



# DISCOVERY 2019!

## THIRD ANNUAL REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN ULSTER

**Saturday 9th November 2019**

**Main Lecture Theatre, Elmwood Building**

**Queen's University Belfast**

## **Welcome from the Ulster Archaeological Society**

On behalf of the Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society (UAS) I would like to welcome everyone to the **Discovery 2019! Third Annual Review of Archaeological Discoveries in Ulster** conference organised by the Ulster Archaeological Society and the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast. We also welcome the continuation of our long-time collaboration with our friends and colleagues in Queen's.

Since last year's *Discovery 2018!* conference it has been another busy time for the Ulster Archaeological Society. In June, it gave us great pleasure to launch in Queen's University the new volume of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, Volume **74**. This was a Festschrift in honour of the life and archaeological work of Dr Chris Lynn, a former President and long-time Committee member of the Society. Our thanks to HED who part-funded this volume through the Heritage Environment Fund and to Dr Paul Logue and Terence Reeves-Smyth who initiated the project. Our thanks especially to both Cormac Bourke, the Hon. Editor, and Grace McAlister, the Hon. Assistant Editor of the Journal for managing to get two volumes of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* published in less than a year. Who says that the printed word is dead! In a similar vein, our quarterly *Newsletter*, produced by Dr Duncan Berryman, has continued to inform UAS members of all-important activities undertaken by the Society.

We have also had a packed year of evening public lectures covering subjects as diverse as the work of the Antrim County Archaeology Society, The Route of the Táin Bó Cuailgne, In search of the Irish Dreamtime, Newgrange, Kingship in Early Ireland, Ancient Genomics and Irish Human Prehistory and Excavations at Knocknashee, County Sligo.

UAS field trips have included visiting archaeological sites on Lough Neagh's eastern shore, sites in County Galway, the QUB archaeology student training excavation at Fowler's Pottery, Coalisland, County Tyrone, the QUB community excavation at Downpatrick (which you will hear more about at this conference) the geology and archaeology of the Slieve Gullion area and archaeological sites on the island of Jersey. UAS evening workshops have included ones on coins (Randal Scott) and on osteoarchaeology (Professor Eileen Murphy).

The UAS Field Survey Group began in 2005. Since that time, and under the direction of Dr Harry Welsh, it has carried out 94 surveys at sites in Ulster and has published 81 of these. During 2019 the Field Survey Group carried out surveys at a diverse range of sites and Harry will be informing the conference about these investigations.

So, all in all, a very busy and interesting year so far. I would like to pay thanks to our extremely hard working and dedicated Committee for helping the UAS run as smoothly as it does. It is important to remind people publicly that membership of the UAS Committee is an unpaid office but our Committee members give up their time freely and without complaint. This reservoir of good will, dedication and passion for archaeology is what keeps the UAS working so efficiently and successfully.

This conference is, once again, generously supported by funding from the Culture and Society Research Cluster in the School of Natural and Built Environment at Queen's University Belfast.

On behalf of the Ulster Archaeology Society, we wish to record our appreciation for this continued support.

Now that the annual **Discovery** conference at Queen's University Belfast has become embedded as a vital source of finding out about new archaeological discoveries and projects in Ulster, we look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones over this conference weekend. We hope that you enjoy **Discovery 2019!** and we look forward to seeing you again at **Discovery 2020!**

**Ruairí Ó Baoill**

**President, Ulster Archaeological Society**

### **Welcome from Archaeology & Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast**

Welcome to third annual review of archaeological discoveries in Ulster – the **Discovery 2019!** conference. The event is growing in momentum each year and we are truly delighted at the range of organisations and scope of the archaeological research that is represented in this year's conference.

2019 has been another action-packed year for Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's and one of our major achievements was the success of our bid to host the annual conference of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) in Belfast in 2022. We are hugely excited at the prospect of this event which will involve a gathering of an estimated 2500 archaeologists in our city. The conference bid was supported by a range of tourist organisations from Northern Ireland, particularly Visit Belfast, while heritage organisations from across the island, including the Ulster Archaeological Society, provided letters of support for the bid. I was extremely honoured to receive the accolade of the Visit Belfast "Belfast Ambassador of the Year 2019" award in recognition of my role in bringing the conference to our great city. Needless to say, this will be a major celebration of archaeology in Belfast, and across the island, and we hope everyone with a passion for the past will get involved!

