

# Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic Alumni Newsletter

Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic

Issue 12 September 2022



ASNC students attending the Old Irish Summer School  
at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies,  
with Dr Caitlin Ellis, DIAS O'Donovan Scholar and ASNC alumna



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



## A Message from the Head of Department

Hello everybody, and welcome to the 2022 Alumni Newsletter! The appearance of this newsletter might prompt questions about last year's missing newsletter. 2020–2021 was difficult in every way: all teaching had to be done remotely via Zoom and recorded lectures; our usual round of social events had to be cancelled; and even at the end of the year, when restrictions began to be lifted, the limit on the number of people allowed to gather out-of-doors meant that the Garden Party had to be held in two sessions of one hour each, with forty people the maximum at each session. The pandemic also meant additional administration, which likewise had to be done remotely. Everything took longer and was more effortful, and in the end, regrettably, the 2021 Alumni Newsletter was deprioritised.

This year's report is a welcome contrast. In-person teaching and meetings have resumed, and the adoption of hybrid technology has given us greater flexibility and impact, so that our public lectures and Alumni Festival Event now reach international audiences. And there was room at the Garden Party for everyone who wanted to attend! It sounds like a small thing, but it meant a lot.

Read on for more news of the Department and our alumni, but first farewell and warmest wishes to those who have left this year: Brittany Schorn (Oxford), Ben Guy (Cardiff), and Brynja Þorgeirsdóttir (Háskóli Íslands). Farewell also to JP Røed, a major benefactor of the Department, whose generosity supported the teaching of Scandinavian History for more than two decades.

We close with special thanks to the newsletter's new editor, Becky Shercliff, who took this on during a rather busy summer—see 'Weddings and Births' below for the adorable photos. Dear ASNCs, please keep on staying in touch! The Alumni Facebook group and email are good ways to let us know what you've been doing.

*Elizabeth Ashman Rowe*  
*Head of Department*

## Departmental News and Events

---

### **Podcasting in the USA, and other US matters**

*Dr Ali Bonner*

During the past 18 months I've been asked to appear on a couple of US podcasts to talk about my book *The Myth of Pelagianism*. In this country if they know anything about it at all, most people would think 'Pelagianism' is a matter of late antiquity, of little contemporary relevance. But not so in the US, where they take their religion seriously. Interpretation of Christian theology is not just for academics or pastors, nor is it discussed as a matter of purely historical interest. There is a lively podcasting community with a fair viewing audience. Serious, well-read, well-informed hosts engage in thoughtful and passionate debate with guests on topics related to Pelagius such as Calvinism, Augustine of Hippo's theology, free will, and grace. Discussion is about how to live now, and how Christ's words should direct Christians' behaviour and understanding now.

The two podcasts were both Protestant in outlook, but really simply Christian in their hosts' desire to understand the doctrinal history of Christianity and how it relates to what is written in the Bible. As you might perhaps imagine, I had a few concerns about my level of Biblical expertise going into such forums given that my work is on late antique Christian texts, not Biblical textual criticism or analysis.

The first podcast I appeared on had the slightly alarming title *IdolKiller*, the second was called *Soteriology 101*. Both hosts were very professional and well used to using StreamYard software to interview contributors from across the globe. When I enquired before the first one how long the interview would last, Warren McGrew of *Idolkiller* replied around 2 hours, which I asked to be reduced to 90 minutes. In fact the time went by quickly, as Warren was a sympathetic and skilful interviewer. The same was true of Leighton Flowers of *Soteriology 101*. Something I found interesting was the content of emails I received from countries around the world following the podcasts; most were seeking further information and asking questions, but in general there was a definite trend to appreciate the tone of the discussion being calm and reasonable. For example, I was thanked for discussing the issues in a

collegial way, with an open mind. I took from this that discussion is perhaps often heated and not entirely kind. Overall, the experience allowed me to better understand the extent to which the question of how God's grace, predestination, and human responsibility coexist and interact is a living, vital issue for many Christians, and how deeply they engage with the Bible and patristic and modern secondary literature to explore it.

