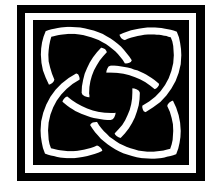


# Appleby Archaeology Newsletter



Autumn 2006

Volume 9 Issue 3

## NEWS

### Cartwheel Penny found at Milburn!

My crumbling front-garden path needed attention recently so I had to break up the old surface and dig quite a deep trench to accommodate a thicker layer of concrete. I was just tidying things up when I noticed a small metal object sticking out of the soil. It was green and circular and when disinterred felt curiously large and heavy – more like a medal than a coin. However, a little scientific rubbing on the kneecap revealed a gawky sort of Britannia on one side and a haughty-looking male head on the other. So, definitely a coin then. A proper wash now produced a clear date – 1797 – and what looked like a G E O round the prominently raised rim. Had I finally made my fortune?

Five minutes of investigation on the Internet provided a clear identification. According to 24carat.co.uk I appeared to have one of the very first pennies to be made of copper (earlier pennies having all been silver). These were minted by Boulton and Watt using steam-powered presses in their Soho foundry in Birmingham. Mine was an example of the first issue, struck in 1797 in the reign of George III. As well as being the first copper pennies they were also the first pennies to carry a Britannia. On the 1797 penny she was facing left, too, rather than right as on recent coins. This makes her look distinctly odd to modern eyes. Each coin was made from 1oz of copper, which is why they feel so large and unwieldy. In fact the design was so impractical that it was nicknamed the “Cartwheel

Penny”. The two pence pieces are even more agricultural, apparently

My example is a bit worn so, sadly, I need to find a few more of them before I can retire to the Mediterranean. I think it might be worth a fiver, though, and there are still plenty of paths to dig up. Meanwhile, the postman seems much happier.

(Below is a picture from the web of an unworn cartwheel penny)

*Martin Joyce*

***If you have any news, please  
Email the Newsletter Editor***



## Kirkland Survey

It seems that every time we visit Kirkland Fell we discover something new that we didn't see before! This summer has been no exception.

Despite initial equipment failure (a faulty power cable), several members have been out surveying more features on the fellside. We now have a fairly complete plan of the banks, tracks, cairns and enclosures that have been identified so far. A picture is emerging of a multi-period landscape, containing clearance cairns, a number of small prehistoric enclosures with hut circles attached, later rectangular structures (possibly medieval), and post-medieval field boundaries, tracks and agricultural features.

The bracken is now too high to permit further survey, but we are planning to take the project further next year through targeted excavation. This will hopefully enable us to identify the date and function of some of these features. We can then begin to develop an understanding of how people have utilised this landscape in the past.

Members will be informed of progress with this project through the newsletter. It will provide an opportunity to gain hands-on experience of archaeology, with guidance and training from professional archaeologists.

*Appleby Archaeology Group is grateful to Archaeological Services Durham University for the loan of surveying equipment and software.*

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## Autumn Events

### Monuments in the Landscape

7.30 Tues 10th Oct

Aaron Watson has recently been involved in the Monuments in Eden Project run by Penrith Museum. He will be talking to the group about Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial monuments in Cumbria and their relationship to the landscape.

### Visit to Long Meg and Her Daughters Stone Circle

2.00pm Sunday 29th Oct

Following the talk by Tom Clare earlier this year, the group will be visiting this impressive stone circle near Little Salkeld. Meet at the circle.

Contact Harry Hawkins for further details on 01768 864340

### Cumbrian

### Prehistoric Rockart

7.30 Tues 14th Nov

Kate Sharp has been studying Cumbrian prehistoric rockart at Durham University. What does it all mean? She will be talking about her research, and introducing some recent discoveries of new rock art sites in Cumbria.

### The Sedgefield Project

7.30 Tues 12th Dec

Gareth Davies of North Pennines Archaeology will be talking to the group about ten years of research, survey and excavation in a Norfolk Parish.

*Appleby Archaeology Group talks start at 7.30pm and are held in the Supper Room in the Market Hall, Appleby, Cumbria. Members Free. Non-members welcome: Entrance Fee £2.00*

### THE SENHOUSE ROMAN MUSEUM, MARYPORT LECTURE SERIES

(Tuesdays: \*Clash with Appleby Archaeology Group)  
**10th October\*** PAUL FLYNN  
Excavations at Maryport and the Roman conquest of Cumbria

**17 October**

**DAVID CRANSTONE**

Salt from the Solway: Medieval and later saltmaking in Cumberland and Southeast Scotland

**24th October**

**CHRIS HEALEY**

Evaluation of the Roman cemetery at Beckfoot

**31st October**

**ANN & JOHN HEARLE**

Community archaeology at Mellor: Mesolithic to Medieval

**7th November**

**ANDREW BIRLEY**

Vindolanda and the military community: expanding the knowledge of the Roman frontier

**14th November\***

**DAVID WOOLLISCROFT**

Agricola: He came, he saw, but did he conquer?

All Start 7.15pm Price £2.00



**SENDER:**

Appleby Archaeology Group, The White House, Brampton, Appleby, CA16 6JS  
Newsletter Editor: Martin Railton Email: martin@fellside-eden.freeserve.co.uk