The Centre for Community Archaeology has been growing from strength to strength, powered by the staff within our Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork who have led a range of high-profile public outreach events across Northern Ireland, each one receiving copious media attention. A member of the public recently commented to me that "the archaeologists from Queen's never seem to be off the news"! We all thoroughly enjoy sharing our discoveries and raising the profile of our discipline to hopefully inspire all those with an interest in the subject to get involved whatever their age. We have delivered six community-based research excavations during 2019, commencing at Ballykinler in March on behalf of the Defence Infrastructure

Organisation, at the Dorsey in April on behalf of the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership, at Moira Demesne in May for the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, at Fowler's Pottery in Coalisland in June on behalf of the Lough Neagh Partnership's NLHF-funded Great Places Scheme, at Cathedral Hill in Downpatrick during August and September, funded through the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's PEACE IV programme, and at Boomhall outside Derry in October, on behalf of the Boomhall Trust with funding from the Historic Environment Division's Historic Environment Fund.

In addition, in May we held our week-long "Skills of the Ancestors" experimental archaeology festival at Clotworthy House in Antrim in May on behalf of the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership and the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, a "Geophysical Survey for Kids" programme in Antrim Gardens in Portrush, funded through the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's PEACE IV programme, and our annual week-long series of archaeological workshops for school children at the Hill of the O'Neill and Ranfurly House on behalf of Mid Ulster Council. In addition, Dr Colm Donnelly and Grace McAlister co-organised a session on "Community Archaeology in Europe" at the EAA conference in Bern in September (generously supported by the Culture and Society Research Cluster in our school at QUB) and we were delighted to realise that we are one of the leading centres for the developing field of community archaeology across Europe.

ArcPal staff and students led seven events, as well as the second biennial Jack Kerr Memorial Lecture, as part of the NI Science Festival in February. This was delivered by Dr Jago Cooper of the British Museum and took place in the Ulster Museum. We also ran pottery workshops for children at the Stendhal Festival in Limavady in August as part of the NI Science Festival activities. Our Young Archaeologists' Club also had another busy year with sessions on topics ranging from dinosaurs to stain-glass windows and with trips to the festival of experimental archaeology at Clotworthy House, the excavation at Moira Demesne, and to North Down Museum as part of the European Heritage Open Days events.

We at Queen's have long valued our relationship with the Ulster Archaeological Society and we are delighted to have cemented our close relationship through this shared annual conference. We hope you will all have a fantastic weekend of discovery and enjoy listening to a myriad of stories on some of the fascinating archaeological projects that have been happening in Ulster over the past year.

**Professor Eileen Murphy**

**Head of Archaeology & Palaeoecology & Director of the Centre for Community Archaeology**  
**School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast**

**DISCOVERY 2019!**  
**THIRD ANNUAL REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN ULSTER**

Organised by the Ulster Archaeological Society and the Centre for Community Archaeology at  
Queen's University Belfast

*Friday 8th November and Saturday 9th November 2019*

**Programme**

**Friday evening, 8th November 2019**

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

- 5.30pm      **Conference Registration.**
- 6.30              **Wine Reception.**
- 7.00-7.20      **Launch of the conference by Professor Eileen Murphy & Ruairi Ó Baoill**
- 7.20-8.00      **Keynote Address: Paul Mullan (National Lottery Heritage Fund)**  
**Heritage, Archaeology and Uses of the Past.**

**Saturday, 9th November 2019**

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

- 9.00-9.30am      **Conference Registration.**
- Session 1:      Chaired by Dr Duncan Berryman (Ulster Archaeological Society)**
- 9.30-9.40      **Conference Welcome:**  
**Professor Eileen Murphy** (Head of Archaeology & Palaeoecology, QUB) & **Ruairi Ó Baoill**  
(President of the Ulster Archaeological Society).
- 9.40-10.00      **Dr Harry Welsh** (Ulster Archaeological Society)  
**Ulster Archaeological Society, Survey Group, Summary of Activities 2019.**
- 10.00-10.20      **Stephen Gilmore** (Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd)  
**"It's OK Granny, I stole it from a church": Excavations at Church Bay, Rathlin Island, County**  
**Antrim in 2018.**