I gained an insight into just how live this issue is from a different perspective when I was asked by a journalist to give him my analysis of references to 'Pelagianism' made by US Republican Senator Josh Hawley in several of his speeches. It's possible these references might have passed unnoticed had not Senator Hawley been judged to have shown support for the group who stormed Congress in January 2021. Professor Emeritus Dan Melia of Berkeley had a letter published in the *New York Times* in which he urged Senator Hawley 'not to continue to project demonstrably "fake news" backwards from the present electoral denial to misrepresentations of the positions of ancient theologians'. Professor Melia referred to my book in his letter. Unsurprisingly some commentators (in particular those supportive of Democrat politics) were briefly keen to know more about Senator Hawley's argument about 'Pelagianism', since the Senator has used the heresy-accusation as a political weapon (the raised apostrophes are mine, not Senator Hawley's). In the end the journalist didn't use the material I sent him (not the first time I have spent time researching and writing a piece for a journalist to find it was not used). He apologised for not using my material in his piece on Senator Hawley, saying there wasn't space. What I showed was that Senator Hawley derived his ideas from two Papal exhortations (i.e. letters) issued by Pope Francis in 2013 and 2018, in which the Pope warned against heretics he termed 'neo-Pelagians'. I also observed that for some Catholics the Pope's apostolic letters cannot be questioned. I was left wondering whether the journalist felt it better to focus on the senator, where widening the analysis to include the Pope would distract from Senator Hawley's politics and alleged support for the rioters. However, I benefited from looking into this, because although I knew about the Papal exhortations, I did not know the ideas propounded in them were being recycled by a US politician.

Overall, what I learned from these experiences was that knowing about Pelagius is not only critical for understanding early medieval history, but also for understanding Christianity now, and occasionally politics too.

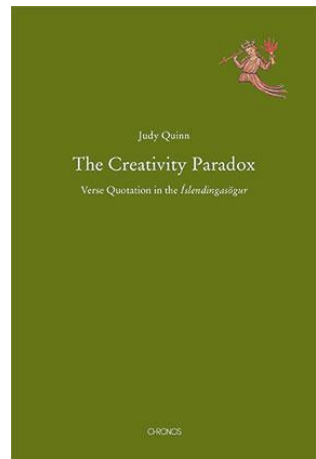
## Prof. Richard Dance delivers 'George Jack Lecture' in St Andrews

On 4 April 2022, Prof. Richard Dance visited St Andrews University to give this year's 'George Jack Lecture'. This annual lecture honours George Jack, a distinguished scholar of Old and Middle English language and literature whom ASNCs will know best for his brilliant student edition of *Beowulf*. Prof. Dance gave a lecture called 'Many Meetings: Medieval English and the Etymologist', which was attended by an in-person audience in Parliament Hall, St Andrews, and by members of the wider academic community online.

---

## Prof. Judy Quinn delivers Medieval Philology Lecture in Zurich

Prof. Judy Quinn was invited to give the Annual Lecture in Medieval Philology at the University of Zurich last year. It will be published later this year as *The Creativity Paradox: Verse Quotation in the Íslendingasögur* as volume 14 of Mediävistische Perspektiven.



## Research Projects

---

### Gollancz Prize for ‘The Gersum Project’

*Prof. Richard Dance*

In 2021 the British Academy awarded its Sir Israel Gollancz Prize to current and former ASNCs Richard Dance, Sara Pons Sanz and Brittany Schorn for ‘The Gersum Project: the Scandinavian Influence on English Vocabulary’. The Gollancz Prize is one of the most prestigious international awards in the fields of Old and Middle English language and literature and the history of the English language, and has been given every two years since 1925. For more information, see: <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/prizes-medals/sir-israel-gollancz-prize/>.

The Gersum Project was a collaborative research venture in English lexicography, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) from 2016–20. It is named after the Middle English word *gersum*, borrowed from Old Norse *gørsemi* ‘treasure’, and it is the fullest survey ever undertaken of the rich and varied body of English words derived from Old Norse. Its research has resulted in a fully searchable online catalogue (<https://www.gersum.org>) of the more than 900 different words for which an origin in Norse has been suggested in a corpus of major Middle English poems from the North of England – a catalogue which includes the medieval ancestors of everyday words like ‘sky’, ‘egg’, ‘law’, ‘leg’, ‘take’, ‘window’, ‘knife’, ‘die’, ‘skin’ and ‘they’, as well as others as diverse and intriguing as *hernez* ‘brains’, *muged* ‘drizzled’, *stange* ‘pole’ and *wothe* ‘danger’. The project also incorporated a number of events, including an inter-disciplinary conference in Cambridge in 2018 and a series of talks open to the general public. The main phase of Gersum ran from 2016–19, with a ‘Follow-on Funding’ extension in 2019–20 which focused on public engagement work with schools and project partners including the Jorvik Viking Centre in York.



