

# News Views Reviews

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY – 2011**

### **Monday 27 June - Friday 8 July**

Dates for the Training Excavation at Homefield directed by Robin Holley.

The cost is £135 per week for non-members, £120 for members. Experienced members are welcome to volunteer at the dig and also to help between 20-24 June and 11-15 July during the opening up and closing down weeks. Bring your own trowel or you can buy one from Anny Northcote for £12. Donations would be welcome to help cover the costs, particularly tea and biscuits. Please book via Anny Northcote (details on contacts page). See the website for more details.

### **Saturday 16 July**

Festival of British Archaeology Open Day at Upper Row Farm 10am to 4pm.

Activities for the whole family, including hands-on archaeology, guided tours of the Medieval site at Homefield, and the results of the 2011 excavation. The Knights of Longshanks will be returning and presenting a number of aspects of life in the 13th and 14th Centuries including archery, a blacksmith, a carder and a bodger along with the food and drink of the period. There will be a Medieval tavern on site serving ales and ciders. Volunteers to help on the day with car parking, refreshments and archaeological activities, are very welcome and should contact Ceri Lambdin (details on contacts page).

### **Saturday 30 July**

Festival of British Archaeology Open Day at Bathampton Down 11am to 4pm

A joint BaNES and BACAS open day, focusing on the prehistoric features in this area. There will be guided walks across the Down, along with demonstrations and hands-on activities. Local children will present displays of what they have learnt during the Festival of British Archaeology.

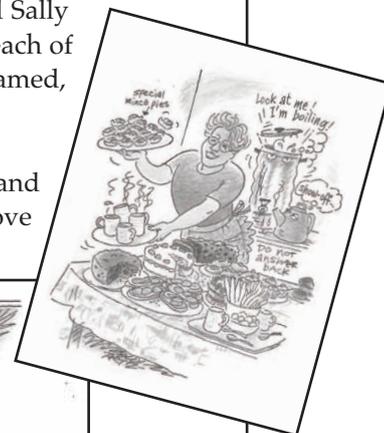
## **CLIVE PEACOCK MEMORIAL AWARD 2011**

This year, for the first time, there were two winners of the award: Mary Huntley and

Sue Woods. Mary and Sue were nominated for all the work that they have done, not just in the past year but in the previous ten years, providing the essential refreshments for countless open days and lectures. From fantastic cakes to superb mince pies, including Iron Age dishes along the way, they have been a key part to the success of all of our public events.

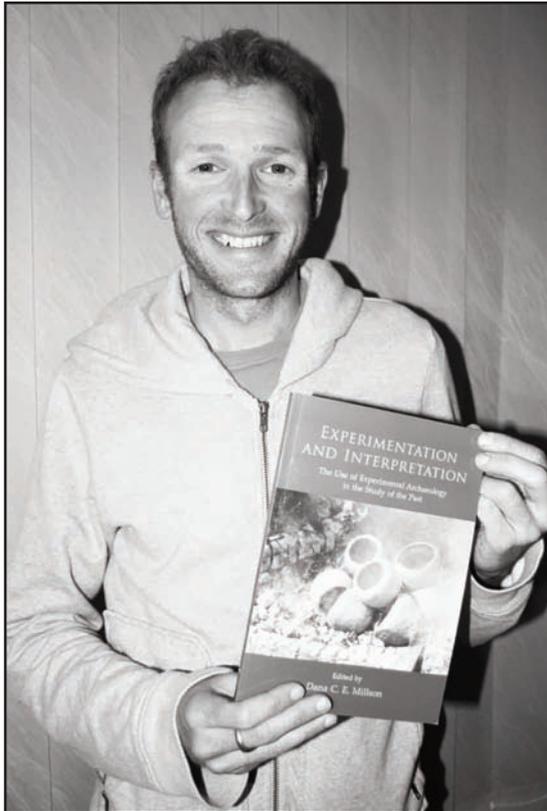


As Mary and Sue have always been a fan of Sally Phillips' wonderful cartoons, the Committee commissioned Sally to produce a cartoon for each of them, which were then framed, and, as usual, they were excellent as you can see. Congratulations to Mary and Sue, who are pictured above with their cartoons.



## **BACAS THANKS TAVIS WALKER**

As members will know from preceding articles and the report that accompanies this edition of *Camertonia*, the Society's Educational Project, 'Archaeology for All at Upper Row Farm', which finished in 2010, was a massive



success. In addition to the support provided by BACAS members, this has been largely due to Tavis Walker's work in the Educational Officer role that he was appointed to back in early 2008. Tavis has been superb in the role, enthusiastically engaging with members, school groups of all ages, local societies and other members of the public. The feedback that Tavis has received has been overwhelmingly positive and he has been a credit to the Society.

In addition to his HLF funded activities, Tavis also put in a phenomenal amount of volunteer hours on the project, including work on the Museum Barn, the Roman Garden and, of course, the experimental archaeology elements of the project, including the Iron Age roundhouse at Blacklands.

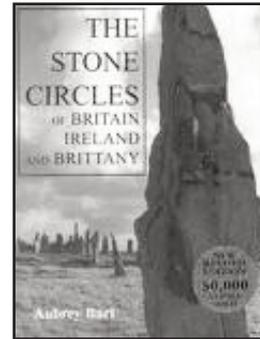
The Committee are extremely grateful for all of Tavis' efforts and on behalf of the Society the Educational Project Director, Les Hayes recently presented him with a book – *Experimentation and Interpretation: The use of Experimental Archaeology in the Study of the Past* by Dana Millson.

Tavis wishes to remain an active member of BACAS and we are delighted that he will continue to assist us. **Ceri Lambdin**

## BOOK REVIEW BY THE 2010 CLIVE PEACOCK AWARD WINNER

### The Stone Circles of Britain, Ireland and Brittany by Aubrey Burl

Published by Yale, 2000



Aubrey Burl's book: *Stone Circles of the British Isles* came out originally in 1976, and

became an instant classic. Nobody had attempted a book of this sort before, which proposed to review, describe, classify and discuss stone circles as a special class of archaeological structure, rather than just describing a particular stone circle. The book is still highly regarded today. It is not in print, but is easily obtainable via second hand book dealers.

A quarter of a century later, Burl had amassed a lot more data, both from his own work and from others'. The book was re-published as *The Stone Circles of Britain, Ireland and Brittany* in 2000, and is a worthy successor to the original, although curiously, it is a much rarer edition and difficult to find. He has also published many other books, specialising in particular circles such as Stonehenge and Avebury, or photographic collections with scholarly text, and even a guide to all circles, designed for use in the field, giving descriptions and locations of each circle.

The purpose of this book, however, is to analyse the types of circle and their regional characteristics and to try to come up with a chronology (stone structures are notoriously difficult to date) and an archaeological context and explanation for their existence. This is a weighty tome. If you just want to know where the circles are and what they are like, his *Guide to the Stone Circles of Britain, Ireland and Brittany* is cheaper, much more accessible, and designed to fit in your pocket. However, now we are involved in the archaeology of the Stanton Drew circles, we need a more thoroughgoing and scholarly text to start from, and this is it. **John Oswin**