Conference language:** English

The plans for publishing the papers will be sent out in subsequent announcements.

A limited number of travel stipends are available for speakers otherwise unable to attend. For those who are interested in this, please write a short paragraph to explain the need for such a stipend and send it to:

[bioarchaeology@aucegypt.edu](mailto:bioarchaeology@aucegypt.edu).

**Conference Fees for attendees** (includes information packet and welcome reception):

Students \$ 10

Egyptian Students EGP. 20

Non Students \$ 20

Egyptian Professionals EGP. 50

Payment in Cairo, various currencies accepted

Bioarchaeology of Ancient Egypt is made possible through a generous grant from: The Wenner-Gren Foundation

And also sponsored by: The American University in Cairo (AUC), The Institute for Bioarchaeology (IB), & The American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE)

<http://conf.aucegypt.edu/BAE2013>

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## **FEAST AND FAMINE: EXPLORING RELATIONSHIPS WITH FOOD IN THE PACIFIC**

**7th September 2012, University College London**

Conference organisers: Sarah Byrne (Institute of Archaeology, UCL) and Kaori O'Connor (Anthropology, UCL)

This one day conference is organised by the newly established UCL Pacific Islands Research Network responds to the widening interest in the political, economic, cultural and health dimensions of feasting, food production and famine in the Pacific. The conference aims to provide a platform for more engaged dialogue between archaeology, anthropology, history, ecology, economics, epidemiology, health and medical studies, and food studies and the social and historical sciences more broadly.

Papers from this conference will be published in a book on Food Culture in the Pacific: Interdisciplinary Perspectives. Papers will focus on:

- \* Landscapes of feasting
- \* Famine and food security
- \* Archaeobotanical and Archaeozoological evidence for food production and consumption
- \* Relationship between seasonality and fasting
- \* Relationship between plant species and human colonisation
- \* Material culture of food and feasting
- \* Food as material culture
- \* Rituals of food production and consumption
- \* Impact of European colonisation on food practices
- \* Food/feasting as cross-cultural translation
- \* Contemporary politics of food production and consumption
- \* Representing food culture in museums
- \* Food and intangible heritage

Registration details to follow

[http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/research/directory/pacific\\_network/conference](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/research/directory/pacific_network/conference)

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## **EurASEAA Dublin 2012**

**14<sup>th</sup> International Conference, Sept 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>**

### **Archaeobotanical Analysis in Southeast Asia: recent research, comparative methods, and interpretive techniques**

This session highlights recent trends in the analysis of all types of botanical remains in archaeological studies in Southeast Asia. The analysis of past plant remains has contributed to numerous recent discussions as well as long-term debates on topics including the origins and spread of agriculture, the history of domestication, absolute dating, past climate and ecological change, forest curation, food consumption habits, fuel sources, regional trade, and even the participation of plants in the construction of social worlds. Diverse field and laboratory techniques are employed to study the variety of archaeological plant remains, including macro-analysis of seeds and wood, wet and dry flotation procedures, micro-analysis of phytoliths, starch grains, and pollen, coring and pinch sampling, as well as dendrochronology, isotope analysis, and ethnoarchaeological studies. Papers will discuss techniques for using botanical data to engage with key debates in the Southeast Asian region, including agriculture, exchange networks, and social change. By creating a forum for collaborative

discussion, this session aims to build community between botanical analysts working in Southeast Asian contexts and to share these contributions with the research community as a whole. Ethnoarchaeological projects with contemporary peoples are welcome. Researchers working on topics in areas of South and East Asia that are relevant to Southeast Asia are encouraged to participate.

EurASEAA Conference website sessions page: <http://www.ucd.ie/archaeology/euraseaa14/sessions.html>

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## CONFERENCE REPORT: AEA SPRING MEETING 2012

The 2012 AEA Spring Meeting took place at Plymouth University, entitled 'New trends in Environmental Archaeology'. It was a student focused meeting, providing postgraduates with an opportunity to present their research in a welcoming and supportive atmosphere. The conference was well-attended by both UK and EU students and professionals and a wide-range of environmental archaeology's sub-disciplines were represented. Eleven papers were presented, covering a broad range of topics from Roman wolves to Neolithic moors. Presenters came from across Europe and included researchers from Turkey, Greece, Malta and Portugal, none of whom had previously enjoyed a Devon cream tea, which we were all treated to in the afternoon coffee break. To round off the day, Dr Andy Howard (AEA chair) presented on 'Life after the PhD', offering encouragement and a wide ranging advice to the many postgraduates in the audience looking to enter the job market soon.