- 10.20-10.40     **Brian Sloan** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB)  
**Excavations at Cathedral Hill, Downpatrick, Season 2.**
- 10.40-11.10     ***Morning Tea/ Coffee Break.***
- Session 2:     Chaired by Dr Patrick Gleeson (Archaeology & Palaeoecology, QUB)**
- 11.10-11.30     **Grace McAlister** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB)  
**More than Just a Nice Day Out: Education, Outreach and Community Archaeology in Northern Ireland.**
- 11.30-11.50     **Laura Patrick** (PhD Researcher, QUB/ Mid and East Antrim Borough Council)  
**Carrickfergus Townscape Heritage Initiative: A Hidden Tower House.**
- 11.50-12.10     **Rhonda Robinson** (Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities)  
**Contributing Towards New Understanding: the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI).**
- 12.10-12.30     **Emma Hannah** (PhD Researcher, QUB)  
**Metalworking Industry and the Nature of Rural Craft-working in Later Early Medieval Ireland.**
- 12.30-12.50     **Professor Eileen Murphy** (Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB)  
**The Osteoarchaeological study of a Medieval Cemetery at Ranelagh, County Roscommon.**
- 12.50-1.00     **Q & A for Morning Session.**
- 1.00-2.00     ***Lunch***
- Session 3:     Chaired by Professor Eileen Murphy (Archaeology & Palaeoecology, QUB)**
- 2.00-2.20     **Christina O'Regan** (Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd)  
**Archaeological Investigations at the Premonstratensian Abbey in Whiteabbey, County Antrim.**
- 2.20-2.40     **Dr Rena Maguire** (Archaeology & Palaeoecology, QUB)  
**"The reins of Castamere?": Reconstructing a Possible Late Bronze Age Bridle from the High Status Site of Moynagh Lough, County Meath.**
- 2.40-3.00     **Dr Gerard Barrett** (14CHRONO Centre, Archaeology & Palaeoecology, QUB)  
**A Round Tower Rediscovered: Radiocarbon Dating of Mortar and the Identification of Monastic Derry's "Long Tower".**

- 3.00-3.20**      **Rory McNearney** (Marine Historic Environment Adviser, HED/ DAERA)  
**Conserving the Marine Heritage.**
- 3.20-3.40**      ***Afternoon Tea/ Coffee Break.***
- Session 4:**      **Chaired by Ruairi Ó Baoill (Ulster Archaeological Society)**
- 3.40-4.00**      **Randal Scott** (Ulster Archaeological Society)  
**UAS Survey of a Late Victorian/Edwardian Garden at Redburn, Holywood, County Down.**
- 4.00-4.20**      **Dr David Tosh** (Ulster Museum)  
**Putting the Ulster Museum's Archaeology Collections on the Map.**
- 4.20-4.40**      **Rosemarie Doherty** (Inishowen Maritime Museum & Planetarium)  
**The Petroglyphs of the Isle of Doagh, Inishowen - Recent Discoveries and a Theory.**
- 4.40-5.00**      **Dr John O' Keeffe** (Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities)  
**KEEPing at it: Carrickfergus Great Tower Roofing Project.**
- 5.00-5.20**      **Thomas McErlean** (Centre for Maritime Archaeology, Ulster University)  
**The Earl of Sussex's Campaigns in the Ulster in 1556 and 1557: a Glimpse of the Gaelic Landscape.**
- 5.20-5.30**      **Q & A for Afternoon Session.**

***Conference Concludes***

## Abstracts and Profiles

### Session 1

**Dr Harry Welsh** (Ulster Archaeological Society)

**Ulster Archaeological Society, Survey Group, Summary of Activities 2019.**

#### Abstract

This paper will discuss the field surveys undertaken by the UAS Survey Group in 2019. This turned out to be a fascinating year of survey, with many new discoveries made, enhanced by the deployment of the recently-acquired geophysical survey equipment and the use of drone and photographic technologies. This year's sites include a return to a Second World War military camp at Derrymore in County Armagh, which turned out to be much more extensive than previously thought; a derelict swimming pool at Mount Stewart in County Down, with an intriguing history; a clachan at Avish in County Londonderry; a stone quay and shipwreck at Ringneill in County Down; a rock-cut trackway (possible pilgrim path) and a coastal defence post at Orlock, also in County Down. Geophysical surveys were also carried out at a 'plectrum' enclosure at Gordonall in County Down, Derrymore WWII army camp in County Armagh and a complex of enclosures (and another 'plectrum') at Ringcreevy in County Down - altogether a busy and interesting year for the group.

