



Berkshire Archaeological Society - November 2024

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News



Happy Samhain !

Halloween's roots lie in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, celebrated thousands of years ago to mark the end of the harvest season and the onset of winter. Samhain symbolised the thinning of the veil between the worlds of the living and the dead, making it a time when spirits were believed to roam the Earth.

After the Roman conquest of Britain in 43 AD, many Celtic traditions were blended into Roman festivals. As Christianity spread, the church sought to adapt these customs, transforming Samhain into All Hallows' Eve, the precursor to Halloween. The Christian festival of All Hallows' Day (aka. All Saint's Day) was originally celebrated on May 13th until 844 when Pope Gregory IV moved it to November 1st - the day following Samhain. The night or evening of Samhain therefore became known as All-hallows-eve, then Hallow Eve, and later became what we know today as Hallowe'en.

from the *Council for British Archaeology (CBA)*

Image: Stone carvings, Hill of Tara, Co. Meath. © Government of Ireland National Monuments Service Photographic Unit - illuminated at sunrise on Samhain and Imbolc

Upcoming Events

Event listing for Tuesday 5th November 2024: Finds Group. Characteristics of Finds: with contributions from various speakers. Analysis of Finds: Oyster shells, CBM tiles, etc. All welcome. 7:30pm at Woosehill Community Hall, RG41 3DA. See website button.

Event listing for Wednesday 6th November 2024: Study Group. Using Google Drive: Andrew Hutt. Overview of Wickham geophysics results and group discussion on excavation strategy: Keith Abbott. All welcome. 2:30pm at Woosehill Community Hall, RG41 3DA. See website button.

Event listing for Saturday 16th November 2024: BAS Lecture: Prehistoric Art and its meaning by Mike Pengelly. 2:00 for 2:30pm at RISC and on Zoom. See website button.

Past Events

Past event listing for Saturday 5th October 2024: Archaeology in Berkshire BAS Day School. A successful day with excellent speakers - despite the representative from Wessex Archaeology failing to appear!

Past event listing for Saturday 19th October 2024: BAS AGM & Lecture: Dr Brian Hope-Taylor and the investigation of timber halls in northern Bernicia - an evolving story. by Professor Ian Ralston, University of Edinburgh. There will be no reports from lectures unless people volunteer to write them!

Other News

Other news listing for Saturday 2nd November 2024: CBA Wessex 2024 Conference - War & Peace. The Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop (Kentsboro), Hampshire, SO20 8FB. Places still available. See website button.

Other news listing for until 23rd February 2025 - British Museum: Silk Roads. This major exhibition unravels how the journeys of people, objects and ideas that formed the Silk Roads shaped cultures and histories. See website button.

Local Societies

- See the links below of details of their activities:
Berkshire Archaeology Research Group
Maidenhead Archaeological and Historical Society
Marlow Archaeology Group
South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group
Thames Valley Ancient Egypt Society

Berkshire Archaeological Society
Chair: Andrew Hutt chair@berksarch.co.uk
General Enquiries: info@berksarch.co.uk
Website: https://berksarch.co.uk

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