



Free

- **Local News and Views**
- **Winner of the Investigative Journalist of the year 2018 Award.**
- **Nominated as best pseudo archaeological publication 2019.**
- **Weather**

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Ingram Farm Plantation Camp Terraces Excavation

Volume 1, Issue 1

Project Journal

Editorial

This year a multi national team from under the direction of Clive Waddington Director of Archaeological Research Services (ARS) undertook the first in a series of excavations due to take place across Western Europe and Scandinavia. The excavation is linked to a study of the variations in the post ice age climate up to the present day. Scientists were drawn from the UK, Italy, Spain, Germany, Greece, China and the USA. In addition local volunteers who had previously worked with Clive on other Northumberland based "Special Ops" projects supplemented the workforce. Despite the vagaries of the British weather the excavation was completed on time and early results look promising.



Members of the UK element exhausted but "shovel happy" after backfilling 85 cubic metres of spoil in a five hour shift. Director of Ops Clive Waddington said "I had moved out of my accommodation—there was no alternative. It had to be done by 4.00 p.m.!"

Dig Diary Week 1

D1 Monday 29th April

Digging commences with the marking out of the site. De turbing operations begin.

D2 Tuesday 30th April

Arrival of Master Digger Barry Mead (59). The weather is unusually benign. Ingram Valley sparkles in the early spring sunshine what better way of spending a day in the countryside? Digging in earnest begins with the sinking of four test pits and the opening of the 65 x 1 m main trench.



Our photographer captures the moment! Barry and Clive debate the work programme. Steve Lowe wonders how it can be completed on time and Maria views the prospect.



Barry explains the finer points of digging to a young and impressionable mind. Dr. Dave looks on knowingly and Steve Lowe has heard it all before!



D4 Thursday 2nd May
Amble George arrived yesterday.

The weather changed. Gone are the bright skies to be replaced by a biting easterly wind, low cloud and rain..... With rain comes.....
.....MUD!!!

Baz Bristles!

Plantation Camp Terraces Latest “I was duped” says star digger!

Star digger Barry Mead (66) says he was tricked into taking part in this dig by site director Clive Waddington. In an interview with our reporter Barry said:

“Clive told me it was to do work on the local terraces and that I would enjoy it as it involved digging. I naturally assumed it was football related and that it would involve my beloved Luton Town FC. Not a bit of it! Here we are now, covered in *******(mud) *******and freezing **** ****** ******** *******(cold). When I get a hold of Clive I'm going to stick this trowel right up his *******(unintelligible)*******.”



“Have you a moment Clive?”
An irate Barry Mead advances on the Site director .

Dig Diary Week 2

D8. Monday 6th May

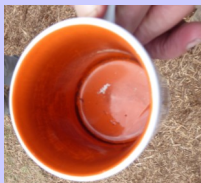
Return refreshed after a weekend leave away from THE TRENCH.

The professionals have been hard at it all weekend. Clive has been to a conference at Clennell Hall. Work on THE TRENCH is to continue at an increased pace.

Bad weather is forecast for Wednesday. Detailed preparation and planning will prevent poor performance



Clive
In a hole!



Baz and Clive
Reconciled
See Page 3



Camera mounted drone flights are flown in marginal conditions. They record photogrammetrically, the detailed topography of the



A planning conference in progress beneath the only available overhead shelter. Much emphasis was placed upon planning by Dan.

D9. Tuesday 7th May

We have sustained our first casualty today, Janine Pyke. The grim realities of operational archaeological excavation are beginning to hit home ... We have no choice but to ignore the loss as Clive insists the work must be completed by Friday.



Janine Pyke in a photo taken earlier that day.



D 10. Wednesday 8th May

What a day! Appallingly foul weather. We are behind schedule as the dig had to be suspended early afternoon.

D 11. Thursday 9th May

Back at work today.

After a massive effort we are back on schedule.

Weather improves. Sunshine p.m.



Hands Across the Divide.

Trench link up is achieved!

Little Keith and Big Dave shake hands when Dave in the upper trench broke through to Keith working his way uphill in the lower trench. Such was the precision of the engineering that both trenches met along their centre lines.

It was only later realised that Little Keith was working to a narrower gauge than Big Dave. Historical precedent having been set by IK Brunel's GWR.