**Profile**           53henrywelsh@gmail.com

**Dr Harry Welsh** has taken part in archaeological excavations for twenty years, in both the commercial and public sectors. He has written several books and articles on various archaeological subjects, such as prehistoric burials, sites of prehistoric life, excavation and survey reports, safety at excavations and public outreach events. He has been a committee member of the Ulster Archaeological Society for sixteen years and has coordinated the efforts of the Survey Group since its foundation in 2005.

**Stephen Gilmore** (Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd)

**"It's OK Granny, I stole it from a church": Excavations at Church Bay, Rathlin Island, County Antrim in 2018.**

#### Abstract

A summary of the results of monitoring and excavation at 10 Church Bay Rathlin in 2018 and 2019.

No. 10 Church Bay was the proposed site of a holiday home for some ex-Rathlin Islanders. Initial mitigation required two monitored mechanically-excavated test trenches. This changed when human remains were uncovered...

**Profile**           stephen@northarc.co.uk

**Stephen Gilmore** graduated with a BSc. in Archaeology from Queen's University Belfast in 1990. Since then he has worked as a field archaeologist at all levels of responsibility to Project Manager and on all types of site from the Mesolithic to the Twentieth Century. In 1998 Stephen was a co-founder of Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd which he continues to run. His areas of interest include Bronze Age burial practice and industrial archaeology, specifically brick making technology, especially the development and use of late-19th century continuous kilns. He is currently pursuing an MPhil on this topic at Queen's University Belfast.



**Brian Sloan** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB)

## **Excavations at Cathedral Hill, Downpatrick, Season 2.**

### **Abstract**

August 2019 saw a return to Cathedral Hill Downpatrick, County Down for the second community-based investigation. Building on the results of 2018, this year's excavation focused on the kitchen and midden pits associated with the Benedictine Abbey that was on this site during the Medieval period. The midden pits were fully excavated and found to be approximately 3m deep. A large assemblage of Medieval artefacts was recovered giving important evidence for the everyday life of the monastery. The excavation also revealed some surprises along the way!

**Profile**            b.sloan@qub.ac.uk

**Brian Sloan** is an archaeologist who has been working for the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF) QUB for over 16 years. He is also a Committee member of the Ulster Archaeological Society. Since joining the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork in September 2003, Brian has been involved in a variety of excavations. He held his first excavation licence in 2005 and since then has directed a number of excavations on behalf of the HED:DFC, as well as a variety of local landscape partnership schemes. Sites of note include a Bronze Age cist burial on Rathlin Island, a number of Early Medieval cereal drying kilns and Later Medieval structures at Tullaghoge, County Tyrone, and the excavation of a Megalithic Tomb near to Cushendall, County Antrim. Brian has a particular interest in the study of lithic artefacts and has completed a number of lithic specialist reports.

## **Session 2**

**Grace McAlister** (Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB)

## **More than Just a Nice Day Out: Education, Outreach and Community Archaeology in Northern Ireland.**

### **Abstract**

The growth of community archaeology in Northern Ireland has increased the number of schoolchildren participating in archaeology projects in the province. These community-based projects are a good way of promoting local heritage, increasing awareness of archaeological sites, and generating an understanding of archaeology as a profession. This paper will consider the value of these interactions and their benefit to participants and society in the longer term.

**Profile**            g.mcalister@qub.ac.uk

**Grace McAlister** graduated from Queen's University Belfast in 2009 and worked in commercial archaeology before joining the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF) QUB in 2011. She is also a Committee member of the Ulster Archaeological Society. Community and public outreach excavations account for a significant part of Grace's work within CAF and she works alongside Landscape Partnerships to facilitate volunteer and school participation at archaeological excavations. She has also worked with local Councils, designing and delivering archaeology workshops to local primary and secondary schools at sites such as Mountsandel and the Hill of the O'Neill. Grace is a leader with the Belfast branch of the Young Archaeologists' Club and Assistant Editor of UJA.

