RARE RUNIC STONE DISCOVERY
The significance of a stone, overlooked for centuries in a ruined Teesside church, is recognised by a team including tutor Jane Harrison

A newly uncovered runic stone-carving was brought to light by Jane Harrison (Senior Associate Tutor in our Archaeology programmes) working as part of a project team for the intriguing ‘Languages, Myths and Finds’ programme.

The fragment of inscribed runestone was found in the Tees Valley at Sockburn, in the grounds of a ruined church, having been used as building stone. Jane said, ‘We compared the inscription with a formula used in many Scandinavian runes from the Isle of Man: ‘X raised this cross in memory of Y’. The inscription on our stone therefore translates as (line B, then line A) ‘...raised cross ... in memory of Mael-Muir/Mael-Maire’.

Read more about the exciting discovery and its inscription, and to learn about ‘Languages, Myths and Finds’ on our website at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/runicstone

FUNDING AWARD WILL ADDRESS CRITICAL SKILLS GAP IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

The Department has once again been awarded funding by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to deliver and build upon training in the environmental sciences and management, following the success of last year’s NERC-funded workshops.

This year’s award of £108,000 will be used to develop training workshops that will enable research scientists, doctoral students, graduates and professionals from across the country who work in the environmental sciences and management to attend at no cost. The funding also covers accommodation and course materials for the duration of each workshop. The courses will be offered in early 2015. For full information, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/nerc2014

OPEN DAY EAST

The Department hosted ‘Open Day East’, a free half-day of learning in East Oxford on 14 June 2014, as part of national Adult Learners’ Week. Dr Yasmin Khan, University Lecturer in History and chair of our widening participation committee said, ‘Our base is in the centre of Oxford, at Rewley House, but this is a chance for us to get out into the city, for people to come along for a chat, meet university lecturers, hear some great talks and to find out about the courses on offer.’ The next event in East Oxford will take place in January 2015.
ONLINE CLASSES: BRINGING OXFORD HOME

The Department has been offering short online courses since 2004, and our offerings now number over 90 classes and programmes, including short courses, professional development modules and even three fully online Oxford award programmes. Here’s what’s new for Michaelmas Term:

**International Labour Migration: Economics, Politics and Ethics**
This global course analyses one of the most controversial public policy issues of the 21st century: how to regulate international labour migration and the rights of migrant workers.
www.conted.ox.ac.uk/L100-38

**The Fall of Rome**
The ‘Decline and Fall’ (or ‘transformation’) of the Roman empire has long been a fascinating and controversial topic which invites comparisons with the modern world. But how, why and, indeed, did Rome fall?
www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V400-500

**The War of The Roses: Power, Politics and Personalities**
The recent discovery of Richard III’s remains highlights new research being conducted into the period known as the Wars of the Roses: engage with the latest work on this exciting and tumultuous period.
www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V100-279

**Social Policy and Welfare States in the 21st Century**
What is the ‘welfare state’, what functions does it serve, why and how do welfare states vary across countries and over time – and what challenges will be faced in the 21st century?
www.conted.ox.ac.uk/L100-40

**Undergraduate Advanced Diploma in Data and Systems Analysis**
Covering the analysis of software systems in terms of their data requirements, function, performance and usability, and including many basic modelling techniques used in modern software and data analysis, this one-year, part-time course is taught at third-year undergraduate level, is delivered entirely online, and is ideal for those wishing to enhance job opportunities.
www.conted.ox.ac.uk/addsa

**Explore our full range of online courses at:** www.conted.ox.ac.uk/online

**Question:** what are the differences between the Department’s online programmes and the ‘massive open online courses’ (MOOCs) that one hears about? Read a comparison of the two forms, including both the student and tutor perspectives, on our website at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mooc

TEMPTED BY ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY?
The Postgraduate Certificate in Architectural History is a one-year, part-time programme covering the sweep of English architectural history from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present day. The course attracts students from a variety of backgrounds and circumstances, and is ideal for those who are studying for enjoyment, as well as those who are contemplating a career change. For full information, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/pcah
**OU SU AW ARDS**

History received a thumbs-up from students last term, as Dr Jonathan Healey and Dr Janet Dickenson both won Oxford University Student Union Teaching Awards. Jonathan, who is course director for our Diploma in English Local History and our online Advanced Diploma in Local History, won an ‘Outstanding Tutor’ award; Janet, who teaches on our weekly and online classes programme and who wrote our online Elizabeth I course, won a ‘Most Acclaimed Lecturer’ award. Read more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/ousuawards2014

