



Jigsaw Cambridgeshire  
Newsletter - No. 2  
December 2012



## WELCOME TO THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE JIGSAW CAMBRIDGESHIRE NEWSLETTER

Winter has arrived, which means for most of us fieldwork has ceased, and the long business of writing reports, washing and cataloguing finds from the summer's excavations has begun. It has also been a busy time for us in the office, catching up with jobs from a hectic summer, taking the project into pastures new, and preparing for 2013. Of course we have also been busy linking up with our affiliated societies, giving advice, running training courses and loaning out our Equipment Resource.

### NEWS

#### Best Practice Users' Guide

One of the key project aims is to create a set of guidance notes which will form a *Best Practice Users' Guide to Community Archaeology*, and to that end we have been creating guides and editing material from 2012 training courses so they are suitable to enter this document. We are in the early stages of this process, but in the fullness of time they will be available as downloads from the *Jigsaw* website. You may, however, be interested to know that we have completed practical Step by Step Guides to Fieldwalking and to Geophysical Resistivity Survey.

#### New Jigsaw Archaeology Action Groups

We have also been busy advertising the project in several areas targeted for the creation of new Archaeology Action Groups (AAGs), meeting with interested parties and organising projects to run with them. Specific areas we are targeting for the creation of new groups are St Ives, Ramsey, Godmanchester, and East Cambs, although we also have feelers out in several other areas! If you live somewhere where there isn't currently an active archaeology group and you would be interested in forming or joining a new one, please do get in touch! And please do put people in touch with us who are interested across the county.

#### CAS Conference

We enjoyed the Cambridge Antiquarian Society annual conference on 24<sup>th</sup> November. Many of our affiliated societies and AAGs had displays, and Jo gave a short presentation on what *Jigsaw* is up to. We were also glad to have our case officer Deborah Milligan from the Heritage Lottery Fund attending. We received this feedback from her: *"The morning was very interesting and good to meet Jo and hear how well Jigsaw has delivered the project outcomes this year."*

#### Winter Social

Our apologies for the cancellation of the Winter Social, due to sickness. We are planning to reschedule it for the new year – we will keep you posted on a date.



## WELCOME

We would like to welcome the following three new Archaeology Action Groups (AAGs):

**Gamarch (Gamlingay Archaeology Society)** are a brand new archaeology group created in Gamlingay to research its archaeology. They are researching historical maps and planning fieldwork, none of which would have happened without *Jigsaw* and is what project is all about.

**Sawtry History Society** has a new archaeology subgroup.

**Warboys Local History Society** has a new archaeology subgroup working on the *Warboys Archaeology Project*, mapping the archaeological landscape.

We also welcome another new affiliated society:

**Hardwick Local History Group** who are hoping to conduct a photographic survey of the historic buildings in the village.

We look forward to working with you all!



## TRAINING PROGRAMME 2013

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I'm sure you're all dying to know the training programme for 2013! Thanks to those of you who completed our questionnaire. Your answers have formed the basis for our training programme for 2012. The training programme is divided into class-based and practical courses. This is the *provisional* list of courses:

Level 1: Flint Artefact Identification  
Level 1: Artefact Identification: Pot and Bone (repeat)  
Level 2: Prehistoric Pottery Identification  
Level 2: Roman Pottery Identification (repeat)  
Level 2: Medieval Pottery Identification  
Level 2: First Aid for Finds: Packaging and Curation of Artefacts  
Level 1: Theory of Geophysical Survey  
Level 1: Theory and Methods of Landscape Survey

Level 1: Conducting Geophysical Resistivity Survey  
Level 1: Conducting Geophysical Magnetometry Survey  
Level 2: Processing and Interpreting the Results of Geophysical Survey using *Snuffler* freeware  
Level 1: Fieldwalking  
Level 1: Metal Detecting Demonstration and Practical  
Level 1: Landscape Survey using Plane-table and Off-set Survey  
Level 1: Landscape Survey using a Dumpy-level and GPS

Please note, however, that this is only the set Jigsaw training programme. If your group requires specific training in an area not covered by this year's training programme, it may be possible for us to come out and run a course for your group, as and when our training budget allows. Similarly, if you require a repeat of any of the practical courses specifically for your group, we can come out and run these courses for your group (since Saturdays are limited, a weekday may be best).