Baz Makes a Magnanimous Gesture



Synchronised backfilling was the secret of success.



D12. Friday 10th May

Last day (if we're lucky). Backfilling begins 10.00. Recording is still ongoing as concurrent activity takes place.

In what must surely count as the most poignant moment of the dig, Community Archaeologist of the Year, Barry "Baz" Mead (71) presented Site Director Clive with a special gift. It was Barry's most treasured possession—his favourite Luton Town FC mug, given so that Clive could celebrate Luton's promotion to the Championship.

In fact it was the one that Barry had been using over the years until that very day. So spontaneous was the gesture that Barry hadn't had time to wash it! Obviously moved, Clive spoke highly of Baz's unswerving loyalty and commitment. It was Barry's possession of these attributes that had caused Clive to nominate him for the award.

Clive thanked Barry for attempting to take him out for lunch prior to the award ceremony. "It had been a generous gesture" he said "it was just unfortunate that the pub didn't serve lunches on Wednesdays."

Through gritted teeth Clive wished Barry well for the future.



Competition Week 2
Answers to the editor by
last post 17 May 2019

The winner of week 1
competition received the
offer of a place on the

Caption of the week
Competition 1 Winner

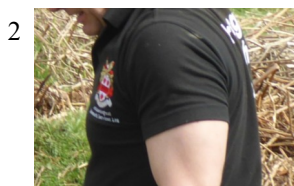


Photographer:
"I'm sure Bob reminds
me of someone?"



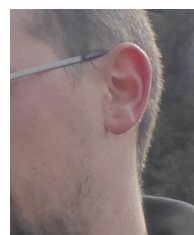
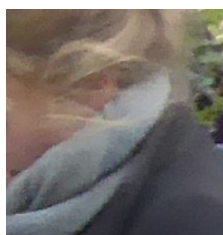
Tail Piece : Recognition features

Learn to recognize the person you may be asked to share a trench with at a glance.



Do you recognise any
of these people?

Answers to the editor
no later than last post
Friday 17 May 2019



Situations Vacant

Temporary post due to a period of sick leave.

News letter Editor : *Sense of humour preferred but not essential.*



KCART contact: keithscooper@gmail.com

A chance to comment about your time on this dig.

Meet The Crew



“Physically hard dig which could be said to be boring in that it produced no artefacts. Potentially, though, it is one of the most important digs I have been on in regards to the nature of the project and the data produced. “
Bob Jackson (Volunteer: Coquetdale Community Archaeology)

.....



“In forty five years digging this is the first dig where I haven’t found a single artefact, But I’m glad to be part of it!”

Barry Mead (Volunteer: Cresswell Tower Restoration Project)

.....



“I have really enjoyed the research aspect of this dig. And the pan European involvement of senior academics.”

Rachel Lightfoot (Archaeological Research Services)

.....



“I love this type of dig because it gives a much wider picture than is achieved in the excavation of a single building.”

Jenny Cant (Volunteer: Till Valley Archaeological Society)

.....



“I have really enjoyed working on the project here. There’s a great agricultural history. It’s been a privilege to peel the layers back.”

Dan Fallu (University of Tromso).

.....



“This has been grim work but I’ve enjoyed every minute of it.”

Janine Pyke (Volunteer)

A chance to comment about your time on this dig.



"It has been difficult to fly in the conditions we have experienced. This is my first time on an archaeological survey and I hope to learn from the experience."

Sara Cucchiario (University of Padoua)

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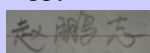
"This is an area I know well. It's a place where I run and which I have studied over many years. It's tremendous opportunity to be able to play a part in discovering more about its past."

Keith Cooper (Coquetdale Community Archaeology)

.....



"This is a wild part of the UK in which I have been happy to work on this project."



Pengzhi Zhao (UC Louvain)

.....



"This is my first experience of Northumberland. Despite the weather there's been great archaeology. I've met some great people."

Faidra Katsi (Archaeological Research Services)

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"This rare survivor of pre historic terracing forms the UK end of a large European research project. It's been great to return to the site after 20 years and work with such a great, hard working team."

Clive Waddington (Archaeological Research Services)

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For more information see: www.terrace.no

KCART www.keithcooperart.co.uk



www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com