



ULSTER  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY



Centre for  
**COMMUNITY  
ARCHAEOLOGY**  
Queen's University Belfast

# DISCOVERY 2021!

**FIFTH ANNUAL REVIEW OF  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN ULSTER**

**Saturday 6th November 2021**

**Online Conference**

**Queen's University Belfast**

## **Welcome from the Ulster Archaeological Society**

On behalf of the Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society (UAS), I would like to welcome everyone to the ***Discovery 2021! Fifth Annual Review of Archaeological Discoveries in Ulster*** conference organised by the Ulster Archaeological Society and the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast.

This has been another extraordinary year for all of us, as the coronavirus pandemic is still affecting face-to-face archaeological activities everywhere. However, the Ulster Archaeological Society continues to carry out its core aim of sharing information about new archaeological projects, research and publications in Ulster to both the archaeological profession and the general public. The utilisation of digital technology, such as online lectures, workshops and our UAS *eNewsletter*, has been an essential tool for us in this regard. And, for the second year in a row, our well-established annual *Discovery* conference is being hosted online. It is our hope that we may all be able to meet up in person, once again, at our conference next year.

The range of papers at the *Discovery 2021!* conference provides a taster of the important work currently being carried out across Ulster, and beyond, by heritage institutions and bodies, commercial archaeological companies and community groups. We hope that you find the presentations both enjoyable and informative. As always, the UAS Committee would like to thank all the participants for sharing their interesting new research with us. We would also like to thank Dr Duncan Berryman again for the immense work, expertise and commitment that he puts in to ensuring that we are able to host this years' conference online.

It gives us great pleasure to be able to launch at the conference a new and important book, ***Burials and Society in Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Ireland. Queen's University Belfast Irish Archaeological Monograph Series 1***, written by our old friend and colleague, Dr Cormac McSparron (QUB). This publication will be a very useful addition to the library of anyone interested in Irish archaeology.

We are also very excited that the new volume of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, Vol. **76** (2021), is going to press in the next few weeks and will be available by the end of the year. Our Journal remains the foremost repository of excavation reports and other papers on archaeological research in Ulster. On behalf of the UAS Committee, I would again like to thank Cormac Bourke (Hon. Editor of the Journal) and Grace McAlister (Hon. Assistant Editor of the Journal) for the hard work that they have put in to the preparation of this latest volume of the Journal.

We hope that you enjoy this year's conference and we look forward to seeing you again at the ***Discovery 2022!*** conference, next year.

**Ruairí Ó Baoill**  
**President, Ulster Archaeological Society**

## **Welcome from the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast**

Welcome to the fifth annual review of archaeological discoveries in Ulster – the Discovery 2021! conference. We've had another disruptive year because of Covid-19 and yet again we are holding our conference online. While it is disappointing that we cannot meet in person at Queen's University, one positive of the virtual conference is that it is more accessible and information about the latest discoveries can be shared with individuals far beyond Belfast. As always, the conference boasts a very rich programme with speakers from across the island and lectures covering a wide range of topics and eras from the Neolithic through to Early Modern times. The papers do not all focus on Irish archaeology, however, but also feature the islands of Shetland and Malta, demonstrating some of the work being undertaken further afield by scholars based in Ulster. We are delighted to start the presentations with a keynote lecture by Professor Carenza Lewis from the University of Lincoln. She is an archaeologist that needs no introduction and, from her early days with Channel 4's Time Team, Carenza has been a true champion of public engagement in archaeology, history and heritage.

It was not possible to organise community-based projects during Spring 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions but CCA staff were kept busy writing up reports and Brian Sloan had time to further develop his experimental archaeology skills. The CCA also held a one-day seminar on 8th May focused on the new research undertaken on Takabuti, the mummified Egyptian woman curated in the Ulster Museum. The seminar included presentations from the researchers involved in the project and culminated with the launch of *The Life and Times of Takabuti in Ancient Egypt: Investigating the Belfast Mummy*, edited by Professor Rosalie David (University of Manchester) and myself. In October 2020 the CCA's Dr Siobhán McDermott had spearheaded the development of an online learning platform, the Community Archaeology Toolkit, with funding from the QUB Engaged Research Fund and the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership. In 2021 Siobhán greatly expanded this digital presence through the creation of an online heritage campus for the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership, with courses on oral history, vernacular buildings, and archaeological excavation. The CCA also created an online storymap for Rathmore, the Dál nAraide capital outside Antrim town, and an online conference (15th July) on archaeological excavations conducted around the lough, both on behalf of the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership. A series of three online lectures was also delivered by the CCA (in the week commencing 9th August) for the Ring of Gullion AONB and Geopark's Lúnasa Festival.