**Laura Patrick** (PhD Researcher, QUB/ Mid and East Antrim Borough Council)

**Carrickfergus Townscape Heritage Initiative: A Hidden Tower House.**

**Abstract**

Carrickfergus Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) is funded by the national Lottery Heritage Fund, and delivered by the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council. The project, 2016 to 2021, supports local property owners in caring for and preserving the town's historic fabric. Additionally, an Education Programme raises awareness of the importance of our local built heritage, and why it should be preserved for future generations.

Despite the fact that Carrickfergus was once the premier town in Medieval Ulster, much of the Medieval fabric has been lost. This has been caused through periods of both destruction and 'improvement'. Until recently the only structures with any upstanding, positively identified Medieval fabric were the castle and St Nicholas' Church, although the latter has been heavily modified. However, thanks to the survival of 16th century maps, visual evidence provides us with confirmation that there were a range of medieval buildings in the town. The location of a small selection have been established through rescue and research excavations, but it was only in 2018 that remains of an upstanding tower house at Dobbins Inn were revealed, thanks to support from the THI Education Programme.

This paper looks at the investigative process that was undertaken, the findings and final outputs. Also addressed is the way in which buildings are reinterpreted visually for a range of stakeholders including the owners, the public, the townscape and surrounding business, and the wider tourism offering.

Given the proximity to the coast, how can such a building be protected from coastal erosion and major existing damp issues, while also functioning as a working hotel. As the building was listed, not scheduled, and the earliest photographic image is from c.1890, should it be presented as a tower house, or a Victorian style building? The final planning decision will also be explored in this paper, along with the public response.

**Profile**            lpatrick03@qub.ac.uk

**Laura Patrick** is currently funded by the Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Programme, and is completing her PhD research on the 'Cultural Landscapes of Late-Medieval Gaelic Ulster', whilst also working part-time as Education Officer for the Carrickfergus Townscape Heritage Initiative. During her time at Queen's University Belfast as an undergraduate, Laura undertook her thesis on the fortified houses of County Limerick and developed a love of Medieval buildings, their position within a landscape and how use and meaning can change over time. To be part of the team that revealed a tower house which had not undergone any previous formal investigation has been a highlight of her career so far.

As a researcher and education officer, Laura believes it is essential to work with local communities: supporting and providing opportunities for all to access their shared history, encouraging a sense of civic pride, ownership and support for regenerative projects such as the THI.

**Rhonda Robinson** (Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities)

**Contributing Towards New Understanding: the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI).**

**Abstract**

The Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI) may be better known to some under its former name – the NI Monuments and Buildings Record. It contains a vast amount of material relating to our historic environment, from excavation reports on megalithic tombs to stained glass window designs and architectural building plans, and everything in between. It also includes a vast photographic archive, ranging from glass plate negatives to digital images. Historic

Environment Division curate this record and are working to enhance public accessibility, so that as many people as possible can discover the fantastic array of information which it holds.

**Profile** Rhonda.Robinson@communities-ni.gov.uk

**Rhonda Robinson** is a Principle Archaeologist and Assistant Director with Historic Environment Division (HED), in the Department for Communities, which plays a leading role in recording, protecting, conserving and helping communities to enjoy and realise the value of our historic environment. Rhonda has worked as an archaeologist with HED for over 20 years in a variety of roles, and is currently leading work to enhance the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI), making its records more accessible, and the designation of monuments for protection.

**Emma Hannah** (PhD Researcher, QUB)

### **Metalworking Industry and the Nature of Rural Craft-working in Later Early Medieval Ireland.**

#### **Abstract**

This paper focuses on the nature of craft-working activity at the end of the Early Medieval period in Ireland, from c. AD 800-1200. It will explore the types of craft activities undertaken at rural sites in this period, the rise of apparently 'specialist' industrial sites, and how this evidence could represent a possible reorganisation of rural craft-working during this period with an emphasis on metalworking.

**Profile** ehannah01@qub.ac.uk

**Emma Hannah** graduated with a BSc in Archaeology-Palaeoecology from Queen's University Belfast and an MPhil in Medieval Archaeology from the University of Cambridge. She is currently undertaking PhD research on the subject of craft-working and chronology in early medieval Ireland at QUB.