The conference presentation prize went to Jennifer Jones from Cardiff University, for her paper entitled 'Isotopes and old bones: Using an integrated approach towards understanding trends in marine subsistence through time in the North Atlantic Islands'. This presented results from her ongoing PhD, combining zooarchaeological and isotopic data to reconstruct human diet in the Western and Northern Isles from the Neolithic period and onwards. The presentations were followed by a wine reception and poster session. Those who were able to stay for the evening ventured out into Plymouth for a curry and drinks. As the first student-focused AEA conference, the event was a great success with many delegates commenting on the quality of the presentations and the vibrant research culture that exists in early career environmental archaeology.

Lisa Lodwick (Student Rep)

On behalf of Marta Perez (Student Rep) and Richard Madgwick (Publicity Officer)

*Richard Madgwick opening the Spring Meeting*



*Jennifer Jones, winner of the conference presentation prize*



*Conference meal in Plymouth*





## UNDERSTANDING ZOOARCHAEOLOGY SHORT COURSE

Registration is now open for the three-day Understanding Zooarchaeology Short Course, which is taking place for the fifth time in the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield.

The course is an ideal introductory or refresher course for anyone with an interest in the field.

When: **5-7<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

Cost : £165/£110 (student/unwaged)

The course will include lectures, discussion and hands on practical classes. Participants will begin to develop the skills necessary to:

- Recognise special/unusual faunal deposits and understand the principles of excavating animal bones.
- Care for and store bones after excavation.
- Identify different species from their bones and teeth.
- Age and sex bones.
- Recognize taphonomy, butchery and pathology.
- Understand how zooarchaeological material is analysed and quantified.
- Interpret site reports and zooarchaeological literature.

For further information please see: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/archaeology/research/zooarchaeology-lab/short-course>

You can contact us: [zooarch-shortcourse@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:zooarch-shortcourse@sheffield.ac.uk)

To register please go to:

[http://onlineshop.shef.ac.uk/browse/extra\\_info.asp?modid=1&prodid=0&deptid=5&compid=1&prodvarid=236&searchresults=1](http://onlineshop.shef.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?modid=1&prodid=0&deptid=5&compid=1&prodvarid=236&searchresults=1)

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## ARCHÄOZOLOGENVERBAND E. V. (AZV).

A new archaeozoological association has been founded by a group of archaeozoologists from Germany and the Netherlands named Archäozoologenverband e. V. (AZV). The central idea of the association is to build up an interest group for archaeozoology within the German speaking scientific community with a special emphasis on the situation of colleagues working on a freelance basis. Goals comprise the improvement of the embedding of the subject within the archaeological and biological scientific community and the simplification of links and contacts between and with related scientists, the development of standards for the analysis of archaeological faunal remains and for proper payment of archaeozoological work as well as the emanation of guidelines for the care of animal remains.

Following the example of other European countries like the UK and the Netherlands the Archäozoologenverband wishes to strengthen the exchange with archaeologists as well as within the archaeozoological community and to establish generally accepted standards for good practice.

The association intends to focus its work mainly on practical issues of archaeozoological work comparative to the Professional Zooarchaeology Group (PZG) in the UK. The publication of scientific results will be strongly encouraged by the association for which it will keep bonds with the Gesellschaft für Archäozoologie und Prähistorische Anthropologie (GAPA).

For more information regarding the Archäozoologenverband please contact the association via <http://www.archaeozoologenverband.de> or [archaeozoologenverband@yahoo.de](mailto:archaeozoologenverband@yahoo.de). New members are welcome.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Many thanks to James Greig for the following information. James sends his thanks for references to: Alison Bain, Otto Brinkkemper, Lee Broderick, Catherine Smith, Angela Monckton, Manfred Rösch (some references will appear next time). Please send information to [jimi.gee@virgin.net](mailto:jimi.gee@virgin.net)

### BOOKS

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### CHAPTERS

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Special requirements (e.g. dietary or access):			
	<b>2 days</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
Registration, AEA member*	..... x £100	..... x £70	..... x £70
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Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> November: Keynote address and welcome reception	FREE – Attending?		Yes / No
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