As Summer came round and society began to open up, CCA staff were kept very busy with fieldwork projects. The first involved supporting the student training excavation which took place on the campus of Stranmillis College. The excavations were directed by Ruth Logue and ran over two three-week periods from June to August to enable our L1 and L2 students (whose training excavation in 2020 had to be cancelled due to the pandemic) to get fieldwork experience. Stranmillis revealed lots of surprises including evidence for prehistoric settlement. Brian Sloan then directed the first of our community-based excavations of the summer, a two-week excavation at Newmills, Co. Tyrone, undertaken on behalf of the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership, which explored the site of a nineteenth-century spade mill. While this excavation was ongoing, Dr Colm Donnelly was in County Fermanagh training volunteers how to survey vernacular buildings for the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership. At the end of August, I directed a one-week community-based excavation at a famine road in Boho, Co. Fermanagh, funded by the QUB Engaged Research Fund, and undertaken to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Great Famine's commencement in 1845. In September, Dr Heather Montgomery directed a four-week excavation of WWI training trenches at the Magilligan Training Estate on behalf of the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership. Our final excavation for 2021 has just ended and involved Brian Sloan directing a two-

week excavation in Enniskillen that aimed to explore the 'Backstreets' of the island town and was undertaken for the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership. You'll be hearing about four of these projects during Discovery 2021!.

We are very pleased to have the opportunity to launch Dr Cormac McSparron's new book – *Burials and Society in Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Ireland* – at the conference. This is the first in our new Queen's University Belfast Irish Archaeological Monograph Series and it is an excellent volume to start the series.

We are delighted to have reached the landmark fifth Discovery! conference since our shared annual conference provides us with an excellent opportunity to maintain our important relationship with the Ulster Archaeological Society. We hope you will enjoy the virtual conference and hearing about this year's range of exciting projects.

**Professor Eileen Murphy**

**Co-Director of the Centre for Community Archaeology**

**Deputy Head, School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast**

**DISCOVERY 2021!**  
**FIFTH ANNUAL REVIEW OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN**  
**ULSTER**

**Organised by the Ulster Archaeological Society and  
the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast**

**Saturday 6th November 2021**

**9.30**

**Conference Welcome:**

**Ruairí Ó Baoill** (President of the Ulster Archaeological Society)

**Dr Duncan Berryman** (Conference Co-ordinator, Ulster Archaeological Society)

**Professor Eileen Murphy** (Co-Director of the Centre for Community Archaeology,  
School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast)

**9.40**

**Keynote Address:**

**Professor Carenza Lewis** (University of Lincoln)

*The feelgood factor: Exploring archaeology, volunteering and wellbeing in the UK and Europe.*

**10.10**

**SESSION 1: COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Professor Eileen Murphy** (Queen's University Belfast)

*On 'the Line' - Excavation of a Famine Road in Boho, County Fermanagh.*

**Arlene Copeland, Emma Grossmith, Anne Harper, and Veronica Kelly**

(The Friends of Knock Iveagh)

*Breathing Life into the Embers at Knock Iveagh: The Importance of Community Guardianship in Protecting Heritage at Risk.*

**Kate Robb** (John Cronin & Associates)

*St. Mura's Cross-Slab, Fahan, County Donegal: Community, Collaboration, Resilience.*

**11.10**

**Morning Tea/ Coffee Break**

11.30

## SESSION 2: PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

**Dr Will Megarry** (Queen's University Belfast) and **Professor Gabriel Cooney**  
(University College Dublin)

*Living on the Edge: Mining, Marginality and Materiality in Neolithic Shetland.*

**Cóilín Ó Drisceoil** (National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local  
Government and Heritage) and **Aidan Walsh** (Aidan Walsh Consultancy)

*Materialising Power - New Archaeology from the Black Pig's Dyke, County  
Monaghan.*

**Dr Robert Barratt** (Queen's University Belfast)

*3D Simulation as a Tool for Archaeological Enquiry: Measuring Astronomical  
Alignments in Neolithic Malta.*

12.30

## SESSION 3: RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

**Ruth Logue** (Centre for Community Archaeology, Queen's University Belfast)  
*Surprises at Stranmillis.*

**Chris Lynn** (Gahan & Long Ltd)

*An Inherited Place: An Investigation of a Late Prehistoric Settlement and Famine  
Cemetery in Downpatrick.*

**Dr Heather Montgomery** (Centre for Community Archaeology, Queen's University  
Belfast)

*Phase 2 - Community Excavations at Magilligan Military Training Estate, County  
Londonderry, 2021.*

1.30

**Q & A for Morning Sessions**

1.40

**Lunch**

**2.20**                    **SESSION 4: MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Louise Moffett** (Queen's University Belfast)

*Combining Archaeological and Documentary Sources for Late Medieval Churches in the North of Ireland.*

**Dr Tracy Collins** (National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht)

*Re-discovering Nunneries in Medieval Ireland.*

**Judith Findlater** (Queen's University Belfast)

*Feeding Carrickfergus: A Zooarchaeological Study.*

**3.20**                    ***Afternoon Tea/ Coffee Break***

**3.40**                    **SESSION 5: ARCHITECTURE AND INDUSTRY**

**Dr Colm Donnelly** (Queen's University Belfast)

*Building Surveys of Five Vernacular Cottages from County Fermanagh.*

**Dr Christy Cunniffe** (Galway Community Archaeology)

*From the Ulster Borderlands to the Sliabh Aughty Uplands: The Post-Medieval Archaeology of Ulster Catholics Displaced Following the Battle of the Diamond.*