## Latin Arthurian Literature and the Rise of Fiction

Dr Francesco Marzella

The editorial work of the *Latin Arthurian Literature and the Rise of Fiction* project continues, and new editions and English translations of Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Vita Merlini* and other Latin Arthurian texts will be published on the project website and in the *Oxford Medieval Texts* series. Meanwhile, a first book sprouted from the same research interests that inspired the project. *Excalibur: La spada nella roccia tra mito e storia* (*Excalibur: The sword in the stone between myth and history*) was published in March by the Italian publisher *Salerno Editrice*. The book explores the genesis of one of the most popular episodes of all medieval literature, the story of the sword that only Arthur was able

to pull out of the stone and anvil, told for the first time in Robert de Boron's *Merlin* (c. 1200). The investigation starts with a comparison with a lesser-known episode, the story of the pastoral staff that only Wulfstan of Worcester was able to retrieve from Edward the Confessor's tomb stone, and then continues examining other stories from various cultural traditions and geographic areas – from the Mediterranean Sea to Iceland – coming to surprising and unexpected conclusions on the sources that

inspired Robert de Boron. The book was first launched in L'Aquila, in the seventeenth-century Palazzetto dei Nobili, and more recently in the medieval castle of Ceccano (Frosinone), where tourists can now see a reproduction of the sword in the stone in a restored room that was inaugurated on this occasion and dedicated to San Galgano. In fact, a cardinal from the noble family that ruled this town contributed to the foundation of the Abbey of San

### EXCALIBUR

La spada nella roccia tra mito e storia



Francesco Marzella





Galgano, in Tuscany, where the twelfth-century sword of Galgano, a saint who was once a knight, can still be admired plunged in the rock. This real sword in the stone and some episodes in Galgano's life have suggested a comparison with the Arthurian legend. Another book launch is planned to take place in September, in Chiusdino (Siena), Galgano's birthplace, where analogies and differences between this story and the Arthurian episode will be discussed with local scholars.

For more information on Francesco's book *Excalibur*, see:

<https://www.unionesarda.it/en/excalibur-between-myth-and-history-p6ku7ry7>

---

## **Mapping the Medieval World: Ireland's Literary Landscapes in a Global Space**

*Prof. Máire Ní Mhaonaigh*

*Mapping the Medieval World: Ireland's Literary Landscapes in a Global Space* is a five-year research project based in the ASNC Department led by Prof. Máire Ní Mhaonaigh and funded by the Leverhulme Trust. The project focuses on the extensive material describing the naming and peopling of Ireland's landscape, a compilation known as *Dindshenchas Éirenn* which can be translated 'Knowledge of Ireland's Notable Places'. Postdoctoral researchers Dr David McCay and Dr Marie-Luise Theuerkauf continue to transcribe and analyse these neglected narratives in which the description of human interaction with the landscape features creates a storied space.

The relationship between humans and their surroundings; the role of the supernatural and the imagination in shaping landscapes; naming and ownership of land are among the themes that feature in *dindshenchas*, as they do in other literatures of place. A seminar series exploring multifarious aspects of the depiction of medieval landscapes, *Shifting Landscapes of the Medieval World*, brought this comparative dimension to the fore. Organised by Prof. Máire Ní Mhaonaigh and Dr Miranda Griffin of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages and Linguistics in Cambridge, it probed such topics as 'Landscape as Cosmology' and 'Landscape as Knowledge' in six monthly meetings. A conference



building on the themes that emerged from the vibrant discussion will take place in the Department's home at 9 West Road, 13–15 September 2022 with virtual or in-person attendance possible. You can read more about the Shifting Landscapes series and conference at: <https://shiftinglandscapes.crash.cam.ac.uk/>.

