



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2022

Letter from the Editor

Hello – A couple of reminders.....

Firstly, would you please pay your subs if you haven't already, not doing so leads to more of our own time being used up and additional administration. Secondly, the lecture this month is on the third Monday of the month due to romantic types not wanting to attend a WEAG lecture on Valentine's Day. 😊

Our speaker this month is Mike Allen with *'What Environmental Archaeology Can Do For You'*. Mike is one of the country's leading geo and environmental archaeologists, working in the both the commercial sector and academia. His archaeological specialism is the study of the environment and the human impact on it, especially via soils, sediments and snails. As the former environmental manager at Wessex Archaeology, he set up their environmental department, and since 2007 (operating as Allen Environmental Archaeology) he has worked on commercial and research projects at Stonehenge, Avebury, Malta and across southern England. Mike has published more than a dozen books, including the recent textbook "Molluscs in Archaeology". He is an Editor of the Oxbow Series "Studying Scientific Archaeology" and "Insights in Archaeology". Mike recently appeared in the "Digging for Britain" TV series, talking about his part in the dating of the Cerne Abbas Giant hill figure in Dorset (Episode 5, Series 9, first broadcast in January 2022).

WEAG Committee

Do you have a little spare time on your hands? Would you like to get more involved with WEAG? We have space on the committee (no experience necessary), if so please email weagmembership@outlook.com.

WEAG AGM

WEAG's Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 14th March 2022, at 7:30pm at the Woodford County High School. It will be followed by a presentation by WEAG's President, Harvey Sheldon.

WEAG's Officers and Committee are appointed at each AGM (existing Officers and Committee members can be reappointed, but there is no automatic reappointment). If you want to nominate another member as one of the Officers or as a committee member, please contact the Secretary. Members may also put forward motions for consideration at the AGM. If you want to put forward a motion, please submit the wording of your motion to the Secretary. Nominations and motions need to be submitted to the Secretary, Colin Mann, no later than 14th February (email colin_r_mann@msn.com). Nominations and motions should be proposed and seconded by two WEAG members.

That's me signing off for the last time, thank you for reading the newsletter and thank you to everyone who has given me positive feedback during my time as editor of the newsletter, it's been much appreciated.

Dr Neil Faulkner: obituary & Tribute.

22 January 1958 –4 February 2022



Neil & Nick Bateson, at Copped Hall C 2005

It is with immense sadness that we share the news that Neil has passed away. This happened peacefully during the early hours of Friday 4th Feb at University College Hospital, London, aged 64. Neil had been battling with a rare and aggressive form of blood lymphoma, since the summer of last year.

Neil was educated at the Skinners' School in Tunbridge Wells, he read political economy at King's College, Cambridge and was a teacher for a number of years before turning to archaeology, and taking his doctorate at the Institute of Archaeology, London, with a study of late Roman towns.

Neil was an archaeologist and historian who specialised in the Romans and Anglo-Saxons, he also helped pioneer the study of Modern Conflict, and Cinema archaeology. Neil carried out fieldwork in Sedgeford Norfolk, with SHARP, (the Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project) from 1996 where he was Project Director and remained involved until his death. Neil excavated also in Jordan, Italy, Ireland, Slovenia, and Spain.

Neil was a prolific author and breadth of his knowledge and interests can be seen from the sample of some of his books listed below. He was also the author of countless magazine articles and numerous academic papers,

Neil worked on various T.V programs such as Time Team and Timewatch (Zeppelin: The First Blitz) (retracing the footsteps of Vercingetorix). He had a long association with Current Archaeology where he worked as contributing editor, Military History Matters serving as Editor and Current World Archaeology where he had a regular column.

Neil also worked for Andante Travel leading tours such as Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania, Tunisia - The Punic Wars and Classical Sicily.

Within academia Neil kept up his teaching as a Research Fellow, in the Archaeology and Anthropology Department, at University of Bristol.