**Brian Sloan** (Centre for Community Archaeology, Queen's University Belfast)

*Excavations at Newmills, County Tyrone.*

**Stephen Gilmore** (Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd)

*"Built a Good Brick House" - 300 years of Change and Development in the Belfast Brick Industry.*

**5.00**                    **Q & A for Afternoon Sessions**

**5.10**                    **BOOK LAUNCH AND CLOSE OF CONFERENCE**

Launch of Dr Cormac McSparron's ***Burials and Society in Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Ireland. Queen's University Belfast Irish Archaeological Monograph Series 1*** (published by Archaeopress).

**Professor Eileen Murphy** (Co-Director of the Centre for Community Archaeology, School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast)

**Dr Cormac McSparron** (Queen's University Belfast)

**Ruairi Ó Baoill** (President of the Ulster Archaeological Society)

## Conference Abstracts and Profiles

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Professor Carenza Lewis (University of Lincoln)**

***The Feelgood Factor: Exploring Archaeology, Volunteering and Wellbeing in the UK and Europe.***

#### **Keynote Speaker abstract**

Recent years have seen increasing interest in the possibility that the practice of archaeology could not only help us understand the past and protect its physical remains but also deliver wider benefits. One area of particular interest has focussed on wellbeing, a core aim of the World Health Organisation since its 1948 inception and one of the United Nations' 17 goals for sustainable development. In some states the 21st century has seen rising numbers of archaeological projects in which at least one aim was to improve wellbeing in volunteers, but in many others opportunities for people other than professional archaeologists to participate in archaeological fieldwork remain very limited. This keynote paper presents the outcomes of recent and current work in England, the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Poland which is providing compelling evidence for the wide range of ways in which archaeological participation promotes wellbeing in volunteers and makes the case for such participation to become more widely available in the future.

#### **Keynote Speaker profile E-mail: [clewis@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:clewis@lincoln.ac.uk)**

**Professor Carenza Lewis** (MA ScD FSA FHEA FRSA) is an archaeologist and Professor of Public Understanding of Research in the School of History and Heritage at the University of Lincoln. Her research interests include medieval rural settlement, the archaeology of children and childhood, heritage communication and public engagement with research. She has directed numerous archaeological fieldwork and excavation projects in England, recently devised and delivered online 'Dig School' for locked-down school pupils during the COVID-19 pandemic, and is currently leading research exploring the impact of heritage volunteering and of involving members of the public in community excavations in the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Poland. A presenter for 13 years on the TV series Time Team, she is currently President of the Medieval Settlement Research Group and Vice-Chair of Trustees for the Council for British Archaeology.





## SESSION 1: COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

**Professor Eileen Murphy** (Queen's University Belfast)

***On 'the Line' - Excavation of a Famine Road in Boho, County Fermanagh.***

### **Abstract**

2020 marked the 175th anniversary of the commencement in 1845 of the Great Famine (An Gorta Mhór) in Ireland. The disaster continued to devastate the country until 1852 and was caused by the near-annual destruction of the potato crop as a result of Blight among a population that relied on the tubers for their sustenance. Starvation and its associated diseases caused social chaos across Ireland, as evidenced in the census returns of 1841 and 1851 which demonstrate that the population had reduced by almost 20% representing those who had either died or were forced to emigrate to survive. "Famine Roads" are a striking element of the historic landscape across Ireland but they have largely escaped archaeological attention. The Centre for Community Archaeology (CCA), supported by the QUB Engaged Research Fund, was to undertake an archaeological investigation of a "Famine Road" at Drummacoerin, Boho, County Fermanagh, last year but this was delayed until Summer 2021. Within Fermanagh the roads were constructed in the period from October 1846 to June 1847 when the British government's response to the crisis in Ireland was to initiate public work schemes, frequently involving the construction of new roads where the poor might obtain payment or food in return for work. Undertaken during a terrible winter, the schemes caused more harm than good among a population already racked by the effects of the catastrophe, and by Spring 1847 the programme was abandoned as a failure by the Whig government in London, and replaced with a network of soup kitchens. The paper will provide an introduction to famine roads in Fermanagh as well as an overview of the excavation of the "Famine Road in Boho.

### **Profile**

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**Professor Eileen Murphy** is Professor of Archaeology and Co-Director of the Centre for Community Archaeology in the School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast, and a Vice-President of the Ulster Archaeological Society. Much of her work focuses on human osteoarchaeology and burial practices but she has a long-standing interest in the archaeology of Fermanagh and she went to primary school just down the road from the famine road at Drummacoerin.