**Professor Eileen Murphy** (Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB)

### **The Osteoarchaeological study of a Medieval Cemetery at Ranelagh, County Roscommon.**

#### **Abstract**

The human skeletal population from Ranelagh, County Roscommon, was discovered as part of the N61 Coolteige Road Project (Phase 1) excavations undertaken by IAC Ltd, under the direction of Shane Delaney, and on behalf of Roscommon County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The remains of some 557 articulated burials (170 adults and 387 juveniles) were recovered from the settlement cemetery that had probably been used as a ferta or ancestral burial place for the local community. The paper will introduce the Ranelagh Osteoarchaeology Project that took place in Queen's University Belfast in 2017-18. It will discuss how the osteoarchaeological evidence, combined with data derived from a range of techniques, including stable isotopes and ancient DNA, has provided a rich understanding of these past people.

**Profile** eileen.murphy@qub.ac.uk

Eileen Murphy is Professor of Archaeology and Head of Archaeology and Palaeoecology in the School of Natural and Built Environment at Queen's University Belfast. She is Director of the Centre for Community Archaeology in QUB. With a background in osteology, palaeopathology and funerary archaeology, her research largely involves the study of ancient

human remains and burial practices from Ireland, Russia and Ukraine. She is the author/editor of 11 books and numerous articles and has been the editor of the international journal *Childhood in the Past* since its inception in 2008.

### Session 3

**Christina O'Regan** (Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd)

#### **Archaeological Investigations at the Premonstratensian Abbey in Whiteabbey, County Antrim.**

##### **Abstract**

The 13th-century ecclesiastical site of Druim la Croix is located within a greenfield site in the townland of Whiteabbey, Parish of Carnmoney and Barony of Belfast Lower, County Antrim. Founded around AD 1220 the abbey was a daughter house of the Dryburgh Abbey in Scotland. There are very few historical references to the abbey, which appears to have been in use for a relatively short period of time, less than 200 years. It is likely the abbey fell into decline following the Bruce Invasion (1315–18). Up until the early part of the 20th century, parts of the Chapter House were still visible in the landscape. An archaeological evaluation at the site aimed to identify below-ground elements of the abbey and establish their level of survival. Stone foundations, grave cuts and spreads of artefact-rich material provide a window into the working life of the monastery. This work followed on from two previous geophysical surveys and specific anomalies were targeted during the evaluation.

**Profile** coregan@iac.ie

**Christina O'Regan** is a Senior Archaeologist and Project manager with IAC Archaeology Ltd. She obtained her BA in Archaeology with History from University College Cork in 2001 and an MSc in Environmental Archaeology from Queen's University Belfast in 2003. She has been working in commercial archaeology since 2001.

**Dr Rena Maguire** (Archaeology and Palaeoecology, QUB)

#### **'The reins of Castamere?': Reconstructing a possible Late Bronze Age bridle from the high status site of Moynagh Lough, County Meath, Ireland.**

##### **Abstract**

Recent research has contributed to the beginnings of understanding Late Iron Age equitation in Ireland, but there is basically no knowledge regarding the horse in Bronze Age Ireland. We know that equids are present during prehistory, but nothing about their use. The only way to try and understand how the people of Ireland were employing horses in prehistory is to find a potential tack component, try to replicate it, figure out how it would actually work, and what that means for the people who were using the animals. Stepping back from the ornate metalwork of the Late Iron Age, this presentation approaches the question of animal use in a practical manner, by documenting the reconstruction and trial use of an organic bridle, based on a possible Late Bronze Age cheek-piece found at Moynagh Lough, County Meath. The results raise questions about status, the transition from organic substances to metal, and what may have been overlooked within the archaeological record.

**Profile** rmaguire19@qub.ac.uk

**Dr Rena Maguire** is a Visiting Research Fellow (Honorary) in ArcPal. She was awarded her PhD in 2018. She specialises in Late Iron Age European material culture, in particular equestrianism and equitation, along with pXRF techniques.