---

## **The Many Lives of a Manuscript: The Southampton Psalter**

*Dr Rebecca Shercliff*

We are delighted to announce the launch of a new digital teaching resource aimed at secondary school students and undergraduates, which can be found at:

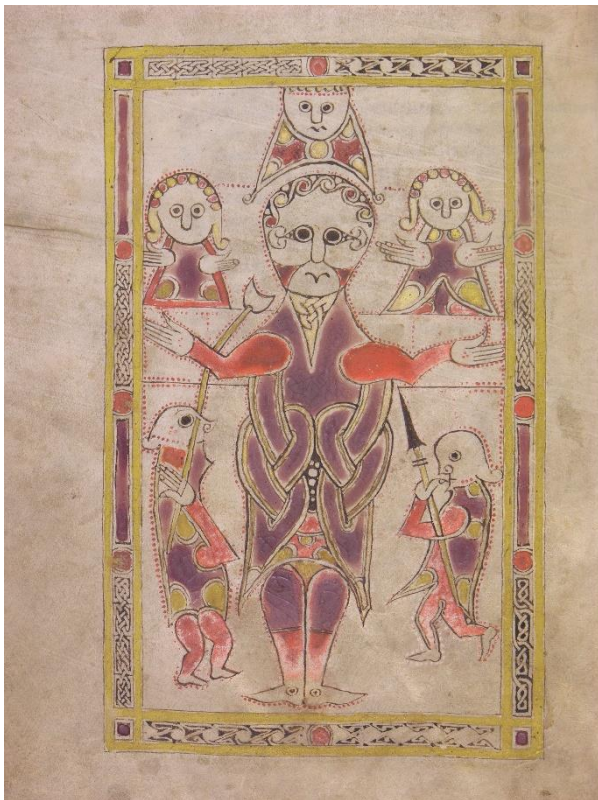
[www.museums.cam.ac.uk/lookingatcollections/projects/southampton-psalter](http://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/lookingatcollections/projects/southampton-psalter).

In collaboration with the Fitzwilliam Museum and funded by the St John's College Annual Fund, Prof. Máire Ní Mhaonaigh, Dr Rebecca Shercliff and Dr Alice Taylor-Griffiths have developed a website based around the medieval Irish manuscript known as the Southampton Psalter, which is held in St John's College Library.

The Southampton Psalter is an illuminated Irish psalm book, dating to around 1000 AD. Its three full-page illuminations and other illuminated lettering indicate that it was intended as a display book, but interestingly it also contains a large number of glosses in Latin and Irish, suggesting that it was used actively for study as well. The glossing language, alongside its script, organisation and decoration, clearly indicate an Irish origin for this manuscript, but ultimately it ended up in England, among a group of books which were donated to St John's College in 1635 by the Earl of Southampton (hence the manuscript's name).

As part of our project, the manuscript was fully digitised for the first time and can now be viewed via the Cambridge Digital Library (<https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-SJC-C-00009/1>). Making use of these digital images, we designed a website which guides students through the various 'lives' of this fascinating but little-known manuscript, in its roles as lavishly decorated display book, highly annotated learning resource for scholars, and valued object of antiquity. Concepts such as

manuscript production and illumination, religious iconography, interpretation of glosses, and manuscripts as collectors' items are explored in depth using a range of interactive tools. Students are able to brainstorm ideas using drop-down boxes, to watch instructional videos and are directed towards further online resources in order to enrich their understanding of this manuscript. The website is aimed at undergraduates seeking an introduction to the study of palaeography, and also at secondary school students undertaking independent research projects who are keen to explore medieval studies further. If any alumni have connections with schools or teachers, please do pass on the link to this website, which should provide a valuable outreach opportunity for the Department.

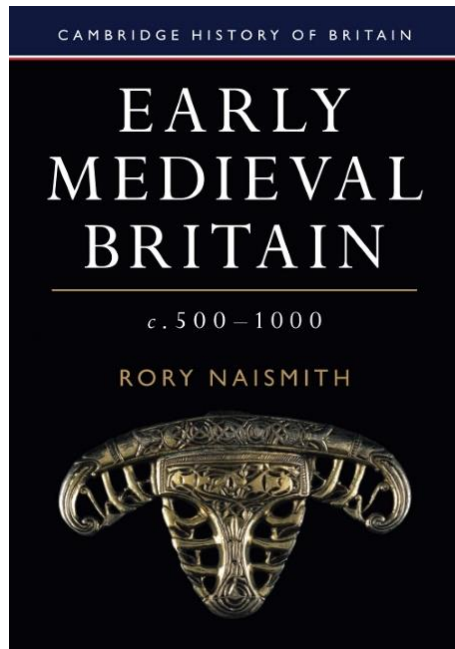


*Southampton Psalter, St John's College, C.9, f. 35v*  
*By permission of the Master and Fellows*  
*of St John's College, Cambridge*

