

to be published. Jan spent a large part of his time presenting the past of Nijmegen to its citizens and the (inter)national public. He gave hundreds of lectures and countless interviews to the press. Nevertheless, he found time to publish.

In 2004, a management reorganization forced Jan to take a step back, which made him decide to take early retirement in 2006. This did not mean he stopped with archaeology. It rather meant he now had more time to spend on old, unfinished projects and new projects he found interesting. One of these was a multiannual project carried out together with the author and Guus Gazenbeek, recording the WAR-collection: ten thousands of finds from Roermond (NL), collected by local volunteers over a 30 year period. Realising he had not enough time left to write down everything he knew, he shared his knowledge with younger archaeologists and volunteers. Until the last weeks of his life, he frequented the Wednesday evening meetings of the AWN-volunteer group of which he had been a member since the sixties.

Jan's work has not remained unappreciated. In 2005 the Gelderse Archaeologische Stichting awarded him the Wartena-Medal, followed in 2009 by the Rheinlandthaler awarded by the Landschaftsverband Rheinland and in 2010 the Nijmegen AWN-group awarded him with the Wim Tuijn-fibula. When Jan received a *Festschrift* on the occasion of his attainment of pensionable age, the number of archaeologists, friends and colleagues who wanted to contribute was so large, the *Festschrift* eventually filled three volumes.

Jan played an important role in defining Dutch archaeology, and archaeology defined him. However,

it would not do him justice to only remember him by this aspect of his life. Jan loved his children Marije, Inger, and Jurriën, and was very proud of his little granddaughter Lise. He was selective in his friends, but a very loyal friend. Hating pageantry, he rebelled against it with a wild, bearded look. Possessions did not interest him, but he made an exception for books, resulting in a home that was first of all a research library. Talking to him was like talking to a living encyclopaedia. He despised dishonesty and was direct, sometimes blunt, which not everybody liked, but that would not stop him. Peering at the ground all this life, he had a knack for spotting lost objects, reaching from Merovingian coins and human bones in flower beds to a collection of lost golden earrings. He watched birds and collected wild mushrooms. He liked a pint and drank far too much coffee. He enjoyed rock music, dancing, rough jokes, playing football, sunsets and writing poems. But if you would ask him what was most important in life, he would answer: good conversations with interesting people. He will be missed by many, and in many ways.

*This obituary is partly based on an interview with Jan by Peter Deurloo, and an article by Harry van Enckevort. Both were published in the Festschrift Roman Material Culture. Studies in honour of Jan Thijssen (2009). The author thanks Hemmy Clevis and Harry van Enckevort, for sharing their memories of Jan's life and work, and Jan's children, for giving their permission to publish this obituary.*

Yvonne de Rue

## Phil Jones

1948–2016

To describe Phil Jones, who died suddenly in January 2016, as a hugely experienced pottery specialist would be accurate, but Phil was so much more than that. Those of us who attended his funeral, some of whom knew him only as an archaeologist, heard a wonderful celebration of a life well lived – a life that encompassed not just archaeology (although that was Phil's main passion), but also music, dancing, gardening, a stint at art school and even a short-lived job in a slaughterhouse (after which he became a life-long vegetarian). I am indebted here to Phil's widow, Jan Jones, who has kindly allowed me to lift some biographical details from her eulogy given at the funeral.

Phil was born in London, but his family moved in the 1950s to Buckinghamshire, and he attended Dr Challoner's Grammar School in Amersham, although left before sitting any exams. Academic life may not have suited him, but this did not mean that Phil was

averse to learning. Quite the opposite, as he became the quintessential autodidact, learning through self-motivation and following his own interests, finally arriving, via a circuitous route, at archaeology. In the 1970s he joined the West Herts Archaeological Society and worked on a number of local digs as a volunteer. A chance to dig in Staines followed, and he then gained his first paid employment in archaeology with the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU). And there he stayed until shortly before his death, digging sites across the county, analysing pottery and other finds and, most importantly, publishing as much as he could. He was one of those rare specialists who covered all periods of pottery, but not only that, he was also a flint specialist, and an accomplished draughtsman, preparing all his own finds illustrations. Amongst his most important published contributions were the monographs on Roman and medieval Staines, and the Upper Palaeolithic site at Church Lammas,



but members of MPRG will remember him also for his extensive publication on the medieval pottery of Surrey. As Jan observed, 'Phil probably knew more about pottery in Surrey than anyone else, ever'.

His archaeological interests were, however, not confined to Surrey – in recent years he conducted his own fieldwork in Savernake Forest in Wiltshire, searching for evidence of the medieval pottery production sites which documentary evidence suggests were there. I must confess to passing up the opportunity to join Phil on one of these expeditions – it was the middle of winter and I just couldn't summon up the enthusiasm for a cold and muddy afternoon trudging through the forest. Phil's commitment put me to shame. After his death, Jan kindly allowed me to take some of the pottery which he had collected on various

independent field exercises, which revealed his interest in sites across Surrey, Berkshire and Hertfordshire.

A maverick in all the best senses of the word, Phil was single-minded in his pursuit of knowledge, and uncompromising in his belief that all archaeological work, including pottery analysis, should be done to the highest standards. In an era of commercialised archaeology and tight budgets, this inevitably brought him into conflict with others, and he could be blunt in his criticism of those whom he saw as failing the standard. But he was also unstinting in his advice and encouragement, and in sharing his knowledge, and his presence at meetings could always be guaranteed to enliven the discussion. His grand 'lay outs' of pottery for any site he was analysing were legendary, and all were welcome to come and contribute opinions. Many community groups and local societies, including the Surrey Archaeological Society, felt the benefit of his pottery recognition workshops. Not bad for a chap who described himself as 'very shy'. Not only that, but for around twenty years Phil acted as the Honorary Editor of the Surrey Archaeological Society Bulletin, producing at least six issues a year. He was a long-standing member of MPRG, and at the time of his death was serving as a Council member.

Phil lies in the Acorn Ridge burial ground just outside Newbury. The site is on a slope overlooking a wide valley towards Newbury, within a couple of kilometres of the sites of two medieval pottery kilns revealed during construction of the Newbury Bypass. He could not have chosen a better spot. The world is a poorer place for the loss of one who had such a passion for archaeology, and a desire to share that passion with others. His passing, and the loss of his huge experience, is deeply felt.

*Lorraine Mephram*