**Arlene Copeland, Emma Grossmith, Anne Harper, and Veronica Kelly** (The Friends of Knock Iveagh)

***Breathing Life into the Embers at Knock Iveagh: The Importance of Community Guardianship in Protecting Heritage at Risk.***

**Abstract**

Our paper aims to:

- Re-reveal the nature of the monument, its setting and its purpose;
- Outline the threats to the monument, and built heritage in general, from development (both authorised, unauthorised and Permitted);
- Explain how we identified these threats, approached the task of mitigation, what we achieved and what work is still required; and,
- Illustrate the discovery of additional archaeology at already recorded monuments and a number of new monuments, which, along with significant new academic research helps support our belief that Knock Iveagh sits at the centre of an exceptionally well-preserved royal ritual landscape containing important archaeological monuments from a wide range of periods.

We hope that our work and discoveries will provide a legacy that will help enable and empower other communities to take threatened heritage into their guardianship and to encourage engagement with public, private and third sector archaeologists and with our local authorities and the entire Planning system.

**Profiles**

**E-mail: [saveknockiveagh@gmail.com](mailto:saveknockiveagh@gmail.com)**

**The Friends of Knock Iveagh** came together in September 2017 following the discovery of the erection of an unauthorised telecommunications mast and flawed Planning Approval for a single wind turbine adjacent to a Scheduled Neolithic hilltop burial cairn on Knock Iveagh, Rathfriland, Co. Down. The Friends are a small group comprising working parents with a united interest in archaeology, Gaelic history, Irish mythology, built heritage, and music. Anne Harper Simmance is a professional musician and educator; Arlene Copeland is a freelance writer; Emma Grossmith is a lawyer and Veronica Williams is a civil servant. Some of the group members have participated in archaeological excavations in a voluntary and a paid capacity and are members of the Ulster Archaeological Society.



**Kate Robb** (John Cronin & Associates)

***St. Mura's Cross-Slab, Fahan, County Donegal: Community, Collaboration, Resilience.***

**Abstract**

St. Mura's Cross-Slab is weathering. A phenomenon that arguably, is to be expected of its likely c. 1,350 years placed in an outdoor coastal environment setting. However, historic photographic records and community testimony infers that the acceleration of weathering processes during the past 60 - 70 years appear to be an issue at the site.

Some inevitable loss of surface detail and structural instability is to be expected via continued retention of the Cross-Slab outdoors and in situ. An exploration of conservation interventions that (i) best protect the Cross-Slab in the long-term, and (ii) offer best presentation solutions for the visibility of the intricate carved artwork and visitor experience of the site, have been undertaken and funded by The Heritage Council Community Heritage Grants Scheme and National Monuments Service (DoHLGH) Community Monuments Fund.

This presentation explores conservation intervention measures that are framed within the context of current and future climate change challenges, shared responsibilities and collective action. In turn, the St. Mura's Cross-Slab Project offers an exciting opportunity to manage change using innovative practical and technological best practice, that can be relevant and applicable in a nationwide context.

**Profile**

**E-mail: [kate.rob主@johncronin.ie](mailto:kate.rob主@johncronin.ie)**

**Kate Robb** is Senior Archaeologist with John Cronin & Associates (JCA). A graduate of NUI Galway and with over 15 years' commercial industry experience, Kate has been involved in a wide range of both development-led and community-based projects. She currently acts as Community Archaeologist for the Farming Rathcroghan EIP-Agri Project (2019-present) and has been actively engaged with Fahan Community Council and the work at St. Mura's, Fahan, Co. Donegal since 2018.



## SESSION 2: PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

**Dr Will Megarry** (Queen's University Belfast) **Professor Gabriel Cooney** (University College Dublin)

***Living on the Edge: Mining, Marginality and Materiality in Neolithic Shetland.***

### Abstract

Shortly after arriving in the Shetland archipelago early in the 4th millennium BC, communities began to quarry and make stone tools from riebeckite felsite, quarried from the Northmavine region of North Mainland. The effort expended traveling to the quarry sites, extracting, making, and crafting tools was considerable indicating the importance of felsite to Neolithic communities and chronological evidence from the quarries and associated sites suggest substantial activity in an otherwise elusive period. This paper will explore what this activity can tell us about society on Shetland during the Neolithic, exploring concepts of insularity, identity, and choice..

### Profile

**E-mail: [W.Megarry@qub.ac.uk](mailto:W.Megarry@qub.ac.uk)**

**Dr Will Megarry** is a landscape archaeologist, geographical information systems (GIS) and heritage management specialist with over 10 years commercial and academic experience. He has a particular interest in the application and transferability of geospatial technologies to archaeology and cultural heritage site management and protection, with a particular focus on the impacts of climate change. He is also an active field archaeologist and has been working in Shetland for the last 10 years exploring stone tool production, settlement, and insularity on the edge of the European Neolithic.