**Dr Gerard Barrett** (14CHRONO Centre, Archaeology & Palaeoecology, QUB)

**A Round Tower Rediscovered: Radiocarbon Dating of Mortar and the Identification of Monastic Derry's "Long Tower".**

**Abstract**

From 1600-1625, maps of Derry depict a Medieval Irish round tower that would later be referred to as the 'Long Tower'. However, from 1680 this tower no longer appears on maps; instead a new feature, a windmill, appears in the landscape. Radiocarbon dating of mortar samples, extracted from this windmill, located at Lumen Christi College, provide strong evidence that this structure may largely be composed of the original round tower from Derry's monastic period. This talk will describe the techniques employed to date mortar and provide evidence to support the tower having a medieval date.

**Profile** g.barrett@qub.ac.uk

**Dr Gerard Barrett** is a Research Fellow in the School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast. He is responsible for the operation, optimization and maintenance of the accelerator mass spectrometer (NEC 0.5 MeV) at 14CHRONO. Along with continual efforts to improve the accuracy and precision of the radiocarbon dates produced at 14CHRONO, he also conducts research into dating methods for anthropogenic materials such as mortars and ceramics. He also has a keen interest in early fired clay ceramics, the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in North-West Europe, and the use and interpretation of radiocarbon dates in chronology building.

**Rory McNeary** (Marine Historic Environment Adviser, HED/ DAERA)

**Conserving the Marine Heritage**

**Abstract**

In this illustrated talk underwater archaeologist Rory McNeary will provide a broad overview of the marine archaeological resource off our coast and outline UK policy and legislation regarding historic shipwrecks, and other marine heritage assets, in terms of their protection and management. His talk will also touch on the results of recent survey initiatives and the implications of designation of sites, such as HMS Drake and the Girona.

**Profile** Rory.McNeary@daera-ni.gov.uk

**Rory McNeary** is a Senior Inspector of Historic Monuments with the Historic Environment Division (HED), Department for Communities (DfC). He works on strategic secondment with DAERA's Marine and Fisheries Division and leads on marine policy matters for HED.

## **Session 4**

**Randal Scott** (Ulster Archaeological Society)

**UAS survey of a late Victorian/Edwardian garden at Redburn, Holywood, Co. Down.**

**Abstract**

Redburn Garden, now badly overgrown and originally part of Redburn House, was surveyed by the UAS in May 2018. The House and Garden originate from around 1870 and were occupied to about 1940. Only the Garden and part of the Stable Block remain. The rise and decline of the House can be closely associated with the huge expansion of industrial

Victorian Belfast and its decline during the 1930's. The survey aimed to produce a scale plan of the Garden and identify and record any remaining garden infrastructure. Local volunteer groups are interested in at least partially restoring the Garden. It is hoped that the UAS Survey Report will assist with the restoration plans.

**Profile**            randal.scott64@gmail.com

**Randal Scott** joined the Ulster Archaeological Society ten years ago. He is a serving member of the UAS Committee and has taken part in several surveys during this period and has been involved with the production of a number of Survey Reports for the Society.

**Dr David Tosh** (Ulster Museum)

**Putting the Ulster Museum's Archaeology Collections on the Map.**

**Abstract**

Under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects Order the Ulster Museum has one role: to record any archaeological finds reported to them. Since 1995 over 1500 finds have been reported and recorded in the museum's database. At present this database is partially digitised and no spatial data is available for those making enquiries. Therefore, National Museums NI is creating a Geographic Information System (GIS) database for recorded specimens. This talk reports on plans and progress to date.

**Profile**            David.Tosh@nmni.com

**Dr David Tosh** is National Museum NI's Research co-ordinator and is responsible for promoting research across all of museum's collections. New to the museum sector, he comes from a Conservation Biology background and is still finding his feet in the world of archaeology.

**Rosemarie Doherty** (Inishowen Maritime Museum & Planetarium)

**The Petroglyphs of the Isle of Doagh, Inishowen - Recent Discoveries and a Theory.**

**Abstract**

Rosemarie is a founding member of the archaeology research group Lands of Éogain who carry out archaeological research and hold conferences in conjunction with the Northumberland based Bernician Studies Group. In recent years the Bernician Studies Group have been working extensively with the community carrying out detailed surveys of potential early settlement sites on the Isle of Doagh, County Donegal. These surveys in turn have led to the discovery of many previously unrecorded rock carvings. Rosemarie will discuss this complex of rock carvings, examine the plausibility of existing theories and consider environmental factors which may give us more insight into these abstract petroglyphs.

