



Stanbury Hill Project

Stanbury Hill Project: Newsletter No. 16 New Year 2012

Dear Colleague,

1. It might be a month late, but Happy New Year to you all! 2012 could turn out to be the Project's best year yet. Read on...
2. The first of our post-ex sessions, organised by Louise Brown, has already taken place at the University of Bradford, and volunteers have got stuck into analysing, recording and interpreting the evidence brought down off the site during the Summer 2011 excavations. Among the highlights of the first session were some first-class lithics, including blades and scrapers, a chance to take another look at the carved rock fragment excavated from the small cairn near the footpath and sizeable pieces of charcoal from one of the bulk samples.
3. The post-ex team welcomes Dr. Zoe Outram of the University of Bradford this year. A dating and environmental specialist, her skills are a valuable addition to the expertise available to the Project.
4. There are still 4 further sessions to go, so do please come along and have a go. The remaining sessions are:

Saturday February 11th

Saturday March 17th

Saturday April 14th

Saturday May 19th

Each session is held at the University and runs from 10.00 a.m. - 4.00. p.m. You will need to bring a packed lunch and something to drink. Do let Dave, our Project Secretary, know if you wish to attend.

5. Although no further excavation is to take place, 2012 is still likely to be an exciting time for the Project. Once the results from this year's post-ex sessions become clear, we have to consider how we announce what we have found to both the archaeological community and the wider public, via a series of talks, exhibitions and publications, ranging from simple leaflets to papers

in professional peer-reviewed journals and - above all - hopefully a book about Stanbury Hill.

6. Responding to an initial suggestion from Louise Brown, our Project Archaeologist, the Project has been nominated by John McIlwaine of the University of Bradford for the British Archaeological Awards in the Community Archaeology section. This is a wonderful tribute to all the hard work put in by Project volunteers. Short-listed nominees will be invited to the prize-giving ceremony in London in July. For more information on the awards, see:

<http://www.britarch.ac.uk/awards> and
<http://www.britarch.ac.uk/awards/baa2012.html#comm>.

Our application can be viewed On the Project web site:

<http://sites.google.com/site/stanburyhill>

7. Talks about the Project due or proposed this year are:

Saturday February 4th	CBA Annual Symposium, York (done)
Saturday March 3rd	Prehistory Research Section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Leeds
Saturday May 5th	British Rock Art Conference, University of Bristol
Tuesday July 10th	Halifax Natural History Society
July 14th-29th	Public meeting? British Archaeology Festival
November (display?)	WYAAS Archaeology Day, Leeds Armouries

8. Excavations at two rock art sites in the Kilmartin valley in Argyll (work which formed part of the background to our Project Design back in 2008) have now finished. The results and conclusions of their work are available through their recent publication: *An Animate Landscape: Rock Art and the Prehistory of Kilmartin, Argyll, Scotland*, published by Windgather Press at the end of 2011.

To quote directly from the book, their research covered the following three areas:

- rock art and the microtopography of rocks in the Kilmartin region
 - excavations around two rock art sites at Torbhlaren, Kilmichael Glen and at the rock art site of Ormaig
- and most fascinating and relevant of all -
- an analysis of the relationship between rock art and the monuments in the prehistoric landscape of Kilmartin

They obtained a spread of radiocarbon dates directly associated with rock art production, beginning in the Late Neolithic with two peaks of activity c. 2900-2800 cal BC and again c. 2500-2400 cal BC.

Well worth a read before we begin ruminating on what Stanbury Hill was all about!

9. For the usual communications and inquiries, contact our Project Secretary, Dave Spencer at idle.moor@gmail.com 01274-585886 or myself.

Keith Boughey
Project Director
keith_boughey@hotmail.com 01274-591736
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