It would not be right to have any tribute to Neil without mentioning his politics. He was a Hegelian Marxist, and a long-standing member of the Socialist Workers Party, from 1980 to 2010, in 2020 he was on the co-ordinating committee of Anti-Capitalist Resistance.

To old time WEAG members & longstanding friends of Copped Hall, Neil will be remembered as fundamental part of the archaeology project in its early years. A larger than life character, Neil was opinionated, learned but always approachable and willing to share. There is no doubt that his knowledge and enthusiasm as well as his



Neil (playing himself) in a scene from Grime Team 3.

high regard within the archaeological world and the experience and reputation gained from the SHARP project did much to help establish the CHTAP project in its early years.

A serious and erudite man always wishing to inform and educate, he was not above sending himself up as can be seen from the still from Grime Team (a spoof on the t v show Time Team) filmed at Copped Hall in which Neil played himself.

There are necessarily gaps & omissions in the biography of a man who achieved so much, but it is hoped that Neil would approve of this tribute from old colleges.

Our thoughts are with Neil's partner Lucy and their three children Tiggy, Rowena, and Finnian during this extremely sad time.

Selected Works

The Decline and Fall of Roman Britain. Tempus. (2000).

Apocalypse: The Great Jewish Revolt Against Rome (2002) Tempus, first edition; (2012) Amberley Publishing, second edition

In Search of the Zeppelin War: The Archaeology of the First Blitz (with Nadia Durrani) (The History Press (8 Feb. 2008)

A Visitor's Guide to the Ancient Olympics (2012).

A Marxist History of the World: From Neanderthals to Neoliberals (9 April 2013)

Digging Sedgeford: A People's Archaeology. Poppyland Publishing. (2014)

Creeping Fascism: Brexit, Trump, and the Rise of the Far Right. Public Reading Rooms. (2017).

A People's History of the Russian Revolution. Pluto Press. (2017).

A Radical History of the World. Pluto Press. (2018).

Lawrence of Arabia's War. Yale University Press. (2016)

Lee Joyce on behalf of WEAG and CHTAP.

Donate to WEAG for Free

Donate to WEAG for free using Amazon, you can generate money for WEAG by putting smile.amazon.co.uk into your browser, choosing West Essex Archaeological Group as your chosen charity or just click the image below.



WEAG Member Profile

Would you like to be 'our profile on a member'? If so email me on and I'll forward you the questions.

Stay In Touch

weag.org.uk
Facebook.com/westsexarchaeological
Twitter.com/WEAGarchaeology
Instagram.com/
westsexarchaeologicalgroup
Anything you'd like to contribute to the WEAG Newsletter or if you have any comments on the new format, please email lexie.lyons@icloud.com

WEAG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Lecture Program

2022 Lectures are accessible via Zoom at 7:30pm – All except for the Annual General Meeting and the Christmas Social which will be in the committee room at Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green, IG8 9LA from 7:30pm.

Non-members are welcome to attend Lectures. A voluntary contribution of £2 would be appreciated from guests.

Monday 21 February 2022 @ 19:30

'Environmental Archaeology for the Field Archaeologists'.
Speaker: Mike Allen

Monday 14 March 2022 @ 19:30

Annual General Meeting. *Speaker: Harvey Sheldon, Birkbeck College, WEAG President.*
Held at Woodford County High.

Monday 11 April 2022 @ 19:30

'Excavations at Elysyng Palace'. *Speaker: Martin Dearne*

Monday 9 May 2022 @ 19:30

The Rudge Lecture – 'Recent Discoveries on Hadrian's Wall'. *Speaker: Tony Wilmot, Inspector Historic England*

Monday 13 June 2022 @ 19:30

'Roman Pottery at Hadham Wares'. *Speaker: Chris Lydamore*

Monday 12 September 2022 @ 19:30

Details to be confirmed

Monday 10 October 2022 @ 19:30

Details to be confirmed

Monday 14 November 2022 @ 19:30

Details to be confirmed

Monday 5 December 2022 @ 19:30

Christmas Social (book sales and refreshments) and roundup of member activities at Woodford County High.