**Profile**            rosemariemoulden@gmail.com

**Rosemarie Doherty** is an archaeologist and historian based in the Inishowen peninsula. Rosemarie completed her B.A. in History and Archaeology and her M. Litt on The Rock Art of the Isle of Doagh at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Since then she has worked as an archaeologist throughout Ireland and is presently curator of the Inishowen Maritime Museum in Greencastle, County Donegal. Rosemarie's primary research focus has been on the prehistoric rock carvings on the Isle of Doagh as well as the prehistoric and early Christian connections between Inishowen and elsewhere.

**Dr John O' Keeffe** (Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities)  
**KEEPing at it: Carrickfergus Great Tower Roofing Project.**

**Abstract**

Over the past year the Great Tower or Keep at Carrickfergus Castle, County Antrim, has been closed as work progressed towards installation of a new roof. The new double-ridged hip-gabled roof of green oak, lead and slate has been constructed and installed, and along the way some important discoveries and observations have been made about the construction sequence of the Keep and other structures within the castle complex. As the roof project comes to its conclusion it is a useful time to reflect on the work to date, and to look forward to future conservation and presentation work at this internationally-important sites.

**Profile**                    John.OKeeffe@communities-ni.gov.uk

**Dr John O'Keeffe** has been an Assistant Director and Principal Inspector of Historic Monuments in the Historic Environment Division (HED), Department for Communities since 2007, and at present leads the conservation and enhancement works at State Care Monuments across Northern Ireland. The works at Carrickfergus Castle form part of a long-term programme of conservation works which are also intended to enhance and increase public access to and awareness of the ancient elements of the castle complex. The works have also been conducted to take account of the castle's more recent (Victorian and later) history, revealing new information about early historic and modern uses of the site, and as a window on the long-term evolution of the complex.

**Thomas McErlean** (Centre for Maritime Archaeology, Ulster University)

**The Earl of Sussex's Campaigns in the Ulster in 1556 and 1557: a Glimpse of the Gaelic Landscape.**

**Abstract**

Despite significant progress in research in recent years, information on the Late Medieval Irish Landscape is still meagre. Some major advances have been made in defining individual lordships with greater clarity and in mapping the geography of their internal estates with their constituent townlands, but much remains unknown. An extremely valuable and relatively unexploited source of Mid-16th century date of the historic topography of Antrim and Down is provided by the detailed descriptions of the Lord Deputy's, (the Earl of Sussex) campaigns against the Antrim McDonnells in 1556 and 1557. These mentions the army's progress following a well-established road network and over river fords and through forest passes. They provide tantalising reference to the churches, abbeys, castles and crannogs of the contemporary Gaelic Landscape. The lecture attempts to identify all the places mentioned in the campaigns.

**Profile**                    tc.mcerlean@ulster.ac.uk

**Thomas McErlean** is a landscape archaeologist specialising in Late Medieval Irish landscape organisation and in intertidal archaeology. He has published several papers and co-authored books on both subjects. His current main research interest is in the archaeology of Gaelic lordship. He was formally a senior research fellow in the Centre for Maritime Archaeology in Ulster University and is now an associate staff member.

## Further information and Acknowledgements

### **Information about the Ulster Archaeological Society**

The current Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society comprises: Ruairi Ó Baoill (President), Professor Audrey Horning, Barrie Hartwell and Patrick O'Neill (Vice Presidents), Ken Pullin BEM (Honorary Secretary), Lee Gordon (Honorary Treasurer), Cormac Bourke (Honorary Editor, *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*), Grace McAlister (Assistant Honorary Editor, *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*), Dr Harry Welsh (Leader, UAS Field Survey Group), Anne MacDermott MBE (Assistant Secretary Events), Dr Duncan Berryman (Honorary Editor: UAS Newsletter), Ian Gillespie, David Craig, Aaron McIntyre, Dr Ian Meighan, Randal Scott, Roisín McCaughan and Tara Woodside (Committee members).

### **For further information about the activities of the Ulster Archaeological Society please see our**

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### **Further information about Archaeology & Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast**

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

Websites: [www.archaeology-palaeoecology-qub.com](http://www.archaeology-palaeoecology-qub.com)

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