We received interest in the course *Introduction to Recording Contexts in Excavation*. However, after conversation with other archaeologists at OAE, we feel that it is not feasible to properly teach this course in a class-based setting, as it is properly learned in the field. Accordingly, if you feel your group would benefit from instruction or a reminder in archaeological recording principles, please let us know and we will gladly come and run a short practical course during your own community excavation projects.

*The dates and venues for the 2013 Training Programme will be announced early in the New Year – do keep an eye on the website.*

## EQUIPMENT RESOURCE

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Don't forget that our Equipment Resource is available for *Jigsaw* affiliated societies and AAGs to borrow. Excavation, geophysical resistivity, and plane-table surveying equipment are available to be borrowed, and we are currently purchasing more technical equipment such as a dumpy level, GPS and metal detector. For the full list of our Equipment Resource please see our website (Resources – Equipment). You will need to have undergone *Jigsaw* training in resistivity before borrowing the resistivity equipment.



## CONGRATULATIONS

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Congratulations to FenArch and CAFG who received grants from the BBC Heritage Lottery Fund 'All Our Stories' grant for their projects. CAFG's project, *Wimpole: silent voices and deserted homes*, will use field archaeology and archive studies to investigate long-vanished settlements in the Wimpole parish. FenArch's project, *The Fenland in Roman Times*, will allow them to fieldwalk and excavate the local landscape and share the heritage with Fenland communities.

Congratulations also to *Jigsaw's* Jo Richards who received a grant from the Huntingdonshire Local History Society's Goodliff Fund to create resource boxes for Godmanchester Community Primary School, where *Jigsaw* carried out a community excavation in June 2012.



*Alex and Andy of FenArch with Michael Wood*

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Heritage Lottery Your Heritage Grant

The *Your Heritage* grant scheme is closing in the new year. If you still want to apply for a *Your Heritage* grant, your full application is due in by the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2013. *Your Heritage* will be replaced in February 2013 by two new programmes: *Our Heritage* and *Sharing Heritage*, and decisions are made within 8 weeks. Look on their website for more details: <http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Summaryofprogrammes2013/Pages/Openprogrammes.aspx#.UMcoUHfMWzA>

### Heritage Lottery Young Roots Grant

Those of you planning on running projects engaging young people aged 11-25 in heritage may want to consider applying for a Young Roots Grant:

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Summaryofprogrammes2013/Pages/Targetedprogrammes.aspx#.UMco43fMWzA>

## SPOTLIGHT ON COVINGTON HISTORY GROUP

Covington is a tiny village (with a big personality!) in the west of the county on the borders of Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire. Influences from these three counties are apparent throughout the long history of the village. Covington History Group joined *Jigsaw* in February but had been looking into pursuing a more archaeological line of inquiry for some time. The initial enthusiasm of a few members has spread as a significant proportion of village residents have become involved in our activities this year.



Current projects include determining the purpose of a small Roman site, finding out if a moated enclosure to the north of the village really is a second manor and solving the mystery of a mediaeval side chapel to the church of which only clues in the current stonework remain. We have had a busy year attending excellent *Jigsaw* courses on pottery identification, use of geophysics equipment, test pitting methodology and use of historical sources. Armed with our (very embryonic) expertise, we have carried out fieldwalking and geophys surveys and held a summer Covington Big Dig weekend of test pitting round the village. There have been a few challenges along the way: raising the insurance premium to cover archaeological activity; spotting shellyware pottery in boulder clay; picking suitable times in the farming calendar to survey fields, and recording test pits to Jemima's exacting standards to name but a few!

We haven't found the answers yet to any of the questions we started out with, but our community has had a fascinating and most enjoyable time learning more about what makes Covington what it is today. And our thanks are of course due to the *Jigsaw* team for helping us in this. In 2013, we are intending to focus more on the mediaeval village, endeavouring to link what we know from documents with the landscape.

See [www.covington.org.uk](http://www.covington.org.uk) for further information and interim reports – history pages should be completed over Christmas. Geophys survey results will be submitted to HER database.

*Mary-Ann Parsons, Covington History Group*

## KEEPING UP WITH JIGSAW NEWS

Do keep an eye on our website! It is regularly updated with information, and the blog outlines our various movements. Do also follow us on Facebook and Twitter,

[www.jigsawcambs.org](http://www.jigsawcambs.org)

'Jigsaw Cambridgeshire' on Facebook

@jigsawcambs on Twitter