**Cóilín Ó Drisceoil** (National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) **and Aidan Walsh** (Aidan Walsh Consultancy)

***Materialising Power - New Archaeology from the Black Pig's Dyke, County Monaghan.***

### Abstract

This paper offers a fresh perspective on linear earthworks, perhaps the most enigmatic and neglected of all of Ireland's prehistoric field monuments.

Focusing on one of the best-preserved and largest examples of the monument type in Europe, the renowned Black Pig's Dyke in County Monaghan, the authors integrate the results of excavations undertaken by Aidan

Walsh in 1982 with new surveys and scientific dating to present a radical reassessment of the chronological and physical development of the monument and its environmental and archaeological setting.

The authors also present, for the first time, an overall review of prehistoric linear earthworks in Ireland and use landscape-scale research to provide thought-provoking new insights into the purpose of these fascinating monuments and the roles they played in late prehistoric settlement patterns and societies.

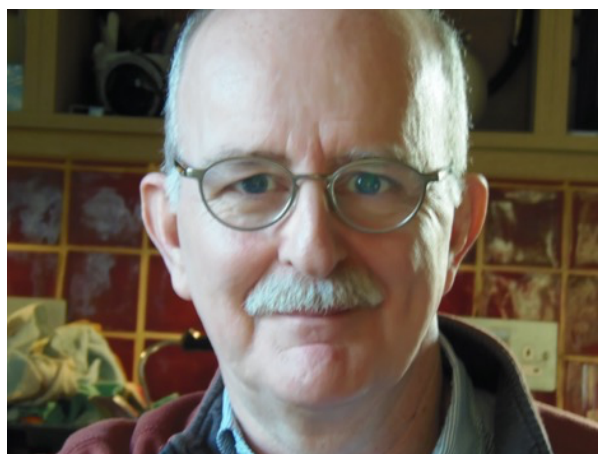
**Profiles**

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**Cóilín Ó Drisceoil** is an archaeologist with the National Monuments Service and is Principle Investigator of the Black Pig's Dyke Regional Project. He is co-author, with Aidan Walsh, of the recently published monograph *Materialising Power: The Archaeology of the Black Pig's Dyke, Co. Monaghan*.



**Aidan Walsh** is a graduate in archaeology from NUIG, now retired. From 1974 to 1989 he was Curator of the pioneering Monaghan County Museum in the Republic of Ireland, which was awarded the Council of Europe Museum Prize in 1981. From 1990-2001 he was Director of the Northern Ireland Museums Council. He is a Fellow of The UK Museums Association and past Chair of ICOM-UK (International Council of Museums, a UNESCO body). While in Monaghan, he directed an archaeological excavation at the Black Pig's Dyke.



**Dr Robert Barratt** (Queen's University Belfast)

***3D simulation as a Tool for Archaeological Enquiry: Measuring Astronomical Alignments in Neolithic Malta.***

**Abstract**

Over the last 30 years, digital techniques have become increasingly popular for the interpretation of archaeological contexts. New methods such as photogrammetry, 3D approximation and Virtual Reality have demonstrated the advantages of digital research, by providing new ways to engage with the archaeological records. One of these techniques, 3D simulation, has provided a new venue for archaeological experimentation, allowing researchers to answer a variety of questions by testing hypothesis in a virtual environment. Far from being a mere visualisation tool, 3D simulations can analyse complex scenarios, such as crowd movement, structural integrity of ancient buildings or lighting patterns in the past. The study here presented uses 3D simulations to tackle the question of astronomical alignment in Neolithic Malta. By recreating the position of astronomical bodies and measuring the angle of orientation, it is possible to identify patterns of alignment throughout the temples of the Maltese Islands. By using a custom script in Unity3D, changes in alignments can be measured at regular intervals, providing a larger picture of astronomical alignments throughout the Neolithic. Statistical analysis of the results show that solar alignment is less significant than previously thought, while orientation with the constellation of the Southern Cross is supported by the precision of the temple plans. The results change the current interpretation of the Maltese Neolithic belief system, by reducing the significance of solar events and emphasising landscape symbology. Furthermore, the study demonstrates how 3D simulations can be used to provide new data that can shape the archaeological discourse.

**Profile**

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**Dr Robert Barratt** recently completed his PhD at Queen's University Belfast. His thesis focused on the use of 3D simulations for the interpretation of archaeological evidence, especially with regards to the astronomical alignments and roofing stress in Neolithic Maltese temples. Presently, he is undertaking a post-doctorate with Dr. Maarten Blaauw, analysing 500 sediment core samples to stress test a new Pb-210 dating method.



## SESSION 3: RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

**Ruth Logue** (Centre for Community Archaeology, Queen's University Belfast)

***Surprises at Stranmillis.***

**Abstract**

The excavation in the grounds of Stranmillis University College was undertaken in summer 2021 as the QUB undergraduate training excavation; the work uncovered evidence of a previously unknown Neolithic site.

**Profile**

**E-mail:** [r.logue@qub.ac.uk](mailto:r.logue@qub.ac.uk)

**Ruth Logue** is a graduate of the University of Wales, College of Cardiff. She began working in QUB in 2002 with the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, now the Centre for Community Archaeology.