### **Early Medieval Britain, c. 500–1000**

*by Dr Rory Naismith*

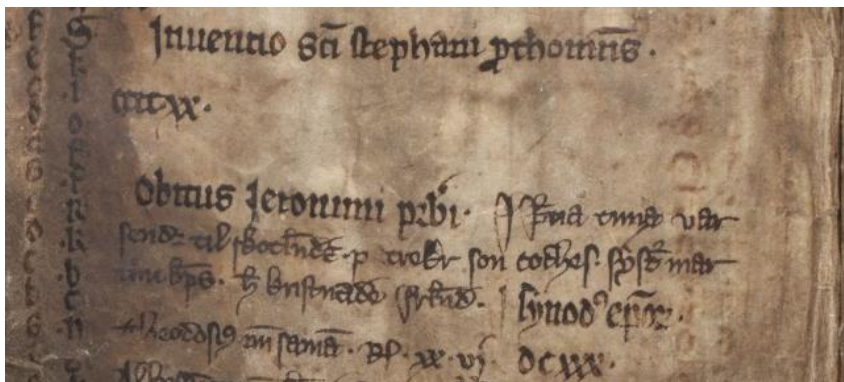
Early medieval Britain saw the birth of England, Scotland and of the Welsh kingdoms. Rory Naismith's introductory textbook explores the period between the end of Roman rule and the eve of the Norman Conquest, blending an engaging narrative with clear explanations of key themes and sources. Using extensive illustrations, maps and selections from primary sources, students will examine the island as a collective entity, comparing political histories and institutions as well as societies, beliefs and economies. Each chapter foregrounds questions of identity and the meaning of 'Britain' in this period, encouraging interrogation and contextualisation of sources within the framework of the latest debates and problems. Featuring online resources including timelines, a glossary, end-of-chapter questions and suggestions for further reading, students can drive their own understanding of how the polities and societies of early medieval Britain fitted together and into the wider world, and firmly grasp the formative stages of British history.



## The Medieval Annals of Iceland

by Prof. Elizabeth Ashman Rowe

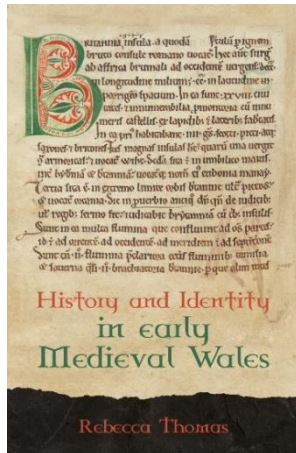
This two-volume work is forthcoming from the Islandica monograph series at Cornell University Press. Volume One provides the first complete English translation of the medieval annals of Iceland, and Volume Two describes each set of annals, their relationship to each other, and their context of production. A little-known yet important group of primary sources, these works were compiled from the thirteenth to the early fifteenth century, in secular as well as ecclesiastical contexts. Most begin with the Incarnation and draw on a variety of sources to supply information for the years up to the annalists' own day, at which point they begin recording current events. The annals are thus doubly interesting, for the early entries give us a glimpse into the annalists' libraries, which evidently contained the works of Bede, Peter Comestor, Honorius of Autun, Geoffrey of Monmouth, Ekkehard of Aura, Sigebert of Gembloux, and Adam of Bremen. The later entries provide a wide range of events that the annalists thought significant. Foreign events reported include the succession of popes, the Crusades, a wedding in Greenland, the fate of William Wallace (news which probably came from Scotland to Isabella Bruce, the widowed queen of Norway who lived in Bergen), and the sighting of a giant in northern Norway. In Iceland, the weather, shipwrecks, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, epidemics, crimes, and the succession of bishops and abbots are all noted. Despite the terse, dry style of the notices, the personalities and opinions of the annalists often shine through.



# History and Identity in Early Medieval Wales and Dan Gysgod y Frenhines

by Dr Rebecca Thomas

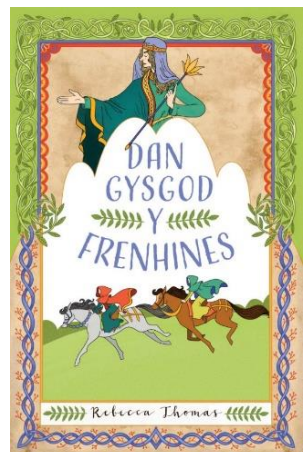
Dr Rebecca Thomas is a former member of the ASNC Department and has recently been appointed Lecturer in Medieval History at Cardiff University.



