



**Jigsaw Cambridgeshire
Newsletter - No. 5
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NEWS

British Archaeological Awards

Jigsaw was shortlisted for the Best Community Engagement Archaeology Project award at the biannual British Archaeological Awards 2014, and Jo Richards, Jemima Woolverton, Quinton Carroll (Historic Environment Team Manager, Jigsaw Steering Group), David Crawford-White (OAE Outreach and Learning Officer, who wrote the excellent bid), Bob Williams (Chief Operating Officer, Oxford Archaeology) and Roger Mould (Warboys Archaeology Project) attended the awards ceremony at the British Museum on Monday 14th July. Sadly we didn't win, but we have a very nice Highly Commended certificate! There were 33 nominations for this award.



Roger, Jo and David mingle at the Awards

Jigsaw Groups' Summer Conference

The Jigsaw Groups' Summer Conference in July was an opportunity for groups to display their work, mingle and enjoy the Pimms, cake and strawberries. This excellent archaeological cake was made by Mary-Ann Parsons, who leads the Covington History Group. Each affiliated group and AAG name was piped onto a jigsaw piece around the cake, and Jo and Jemima are immortalised in icing!

The next opportunity for groups to display their work is the Cambridge Antiquarian Society conference in November – we look forward to seeing many of you there.

the cake!



New Archaeology Action Groups (AAGs)

One of the aims of Jigsaw, besides supporting existing archaeology groups, is to engage new audiences with community archaeology through setting up new archaeology groups with local people. Over the past 8 months we have been hard at work setting up the following three groups:



Archaeology Cambridgeshire East

Archaeology Cambridgeshire East (ACE) is the field-group of Soham Museum. They meet on the last Saturday of the month in Soham Library, and have already had a workshop session in Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology. Work has begun on washing and cataloguing finds collected in the Soham area in recent years. They will be carrying out fieldwalking and excavations in East Cambridgeshire, and there are plans for a 'Big Dig' in the future.

ACE workshop at the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (left)

CamDig geophysics in Arbury (below)

CamDig

North Cambridge has a rich, frequently overlooked, archaeological heritage including extensive Roman and Iron Age remains. CamDig had a launch event in January and has to be one of the fastest AAGs to put together its group set-up paperwork and insurance cover (one month!) and are now busy conducting geophysical surveys, testpitting, plane-table surveying, and even had a stall advertising the group at Arbury Carnival! They also hope to record and explore the WW2 defenses around Cambridge. The group aims to be predominantly active but has regular 'business' meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at the No.37 Lawrence Way centre. Email camdiggers@gmail.com for more information.



Great Fen Archaeology Group

Great Fen Archaeology Group is our newest AAG. The group are closely associated with the Great Fen Local History Group, an active group of Great Fen and Ramsey Rural Museum volunteers, working alongside the Great Fen team. At present the group are researching a collection of fishing weights excavated near Whittlesey Mere in the 1990s. In the autumn the group will be fieldwalking near Engine Farm in the north of the Great Fen, and in autumn 2015 will be involved in the Spitfire Project. Professional archaeologists (Oxford Archaeology East and Cranfield University) will recover the aircraft, and local volunteers and members of the Great Fen Archaeology Group will also be involved.



Great Fen Archaeology team

For more information about our affiliated groups and AAGs, do visit our website. If you know individuals or a group who would be interested in affiliating to Jigsaw, do let us know.

Warboys update

Warboys landscape models continue to generate interest in all sorts of areas. Roger Mould has met Ken Rolfe, a geologist studying the Fen Edge with PhD students. Ken has produced 'Fen Edge computer fly-through', and is keen to partner fen edge archaeology groups, and also to perhaps find someone to study a second Warboys volcano – long extinct! About 350 million years ago, the area had an active volcano just south of the old Warboys airfield, and a second near the site of the disused brickpit.

Equipment Resource and consumables



Jigsaw now has two portable wooden display cases for groups to borrow. They are angled, and hinged at the front with a lock on the back. One is lined with dark blue felt, and the other with a light blue woven fabric. They will show off your finds to great advantage, and can be borrowed in the usual way for free by completing an Equipment Resource booking form. The website calendar itemises when items of equipment have been booked out, so do check there before emailing us or completing a booking form.

In response to groups' requests, there is now a stock of consumables (finds bags, permatrace, First Aid for Finds materials) that you can purchase from Jigsaw. As we have bought in bulk, the items are available at the lowest cost possible for groups to buy in the amounts they need.