**Chris Lynn** (Gahan & Long Ltd)

***An inherited place: An investigation of a late prehistoric settlement and famine cemetery in Downpatrick.***

**Abstract**

In advance of construction of new school buildings for Down High School, Gahan & Long were contracted in 2019 to carry out an archaeological investigation of a workhouse famine cemetery and adjacent lands. Due to the covid-19 outbreak, archaeological excavation is still progressing until 2022, but to date more than 700 individuals have been removed from the graveyard. Investigation of the surrounding lands revealed a substantial prehistoric settlement containing more than 100 structures of diverse types, internal pathways and furnace activity constructed on top of a Bronze Age cemetery.





methods employed in the training of Ireland's volunteer recruits. This critical examination led to the identification of previously unrecognised archaeological remains throughout Ireland, illustrating how these remains represent a wealth of unstudied and largely unknown Irish First World War heritage, presenting significant new evidence that challenged the existing historical narrative on the training of the new Irish Divisions.

Heather was Director of the Phase 1 Magilligan First World War Community Excavations in 2020, Co-Director of Ballykinler Archaeological Excavations in March 2019, Director of excavations at Ballykinler Training Estate in 2016 and Co-director of excavations at Grey Point Fort in 2014. She was also Project Officer for Material Cultures and Landscapes for QUB WW1 Engagement Centre and Project researcher and archivist, 'Men Behind the Glass' HLF funded research project.

Heather is passionate about public outreach and the positive role heritage, material culture and archaeology can have on people and places. Community and public outreach accounted for a significant part of her work during her doctoral studies. The projects were undertaken at different times throughout the course of her study and were often in collaboration with groups such as the HLF, the HED Defence Heritage Project, the Ministry of Defence and the Irish Defence Forces, Department for Defence. The aims of the projects were to engage members of the public with their local heritage. Heather was responsible for coordinating volunteer groups and school visits (primary, secondary and special needs), an integral part of these community excavations and engagement events. To do this successfully she liaised with representatives from other stakeholders to coordinate interactive group visits to the sites and events. An important element of her work as a Project Officer with the Living Legacies 1914-18 Engagement Centre included functioning as a Facilitator alongside the Council for British Archaeology, designing and delivering interactive workshops to local community groups and if required primary and secondary schools. These workshops were modified, to suit the age, ability and knowledge of the participants.

Heather is a Member of Defence Heritage Advisory Board for Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT), Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme, a Member of the Royal Engineers Historical Society and the Military History Society of Ireland. She is also a Leader with Belfast Young Archaeologists' Club.



## SESSION 4: MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY

**Louise Moffett** (Queen's University Belfast)

***Combining Archaeological and Documentary Sources for Late Medieval Churches in the North of Ireland.***

### **Abstract**

Late medieval church sites are a common feature across the north of Ireland, many of which have both visible archaeological remains and references in medieval documents. Despite this, most late medieval church studies either analyse church architecture in a local area or present narrative histories of ecclesiastical and political developments in the wider Irish Church in the period. This paper discusses the use of interdisciplinary methodology in a regional study of late medieval parish churches in the north of Ireland. It assesses the archaeological and documentary sources available for late medieval churches in this area and the types of information that can be drawn from them, and concludes with a case-study to demonstrate some of the advantages of the interdisciplinary approach and the new lines of inquiry it can lead to.

### **Profile**

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**Louise Moffett** is a second-year PhD student at Queen's University Belfast, funded by the Northern Bridge Consortium. After graduating in 2017 with a BSc in Archaeology and Palaeoecology from Queen's University Belfast, she completed an MA in Medieval Archaeology at the University of York. Louise then worked for a commercial archaeology company in England on various archaeological excavations, before returning to Queen's. Her PhD title is "The Place of the Late Medieval Church in Ulster". She is also a member of the Ulster Archaeology Society.



**Dr Tracy Collins** (National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht)

***Re-discovering Nunneries in Medieval Ireland.***

**Abstract**

Medieval religious houses are almost ubiquitous antiquities of both the countryside and towns of Ireland. The popular perception is that the majority of these ruins were monasteries for monks, but in reality they represent a much more diverse group. This group includes religious houses for monks, such as the Benedictines and Cistercians; canons, such as the Augustinians; friars, such as the Franciscans and Dominicans, and houses of female religious or nuns, which were affiliated to all these religious orders. This paper introduces these female religious communities, discusses their archaeology and architecture, and attempts to place them in their wider context of medieval monastic Ireland and Europe.

**Profile**

**E-mail: [tracycollins@gmail.com](mailto:tracycollins@gmail.com)**

**Dr Tracy Collins** is a professional archaeologist and was a founding director of an archaeological services company, Aegis Archaeology Limited, in 1997. She has recently begun a new role as archaeologist with the National Monuments Service, in the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage. Her PhD research was undertaken in the Department of Archaeology, University College Cork and completed in 2016. A monograph based on this research *Female Monasticism in Medieval Ireland: An Archaeology* has just been published by Cork University Press. For a publication list please see: <https://ucc-ie.academia.edu/TracyCollins>.