Her monograph *History and Identity in Early Medieval Wales* was published by Boydell and Brewer in April. This book explores the process of identity construction in texts from early medieval Wales, focusing primarily on the early ninth-century Latin history of the Britons (*Historia Brittonum*), the biography of Alfred the Great composed by the Welsh scholar Asser in 893, and the tenth-century vernacular poem *Armes Prydein Vawr* ('The Great Prophecy of Britain'). It examines how these writers set about distinguishing between the Welsh and the other *gentes* ('peoples') inhabiting the island of Britain through the use of names, attention to

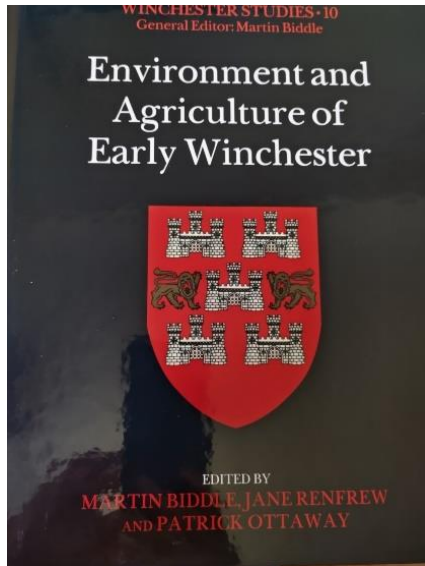
linguistic difference, and the writing of history and origin legends. Crucially important was the identity of the Welsh as Britons, the rightful inhabitants of the entirety of Britain; its significance and durability are investigated, alongside its interaction with the emergence of an identity focused on the geographical unit of Wales.

Rebecca has also written a historical novel for young adults, entitled *Dan Gysgod y Frenhines* ('In the Queen's Shadow'), which was published by Gwasg Carreg Gwalch in July. This novel follows the story of Angharad, a fictional daughter of Hywel Dda, as she grows up at the court of Æthelflaed of Mercia. The novel is currently available in Welsh, with the promise of an English translation coming soon!



## Dissertation published after 36 years!

Is this a record? Dr Debby Banham's undergraduate dissertation, '*Ælfric's Nomina herbarum* and the plant remains from Anglo-Saxon Winchester', submitted in 1986 and accepted for publication the same year, finally saw the light of day in May 2022. Debby is an Affiliated Lecturer in the ASNC Department.



CONTENTS	
List of illustrations	
List of tables	
List of abbreviations	
List of references	
Acknowledgements	
I. INTRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENT	
1. INTRODUCTION by Martin Biddle and Jane M. Renfrew with contributions by Francis J. Green and Patrick Ottaway	
2. THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE WINCHESTER REGION by Jane M. Renfrew and Patrick Ottaway	1
II. THE WRITTEN EVIDENCE	
3. ÆLFRIC'S NOMINA HERBARUM AND THE PLANT REMAINS FROM ANGLO-SAXON WINCHESTER by Debby Banham	79
4. AGRICULTURE AND THE USE OF PLANTS IN MEDIEVAL WINCHESTER: THE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE by Derek J. Keene	87
5. GARDENS IN MEDIEVAL AND LATER WINCHESTER: THE CASTLE, WOLFESEY PALACE, AND EASTGATE HOUSE by Beatrice Claye and Martin Biddle	
6. FIELD CROPS AND THEIR CULTIVATION IN HAMPSHIRE, 1300-1350, IN THE LIGHT OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE by Jan Z. Trow	
III. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE	
7. POLLEN ANALYSIS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS IN WINCHESTER by Erwin Isenberg and Jane M. Renfrew	
8. THE IDENTIFICATION AND UTILIZATION OF WOOD IN EARLY WINCHESTER by Suzanne Keene	
9. THE ROMAN PLANT REMAINS by Peter Murphy	
10. THE PLANT ECONOMY AND VEGETATION OF ANGLO-SAXON WINCHESTER by Michael Monk	



# Student News

---

## ASNaC Society News

*Rhiannon Warren, co-President 2022–3*

After a Covid-induced hiatus, the ASNaC society returned in full force this academic year! Highlights have included the triumphant return of ASNaC pub every Friday night (alternating between the Castle Inn and the Bathhouse), weekly Quire practice, football every Sunday and a plethora of other events such as picnics and welfare tea in the common room.

