

# **NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGY**

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# **NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGY**

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**Dedicated to the memory of Colin Burgess**

**Editor**

**Gordon Moir**



**NORTHUMBERLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP**

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Colin Burgess, 2007, at the presentation of his festschrift.

Photo: © Pete Topping.

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## NORTHUMBERLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

THE NORTHUMBERLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP (NAG) exists to provide opportunities for members of the public to take part in archaeological activities relating primarily to the study of the archaeology of Northumberland and surrounding areas. NAG undertakes its own fieldwork projects and occasionally supports other projects undertaken by members. A lecture programme, social events and a series of excursions are organised each year, and members receive *Northern Archaeology* which is published occasionally. *Northern Archaeology* is also available by subscription to non-members.

Further information about NAG can be obtained at:  
<https://northumberlandarchaeologicalgroup.wordpress.com> .

MEMBERSHIP. Enquiries about membership can be made via the above website; or to the Membership Secretary, Jenny Vaughan, at 4 Pelton Mews, Pelton, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, DH12 1QG; e-mail: [jenny.vaughan@virgin.net](mailto:jenny.vaughan@virgin.net). Membership for 2018-19 costs £12 (single), £15 (joint or family) or £2 (student or unemployed, not including a copy of *Northern Archaeology*).

NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGY is the NAG journal and includes a variety of papers concentrating principally on the archaeology of Northumberland and adjacent areas. Occasional special editions are published to cover particular themes. All communications regarding contributions to the journal should be addressed to the Editor, Gordon Moir, [gordon.moir@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gordon.moir@blueyonder.co.uk) , or at 7 Albury Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 3PE. All potential contributors are encouraged to consult the editor as early as possible when considering the preparation of a paper or short note, and should be aware that the journal is prepared for publication on a home computer. A few back numbers still exist and any enquiries concerning them should be sent to the editor at the address above.

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## Editorial

NAG was created by Colin Burgess. Initially this was to support his 1973 Islay expedition, later to give his Adult Education students more archaeological experience and to facilitate his research agenda in north Northumberland. It was his energy, enthusiasm and guidance that propelled NAG into existence and ensured its continuing life. One of his initiatives was this journal, which first appeared in 1980. Fittingly this volume pays testimony to some of his archaeological endeavours.

During 2010 Colin's health began to deteriorate. Late in 2013 he moved back to the north-east where he enjoyed the visits and company of his family and friends, particularly visits to Colman's Fish and Chips cafe and to the local park and beach. I had known Colin since 1972. During the course of pushing his wheelchair in the park or along the promenade he engaged me sometimes in conversation about emotions – and our reactions to music; something I don't recall him ever doing in the previous forty years. I found we shared a love of Schubert; and that he had no time for Mozart, which I found strange. He never once, at least to me, ever complained about his condition, the gradual deterioration in his physical abilities or the unfairness of it all.

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Colin enjoyed drinking wine. He kick-started impromptu wine tasting events as social gatherings, which turned eventually into a more formal wine appreciation group. He started collecting the labels from the wine bottles and sticking them into a scrapbook as a permanent record of his tastings. In his staff-room at work he had a deep "Belfast" sink. One day he left 8 or 10 bottles in this sink filled with water so he could soak off the labels. Whilst giving a lecture the cleaner found the bottles and kindly scrubbed the labels off so he could find the nice clean bottles on his return. At a meeting in France, no doubt fuelled by the brandy he also found so congenial, he got to his feet to propose a toast: "*Vive le bronzeage!*" (Long live suntan), whereas he had meant "*Vive l'Age du Bronze!*", I suppose.

On a personal note I owe a lot to Colin's archaeological activities (especially meeting Barbara at the Fenton Hill dig of 1974). His extended run of overseas trips was particularly noteworthy. For those able to participate it meant the chance to get to sites still under excavation and to meet the academics involved, through Colin's extensive network of academic colleagues. For amateur archaeologists, like myself, for whom the subject is a hobby, we enjoyed experiences that we could never otherwise have had. Three random examples: having Céide Fields explained by Seamus Caulfield at the site; Jacques Briard turning up to show us around a Breton chambered tomb and being given permission to enter the research laboratory at Ludwigsburg to see the "princess" in the course of excavation with her pieces of gold self-evident. Over the years Colin put in much effort to organise these trips (listed in the appendix to Roger Miket's paper, this volume) and I confess I don't fully understand why. I suspect he valued the possibility of visiting new sites and new places and appreciated the research possibilities this may have opened up. Also he seemed to have really enjoyed them, despite the sweat and toil sometimes involved.

The other personal high was the whole Évora experience, six summers in the Alentejo heat. Briefly, our aim was to locate monuments in a previously under-studied part of central Portugal. At times this could be hit-and-miss. Some of the fieldwalkers lacked experience; the heat wore us down; the vegetation could be ferocious. In 1970 a Portuguese archaeologist, Henrique Pina, had published a paper on megalithic monuments in the Évora region (see the references in Virgílio Correia's paper, this volume). This had been translated into German (by Philine Kalb), and published in 1976. One of Colin's strengths was the set of adult education students he had gathered around him that he could rely on for support. One such was Renate Lenel, who had left Germany when young. She produced an English version of the German text of Pina's paper. By 1988 it had become clear to Colin that the Vale de Cardos stone, mentioned by Pina and which lay only about a kilometre from Almendres (the centre of our 1986 activities), had been ignored or missed by his fieldwalkers in the 1986 season. Unfortunately the name "Vale de Cardos" did not appear on our maps. Accordingly Barbara and I, helped by local youngsters Ana and Carlos, were despatched one day in 1988 armed with Renate's translation to locate the stone. Pina's directions proved effective and the stone was duly recorded and photographed.

A site that Pina did not record was the stone setting at Vale Maria do Meio, which consists of about 30 stones. This was also overlooked by us. Subsequently the site was identified, and many of the stones re-erected under the supervision of Manuel Calado, who had worked with us in 1986.

Those interested in how I learnt to speak some Portuguese; drove to Évora and back to Tyneside three times; did the food shopping for 30 field-workers; found a Roman stone with phallus carved on it at Rosa, and located an unknown *anta* (chambered tomb) will have to await my *memoirs*. Sufficient to say here that I am eternally indebted to Colin Burgess for enabling me to have these experiences.

Gordon Moir (July 2018).



Colin in France, April 2013, on his last Archaeotrekker's trip, at La Chaire à Calvin, near Angoulême.