

*Editorial*

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To begin with, a big thank you is due to Magnus Alexander for his work to date in producing the Newsletter. As he often pointed out, a successful newsletter depends above all on LSG members liberally sharing their thoughts and deeds, and I hope that in future, we will all make strenuous efforts to do that. For this issue, however, the first under what may become known as my editorial Reign of Error, I have drawn largely on material that I myself have become aware of over recent months. This is primarily because, having aimed to produce a Newsletter in June, I am conscious that the month has sailed past and I have not yet got round to gathering the news of other members. But it is also a trial run for the new style of Newsletter I have in mind, which I hope might include short notes on sites, interviews and book reviews. If there is general approval, I wonder if it might be worth getting the Newsletter an ISSN, turn it into a vehicle for 'official' publications? Feedback on that specific question, and on the general direction of our Newsletter, would be much appreciated.

– Al Oswald

*The LSG Spring Meeting and AGM in the New Forest National  
Park, Hampshire, 24th-25th March 2017*

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Lawrence Shaw, LSG Committee Member and Heritage Mapping and Data Officer and HLS Coordinator for the National Park, hosted the meeting. On Friday, Angela Gannon coordinated a workshop focussed on discussing landscape survey training issues, ideas and opportunities. This was followed by a useful AGM, a series of talks

by National Park staff introduced us to the local historic environment, its challenges and recent research. On the Saturday, Lawrence (and canine companion, Ringo) led nearly 30 of us around the landscape near Lyndhurst. Blessed with excellent weather, we encountered park pales, round barrows, WWI practice trenches, ponies and customary grazing rights and dozens of wonderful ancient pollarded hollies. Most entertainingly, some members became ensnared in knee-deep sticky mud in this otherwise dry, sandy heathland prompting a few valiant rescue missions to release comrades and their wellington boots.



### **LSG's Membership**

The LSG has now welcomed over 100 members, including one from another continent. There is undoubtedly still great potential to increase the former figure, so please recommend membership to anyone you know who may be interested – joining details and the membership form are available from the 'About Us' page of the LSG website.

### **15th-16th September 2017: the LSG's 4th Annual Conference**

#### **Productive landscapes: new perspectives from archaeological survey.**

Abby Hunt and Nathalie Barrett recently visited the venue for our September conference - we have both Courtrooms of the Shire Hall in Monmouth for the conference day and also for the evening drinks and dinner. A fabulous setting (see <http://shirehallmonmouth.org.uk/history/>) and there will be an optional evening tour of the hall and cells, followed by a walk around the town and access to the gatehouse of the Monnow Bridge, the only surviving fortified river bridge in Britain. Abby and Nathalie also recce-ed a number of potential sites for the fieldtrip for a morning stop before heading to explore Blaenavon and its wider landscape with Amelia Pannett – an alternative of visiting Big Pit will also be available. The full programme will be announced shortly once coach timings have been agreed. Registration is still open and we hope to see many of you there - your help with publicising the event would be appreciated. The conference poster and a full list of papers and abstracts can be found on the LSG website.



**21st October: *From the Cotswolds to the Chilterns: The Historic Landscapes of Oxfordshire***

A joint conference hosted by the Society for Landscape Studies and the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society at St Anne's College, Oxford. Speakers include Helena Hamerow FSA, David Clark FSA and Trevor Rowley FSA. For details email Brian Rich: [brianrich457@btinternet.com](mailto:brianrich457@btinternet.com).

**28th & 29th October: CITIZAN's 2017 Foreshore Forum, London**

CITIZAN and the Thames Discovery Program present a weekend of talks and debate about foreshore archaeology. Saturday will be all about the Thames and the amazing work that the TDP have been doing over the last 9 years. Sunday will focus on three years of foreshore exploration by the CITIZAN team and partner projects around the UK. Limited early bird tickets are available for individual days or the whole weekend priced at £25 and £40 respectively, so book now to avoid disappointment via the Eventbrite link <https://foreshoreforum2017.eventbrite.co.uk>

***Redmires WWI training landscape***

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Back in September 2014, on the occasion of the LSG's inaugural conference in Sheffield, Helen Ullathorne of the University of Sheffield's Department of Lifelong Learning led new members around the tussocky grassland of Hill 60 at Redmires. Here the Sheffield Pals battalion trained over the winter prior to their tragic slaughter in the British attack on the heavily fortified village at Serre, in the Somme valley, in June 1916. A wide variety of trench systems are recognizable as earthworks, but there was general puzzlement at one area of the site, where a complex of wiggly banks and tiny enclosures seemed to represent a trench system 'in positive'. A scatter of five small, circular mounds nearby could have been straightforwardly interpreted as clearance cairns were they not so isolated (and apparently largely earthen!). This raised the possibility that some of the wiggly banks might be Bronze Age field boundaries, reused opportunistically by the troops, but no firm conclusions were reached, despite prolonged and lively discussion.

Fieldwork at Redmires has continued, under the auspices of the University of Sheffield's Widening Participation programme. One of the DLL students is mapping the whole training area from Google Earth and Bing imagery. An earthwork survey, still a work in progress, has already shown that the last of the tiny enclosures that makes up a chain along the slope was left unfinished. A classic *crémaillère* fighting trench, carefully backfilled, was cut through one of the circular mounds, although that obviously falls far short of proving that all the mounds are Bronze Age. Most usefully, perhaps, the wiggly banks are, in places, flanked by spade-width ditches, which suggests that they are military features and not just linear clearance along field boundaries. Geophysical survey has played a useful role, too, demonstrating that the banks are largely made of rubble, even though surface stone is hard to come by in the immediate vicinity. The possibility therefore arises that the material that makes up the banks was imported, either by demolishing nearby drystone walls, or perhaps from the quarries on the higher ground. Could the irregularity and slight discontinuity of the banks result from the dumping of successive cart-loads of stone? Possibly, but the actual function of the complex still remains a mystery.

– Helen Ullathorne

*Interesting fact No. 674 of an occasional series:*

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The ancient Greek word βουστροφηδόν (boustrophedon) is generally used to describe a writing style where the script runs from right to left on one line and back from right to left on the next. Its real meaning, however, could be translated as 'oxen-course-wise'. So next time you want to add a bit of poetry to your description of medieval rig.....

*Find the Landscape Survey Group online:*

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You can find out more about our ethos, activities and officers via the LSG website, and you can currently follow us or connect with us through Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn:

Website: <http://landscapesurvey.org/>

Twitter: @LandscapeSurvey

Or search for 'Landscape Survey Group' on Facebook and LinkedIn