Michaelmas term was an exciting time for the society as the new Freshers joined us and quickly got stuck into department life after events run in Freshers week. We look back particularly fondly to the resurrection of celebrations for St Rumwold's day (i.e. who has the best ASNaC-inspired costume)! There may or may not have been a duel on Castle Mound to end the night.



We ended the term with the Yule Play at St John's College Old Divinity School (featuring a campaign for Palaeography Part II) and a Yule party at Newnham College.





During this time the society also planned a trip to Dublin, but this was unfortunately cancelled due to the Omicron variant. We are hoping this trip can go ahead next year over the Christmas vacation and would like to thank Megan Whitely for all her hard work planning this.

Society events continued in Lent term – the highlight of which was our annual Black-Tie dinner at Christ's College which thanks to the determination of our Vice-Presidents, Megan Kay and Immy Cornish, went ahead despite having to be postponed twice. An unexpected blessing of this came with the production of two Gestas in Lent term and a lovely 'alumni pub' evening. Highlights of the Black-Tie dinner included a rendition of 'Into the West' from *The Return of the King* performed by the Quire from the minstrels' loft.



Lent term ended with the election of a new society for the 2022–3 academic year. Fennel Taylor, Magnus Bovett and I would like to thank Megan Whitely and Kit Treadwell for all their hard work as former presidents.

Easter term activities included a picnic to celebrate St Dunstan's day, football matches and the end of term department garden party, where another edition of *Gesta Asnacorum* proved a big hit!



We look forward to more ASNaC events next academic year. It has been wonderful to see that the cross-college community feeling so special to our department has endured despite a few years of social distancing, and the committee and I look forward to this continuing next year.

---

### **ASNC PhD student wins CSANA Student Paper Prize**

Congratulations to Brigid Ehrmantraut, PhD student in the Department, who has been awarded this year's Best Graduate Student Paper prize by the Celtic Studies Association of North America (CSANA). Brigid's prize-winning paper was entitled 'A Wrong Turn on the Way to Troy: Samson and the Classical Tradition in Medieval Ireland'.

See the announcement on the CSANA website here:  
<https://celticstudies.org/members/?amp>

## Academic achievements for ASNC alumni

Congratulations to these ASNC alumni for their many and various achievements!

Ben Webb (2018) has written a poem entitled 'Dindsenchas', which was published in the latest issue of *Poetry Ireland Review*, No. 136.

<https://www.poetryireland.ie/publications/poetry-ireland-review/current-issue/>

Dr Brynja Þorgeirsdóttir was appointed as Lektor at Háskóli Íslands in July 2022, researching and teaching Old Norse and Icelandic Literature within Studies in Icelandic as a Second Language. Brynja was awarded her PhD in the Department in 2020.

Dr Ben Guy was appointed as a Research Associate at Cardiff University at the end of March 2022. Ben is now working on the new AHRC-funded project called 'An Edition of the Welsh Myrddin Poetry', which will run for three years. Ben's role is to edit the seven earliest Myrddin poems. Further information can be found via both the [AHRC website](#) and Cardiff's own [news page](#).

In June 2021, Ben's recent book, *Medieval Welsh Genealogy: An Introduction and Textual Study*, became joint-winner of the Francis Jones Prize for Welsh History 2020, awarded by Jesus College Oxford. He was also awarded the Dillwyn Medal, which the Learned Society of Wales bestowed upon him for Early Career Research Excellence in the Humanities & Creative Arts.

<https://www.learnedsociety.wales/medals/dillwyn-medals/>

Brian Hardison (2013) completed his PhD in English at the University of Washington last spring. His thesis was entitled 'Gildas' *On the Ruin of Britain*: A Scribal Edition Based on the Text Preserved in Cambridge, University Library Ff.I.27'.

Dr Jonathan Hui won the 2021 Katherine Briggs Award for his edition of *Vilmundar saga viðutan. The Saga of Vilmundur the Outsider*. Jonathan was awarded his PhD in ASNC in 2018.