**Judith Findlater** (Queen's University Belfast)

***Feeding Carrickfergus: A Zooarchaeological Study.***

**Abstract**

This paper will provide an introduction to medieval livestock husbandry with the main focus being on the faunal assemblage data from excavations held in Carrickfergus since the 1980s. The paper will discuss ongoing work that is being undertaken as part of a PhD and will include discussions on analyses that are currently being undertaken such as biometrics and isotopic studies on the fauna recovered in archaeological contexts that can be used to ascertain husbandry methods.

**Profile**

**E-mail:** [jfindlater01@qub.ac.uk](mailto:jfindlater01@qub.ac.uk)

**Judith Findlater** graduated with a BSc Archaeology/Palaeoecology degree from QUB in 1999 and then undertook an MSc Osteoarchaeology at Bournemouth University. She had left archaeology for some years but had returned to the discipline working on various archaeological excavations and also with Historic Environment Division (HED) more recently. She is currently a 2nd year PhD Researcher at QUB funded by the Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Programme. The title of her PhD is 'Feeding Medieval Carrickfergus: A Multi-Proxy Study of Livestock Husbandry in a Frontier Town'. She is also currently a committee member of the Ulster Archaeological Society.



## SESSION 4: ARCHITECTURE AND INDUSTRY

**Dr Colm Donnelly** (Queen's University Belfast)

***Building Surveys of Five Vernacular Cottages from County Fermanagh.***

### **Abstract**

Vernacular architecture constitutes the ordinary small houses of the recent past where the material, form and design were dictated by the experience and expertise of the craftworkers who constructed the buildings and the resources that were locally available. Often thatched, these dwellings have now been largely abandoned, falling into ruin, and vanishing as a component of our cultural landscape. As a module within the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership (LELP) Legacy of Landscape programme in 2021 the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's developed a two-stage project designed to provide community participants with the knowledge and training required to 'read' these buildings and undertake basic measured surveys and associated historical research on examples in the Fermanagh landscape, thereby empowering local communities to better engage with their built heritage. A four-week VLE entitled Recording and Surveying Vernacular Buildings was launched on the LELP's online heritage campus on 19th July and this was followed by a series of five building surveys conducted over a fortnight in August 2021.

### **Profile**

**E-mail: [c.j.donnelly@qub.ac.uk](mailto:c.j.donnelly@qub.ac.uk)**

**Dr Colm Donnelly** is the Co-Director of the Centre for Community Archaeology in the School of Natural and Built Environment at Queen's University Belfast. His research focuses on the history, architecture and archaeology of Ireland from the Late Medieval period through to the 20th century.



**Dr Christy Cunniffe** (Galway Community Archaeology)

***From the Ulster Borderlands to the Sliabh Aughty Uplands: The Post-Medieval archaeology of Ulster Catholics displaced following the Battle of the Diamond.***

**Abstract**

The talk will examine the archaeological and cultural legacy of the Ulster Catholics known locally as Ultach's who were displaced after the Battle of the Diamond in 1795. This layer of post medieval archaeology was recorded as part of the fieldwork undertaken by the Galway Community Archaeologist.

**Profile**

**E-mail: [christycunniffe@gmail.com](mailto:christycunniffe@gmail.com)**

**Dr Christy Cunniffe** served as Field Monument Advisor/Community Archaeologist with Galway County Council for over ten years. He is now retired, but active in the realm of archaeology and heritage research and promotion. He completed a PhD in the Department of Archaeology in 2010 on the medieval settlement at Clonfert. He is currently researching devotion in the Sliabh Aughty's and also the history of human settlement in Clonfert Callows, a group of townlands formerly inhabited on the banks of the River Shannon in East Galway.



**Brian Sloan** (Centre for Community Archaeology, Queen's University Belfast)

***Excavations at Newmills, County Tyrone.***

**Abstract**

A community-based excavation was undertaken by the Centre for Community Archaeology QUB at Newmills, Co. Tyrone in August 2021. The site is depicted on the 1st edition OS map as the location of a spade manufactory, although its function had changed to a creamery by 1900. The site consisted of a row of small houses known as 'Creamery Row' as well as an industrial complex including a millrace and large water wheel. The project involved the excavation of two trenches to investigate the social as well as industrial heritage of this site with fantastic results! The investigation was carried out in association with the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership and funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund.

**Profile**                      **E-mail: [b.sloan@qub.ac.uk](mailto:b.sloan@qub.ac.uk)**

**Brian Sloan** is an Excavation Director with the Centre for Community Archaeology Queen's University Belfast. Since joining the unit in 2003, Brian has directed a number of excavations most notably the recent community-based investigations at Cathedral Hill Downpatrick, Co. Down. As well as being a lithics specialist, Brian has been developing a programme of experimental archaeology activities with QUB undergraduate students, presented to the public as the annual 'Skills of the Ancients Archaeology Festival' carried out in association with the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership.



