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## WELCOME

The number of wrecks off England's coast is a stark reminder of our reliance on shipping: 37,000 vessels, cargoes, and even ditched aircraft have been identified. Events that often spelled tragedy for crews have transformed these craft into time-capsules. While most postdate 1815, traces of scattered cargoes date back to the Bronze Age. We tell the story of these lost vessels.

Something that may have been lost without us even realising is the Hastings battlefield. An Abbey founded after the fighting was believed to mark the spot, but rival candidates have recently emerged. Investigation by Time Team has raised the prospect that a roundabout now lies where Harold Godwinson was cut down.

Less severe injuries could earn the afflicted a spell in a Medieval hospital. Excavations in Cambridge revealed both a hospital cemetery and an insight into 12th-century healthcare. The dig also touched on a former archaeologist's garden, where disturbed burials had been reentered in a way that evokes Neolithic practice.

Neolithic burial rites are also under the spotlight at the Garn Turne dolmens. As well as exposing the earliest masonry-working known in Britain, digging has shed light on how gigantic capstones were lifted using Neolithic technology.

Work at Welwyn may have uncovered a very different form of funerary monument. Burials focused on a large pit have raised questions about whether this could be a symbolic gateway to the underworld.

Finally, see p.42 for our conference news and the fantastic projects, publications, and people nominated for CA awards. Vote now!



*Matt*

## Our contributors this month



**OLD DIVINITY SCHOOL  
CRAIG CESSFORD**  
Craig Cessford has worked in field archaeology for more than 20 years. He is currently employed as a Senior Project Officer with the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, specialising in Medieval and later urban archaeology.



**HOW TO BUILD  
A DOLMEN  
VICKI CUMMINGS**  
Dr Cummings is a Reader in Archaeology at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston. Her research focuses on the Mesolithic and Neolithic of Britain and Ireland, particularly monuments and landscape.



**WELWYN'S ROMAN  
MYSTERY  
TONY ROOK**  
Tony Rook began his career in the RAF, servicing radar in bombers. Having worked in building research, taught science, and introduced rescue archaeology to Hertfordshire, this photo reflects his longstanding (seasonal) day job.

## current archaeology

### Editorial

**Editor:** Dr Matthew Symonds  
matt@archaeology.co.uk  
Tel: 020 8819 5580

**Contributing editor:** Christopher Catling  
chris@archaeology.co.uk

**Art editor:** Mark Edwards  
mark@currentpublishing.com

**Designer:** Justine Middleton

**Assistant Editor:** Carly Hilt  
carly@currentpublishing.com

**Sub editor:** Simon Coppock

**Editor-in-chief:** Andrew Selkirk  
9 Nassington Road, London NW3 2TX  
andrew@archaeology.co.uk  
Tel: 020 8819 5584

**Managing director:** Robert Selkirk

### Commercial

**Advertising sales:** Mike Traylen  
mike@currentpublishing.com  
Tel: 020 8819 5360

**Production manager:** Maria Earle  
maria@currentpublishing.com

**Marketing manager:** Emma Watts-Plumpkin  
emma@currentpublishing.com  
Tel: 020 8819 5575

**Commercial director:** Libby Selkirk

### Current Publishing

Lamb House, Church Street,  
London W4 2PD  
Tel: 020 8819 5580 (office hours)  
Fax: 020 8819 5589  
Web: [www.archaeology.co.uk](http://www.archaeology.co.uk)

### Subscriptions

*Current Archaeology* is published monthly for a subscription of £45 for 12 issues. Foreign subscriptions £55.

**Subscriptions should be sent to:**  
Current Publishing, Lamb House,  
Church Street, London W4 2PD  
Tel: (office hours) 020 8819 5580  
Fax: 020 8819 5589

**Subscription queries to:**  
subs@archaeology.co.uk  
or online at: [www.archaeology.co.uk](http://www.archaeology.co.uk)

**Back issues:** £5 each / £6 non-UK  
**Binders:** (hold 12 copies) £15 / £20  
**Slip Cases:** (hold 12 copies) £15 / £20

Printed in the UK by William Gibbons

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