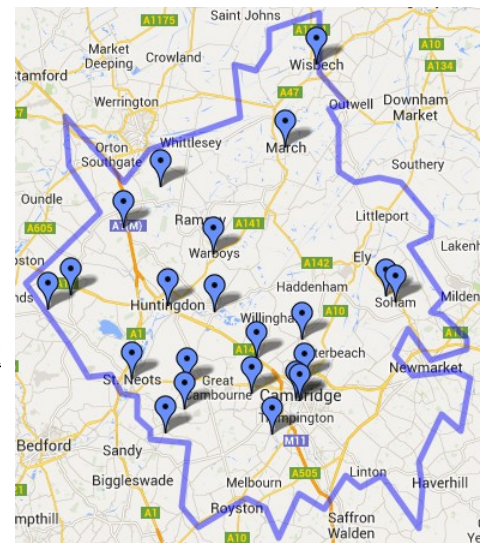
WELCOME

We now have 20 affiliated groups. We would like to welcome to the project:

Soham Museum

The members of Soham Museum are working towards acquiring premises and their ambitious Soham 'Big Dig' project, which they hope will answer questions about Soham's significance as a major settlement through history, but particularly in the Roman period. They will be working closely with Jigsaw and the newly formed Archaeology Cambridgeshire East to ensure they deliver the most comprehensive archaeology project they can. They would like to hear from anyone who might like to volunteer their back garden for a dig, or get involved with the project at any level. Contact Donna Martin via museum@soham.org.uk for more information.

We look forward to working with you!



TRAINING PROGRAMME

This year's practical and theoretical courses have been very well-attended. We are starting to think about the courses we should run in 2015 – maybe some experimental archaeology courses (e.g. how to make a pot, flint-knap etc.) in order to understand the technologies behind the artefacts. We'll be canvassing your opinions on this in the Autumn.

Praise from the courses:

"Being able not only to see the pieces [of pottery] enlarged on the screen, but also to handle some, and examine them from all angles, whilst listening to an informative commentary by an expert."

"A relaxed and informative course, pitched at the right level for beginners. Left with a good understanding of how to set up and use the [resistivity] equipment."

"Well organised, informal learning approach which meant we had fun whilst we learnt."

'The Missing Piece' Forum

Last summer Jigsaw participants requested a forum which would facilitate the sharing of knowledge, skills, speakers and training between Jigsaw affiliated groups. This forum, called The Missing Piece is live on our website. Register on the website to link up with speakers, skills and training, or to volunteer your services! You can also blog about what your group has been up to.

This facility hasn't been widely used so far, so do make the most of it!

PORTAL TO THE MISSING PIECE

User Name

Password

Remember Me

- [Forgot your password?](#)
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- [Create an account](#)

CBA East: The East Regional Group of the Council for British Archaeology

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) is an independent charity that aims to open up the UK's rich heritage for all and safeguard it for future generations. CBA East covers the counties of Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Annual membership fees are currently £5 for individuals and £7 for groups and institutions.

On Saturday 20th September CBAE are holding a day conference in Godmanchester entitled *Roman Archaeology in the East of England*. This is an exciting opportunity to hear recent research findings in our area. For more information visit their web page: <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/cbae/>



SPOTLIGHT ON CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP (CAFG)

CAFG continues to excavate at Wimpole. The focus at the end of May was the glasshouses, when members excavated and recorded the brick foundations of three buildings in the gardeners' yard at Wimpole Hall. Two of the structures appear to be garden frames, one of which later had heating pipes. The third building was a more elaborate structure with a central chamber and chambers along the north and south sides. Again, at a later date, an extensive cast iron piped heating system was installed. All three structures are likely to date from the mid to late 19th century. The full report and photographs are on the CAFG website. A week of digging on several sites on the Wimpole estate at the end of July, trying to resolve geophysical anomalies, raised more questions than answers, but post-ex work has only just started.



The group has also recently completed a substantial grey literature report on their work in the Haslingfield parish between 1981 and 2012. This comprises fieldwalking about a quarter of the parish (1981-2007), 10 casual observations including three test pits within the village (c.1985-2011), an earthwork survey at River Farm and 24 test pits within the village excavated over a weekend in 2012. This is a significant amount of work which has added substantially to our understanding of the development of the parish over time. The findings show occupation in the parish from the Late Bronze Age (if not earlier) through to the present day.