Further details of the award can be found here:

<https://folklore-society.com/blog-post/jonathan-hui-wins-the-katharine-briggs-award-2021/>

Dr Alice Taylor-Griffiths, who completed her PhD and worked as a postdoctoral researcher in the Department, was awarded a two-year Research Fellowship from the Irish Research Council, which began in October 2021. She is now based at Trinity College Dublin, working with Dr Jürgen Uhlich. Her research explores the relationship between the glossography of the psalms and native verse texts in Ireland to understand how the medieval Irish viewed their own texts alongside the authoritative status of the psalms. The title of the project is 'Of Saints and Scribes: Psalms, Sanctity, and Schooling in Medieval Ireland'.

Dr Rebecca Merkelbach was appointed Assistant Professor of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Tübingen, Germany, beginning in October 2021. Rebecca was awarded her PhD in ASNC in 2017, after coming to Cambridge as an MPhil student.

Dr Brittany Schorn was appointed Departmental Lecturer in Old Norse at the University of Oxford, beginning in October 2021, and is attached to Lady Margaret Hall there.

Dr Caitlin Ellis started an O'Donovan Scholarship at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies in September 2021. Since then, she has been continuing to publish about Viking and Norman activity in the Irish Sea region, particularly its textual reflexes. Caitlin matriculated as an undergraduate in the Department in 2010 and was awarded her PhD there in 2018.

Dr Tom Grant was awarded a Leverhulme Study Abroad Grant in May 2021 for his project 'An Investigation into the Impact of Christianisation on Old Norse Skaldic Poetry (c. 870–1350)'. This enables him to spend two years as a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Utrecht.

## Weddings and Births

Emilia Henderson-Roche (2012) started a four-year postdoctoral position at the National Library of Finland in Helsinki in February 2022. She is working on the ERC-funded [Books of the Medieval Parish Church](#)-project, investigating a collection of medieval Swedish manuscript fragments.

She also married A. Henderson-Roche on 4 June 2022.



Photo credit: Sofia Pettersson

Anna Millward (2009) has started working in a heritage conservation role with the National Trust, at Brockhampton Estate in Herefordshire. This is a medieval manor (with a moat!) and has a Norman chapel. Brockhampton Estate has ASNC connections, since it was the site of an archaeological dig some years ago, looking for the lost Anglo-Saxon village of Studmarsh.



Anna also gave birth to a little girl last summer who has a suitably Old Norse middle name. Her full name is Elspeth Edda Millward, but she is commonly known as 'Bess'. 'Edda' is of course after *Snorra Edda* and the *Poetic Edda*, but the word also functions as a *heiti* for 'Great Grandmother'. Spookily, Anna found out from her 12-week scan that Bess was due on her grandmother's birthday, and then her grandmother died the next day. She likes to think that some of her grandmother's spirit passed into her daughter, and so honoured her with the middle name 'Edda'.



Georgia Henley (MPhil 2010–11) and her partner, Lyle Brewer, are delighted to announce the birth of their son, John 'Jack' Arthur Brewer, born on 27 May 2022.



Alice Taylor-Griffiths (PhD completed 2020) and her husband, Will Griffiths, are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Vera Iveagh Griffiths, born on 1 February 2022.

Dr Becky Shercliff (ASNC Research Fellow Associate) and her husband Michael are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Lucy Elizabeth, born on Friday 16th September 2022, a new baby sister for Tilly Rose!



# Dates for Your Diary

All at 9 West Road unless otherwise stated.

**Cambridge Festival:** 17 March – 2 April 2023

**Quiggin Lecture:** Thursday 1 December 2022, Prof. Daniel Donoghue

**ASNC Society Black Tie Dinner:** date and location tbc

**Chadwick Lecture:** Thursday 16 March 2023, Prof. Elizabeth Tyler

**Kathleen Hughes Lecture:** Monday 1 May 2023, Dr Elizabeth Boyle

**ASNC Summer Garden Party:** Wednesday 21 June 2023 (location and times tbc)

**ASNC Alumni are warmly welcome to attend any of these events** (see [www.asnc.cam.ac.uk](http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk) for updates)

You are warmly invited to join the ASNaC Alumni **Facebook** group (Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic Alumni) for further announcements and updates, and to keep in touch!

If you are interested in finding out more about our current research and teaching or our future plans, or would like to tell us news that you would like reported in future newsletters, please contact us through the Departmental Secretary at [office@asnc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:office@asnc.cam.ac.uk) or by post: Dept of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic, 9 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP, United Kingdom. The Departmental website also has an alumni section ([www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/alumni/index.htm](http://www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/alumni/index.htm)).