**Stephen Gilmore** (Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd)

***“Built a Good Brick House” - 300 years of Change and Development in the Belfast Brick Industry.***

**Abstract**

An examination of brickmaking in Belfast over the past 300 years and how technological change and alteration of raw material sources has impacted on its development

**Profile**                                      **E-mail: [stephen@northarc.co.uk](mailto:stephen@northarc.co.uk)**

**Stephen Gilmore** graduated with a BSc. in Archaeology from Queens University, Belfast in 1990. Since then he has worked as a field archaeologist at all levels of responsibility to Project Manager and on all types of site from the Neolithic to the Twentieth Century. From 1990 to 1995, he worked as an archaeologist for the EHS. In the mid 1990s Stephen was a founder member of Archcor, and in 1998 was a co-founder of Northern Archaeological

Consultancy Ltd which he continues to run. Stephen is the director responsible for Health and Safety (Safetycert) and environmental good practice (Nvirocert) with NAC Ltd and one of NAC's Project Managers which involves developer liaison, and scheduling, organising and overseeing all fieldwork carried out by the company. His areas of interest include Bronze Age burial practice and brick making technology, especially the development of continuous kilns and is currently undertaking an MPhil examining the development of the Belfast brickmaking industry at Queens University Belfast. He holds an IOSH Managing Safely in Construction certificate, and is a member of CIfA.





## Further information and Acknowledgements

### **Information about the Ulster Archaeological Society**

The current Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society comprises: Ruairí Ó Baoill (President), Professor Eileen Murphy and Barrie Hartwell (Vice Presidents), Ken Pullin BEM (Honorary Secretary), Lee Gordon (Honorary Treasurer), Cormac Bourke (Honorary Editor, *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*), Grace McAlister (Honorary Assistant Editor, *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*), Anne MacDermott MBE (Assistant Secretary Events and Vice President), Dr Duncan Berryman (Honorary Editor: UAS Newsletter), Randal Scott, Roisín McCaughan Brian Sloan, David Craig, Leo van Es, Judith Findlater, Patrick O'Neill, Dr Ian Meighan and Josh Palmer (Committee members).

### **For further information about the activities of the Ulster Archaeological Society please see our**

Website: <https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/uas/>

Facebook site: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/The-Ulster-Archaeological-Society-190943297657719/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ulsterarcsoc>

Email: [ulsterarchaeolsoc@gmail.com](mailto:ulsterarchaeolsoc@gmail.com)

The Ulster Archaeological Society is registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC101151

### **Further information about Archaeology & Palaeoecology at Queen's University Belfast**

For further information about Archaeology & Palaeoecology at Queen's and our activities please see our

Websites: [www.archaeology-palaeoecology-qub.com](http://www.archaeology-palaeoecology-qub.com)

[www.qub.ac.uk/schools/NBE/](http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/NBE/)

Facebook: [@archaeologyatqueensbelfast](https://www.facebook.com/archaeologyatqueensbelfast)

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YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGI1c\\_dt-Mg58f9nELc93zA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGI1c_dt-Mg58f9nELc93zA)

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### **Acknowledgements**

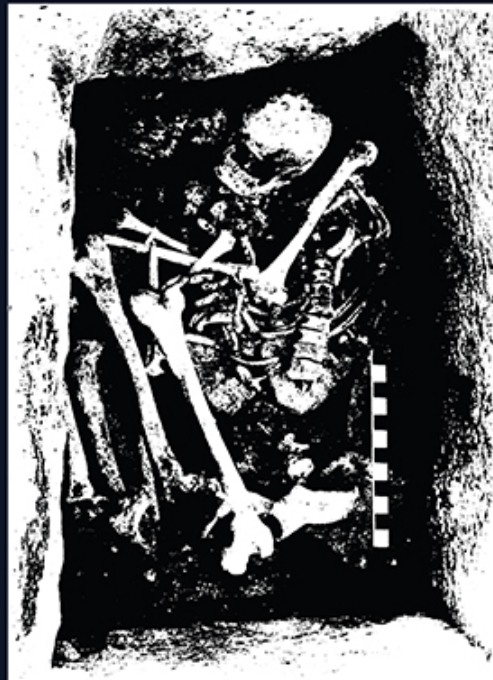
The Committee of the Ulster Archaeological Society and the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University Belfast would like to thank especially Dr Duncan Berryman for the huge amount of work he put into the technological side of staging the conference. Our thanks also go to Libby Mulqueeny, Queen's University Belfast, who provided the graphics for the conference poster and booklet.

Last, but not least, we would like again to thank all the participants in the conference who have so generously agreed to share their discoveries with us.



IRISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MONOGRAPHS  
Queen's University Belfast

# Burials and Society in Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Ireland



**Cormac McSparron**