**NEW SUITE OF COURSES & WORKSHOPS IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

In 2014-15 the Department is launching a new programme of courses and workshops in the Historic Environment, which will embrace a greater range of topics and is intended to be of relevance to the voluntary sector as well as to professionals. To see what is on offer as the programme for next year is put in place, visit: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/newcwhe

**MARTIN RUHS WINS BOOK AWARD**

_The Price of Rights: Regulating International Labour Migration_ by Dr Martin Ruhs, our University Lecturer in Political Economy, has won the 2014 Best Book Award by the American Political Science Association in their Migration and Citizenship Section. Please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/therpriceofrights

**‘OUTSTANDING LIFELONG CONTRIBUTION’**

Dr Keith Kirby has been awarded the prestigious Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Medal 2014 for his ‘outstanding, lifelong contribution to the advancement of ecology, forestry and woodland management.’

Keith, a woodland ecologist and Visiting Researcher with the Oxford Department of Plant Sciences, teaches on the Department’s Environment and Sustainability Short Course Programme, helping to train environmental managers and ecological consultants using Oxford’s ‘Living Laboratory’ – Wytham Woods – as a hands-on example.

Keith said, ‘I am honoured to have received this award from CIEEM – though my ’lifetime’ needs to be put into a woodland perspective: it is barely a third the length of a commercial oak crop rotation and less than a tenth of what an oak might grow to if not felled. Long-term studies are therefore crucial in woodland ecology.’ To read more, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/kirby

**SWIFT PROJECT TAKES WING**

They are one of our favourite summer visitors travelling from sub-Saharan Africa to nest in our city buildings. They occupy the same nesting holes year on year and produce one or two chicks. Stand in Wellington Square in the heart of the University on a summer’s evening and you can see and hear packs of swifts (Apus apus) screaming and flying low.

In Oxford, as elsewhere in the country, the swift population has declined dramatically. According to the British Trust for Ornithology numbers have decreased by around 40% over the last 20 years.

Dr Jocelyne Hughes, director of our Postgraduate Certificate in Ecological Survey Techniques, has partnered with the University’s Estates Services Environmental Sustainability team and with Chris Mason, Swift Project Officer at Cherwell District Council, to raise awareness of how to identify swifts; how to halt their decline; and how to record swifts and their nests. Learn more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/swifts

**‘THAT ESSAY’: A 1930 SUMMER SCHOOL MEMOIR**

“As eleven o’clock chimed from a hundred bells all out of step, some mellow, some harsh, some striking with slow measured beat, some hurrying as if eager to get the long business over, I found myself in Radcliffe Square, the fine core of Oxford’s beauty.” We’ve unearthed a memoir (originally published 1931) that records summer school life in the early decades of the 20th century, impressions of Oxford... and the vital importance of that most dreaded of things, the written essay. Read the full memoir in the history pages of our website, at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/history/summerschool1930.php
CREATIVE WRITING

Master's alumna Kiran Millwood Hargrave has signed a two-book deal with both Knopf Random House (USA), and Chicken House (UK & Europe). Her debut novel, *The Cartographer’s Daughter*, will be published simultaneously in these territories in 2016, with a second title appearing in 2017. She also had a poem accepted into Bloodaxe Books’ *Raving Beauties* anthology, to be published in April 2015.

Diploma alumna Ruba Abughaida won the Writers’ and Artists’ Historical Fiction Competition with her piece, *The Scirocco Winds*. To read Ruba’s piece, please see: www.writersandartists.co.uk/2014/05/winner-announced-historical-fiction-competition

James Benmore, author of *Dodger* and *Dodger of the Dials*, appeared at two events in London in July. ‘An Evening with James Benmore’ at the Big Green Bookshop in Wood Green, and ‘Dickens and the Dodger’ at the The Dickens Museum. For full details, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/benmore

Tutor Olivia Byard’s class ‘The Poet’s Workshop’ has a bumper-crop of successes to report from last term, including the students publishing over a dozen poems in literary journals, and the upcoming release of Olivia’s new book, *The Wilding Eye*. Full details, and links to poems online, can be found at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/poetsworkshop

SCHOLARSHIPS & FUNDING AWARDED TO URBAN SUSTAINABILITY STUDENTS

Three outstanding candidates will undertake the Department’s MSc in Sustainable Urban Development this October, thanks to scholarships and other funding. Ms Irina Mott (pictured, lower), a freelance architect based in Paris, has been awarded the programme-based full fee scholarship for the course; Ms Joanne Hall (pictured, upper), a planning technician for a UK Local Planning Authority, receives both an Oxford Graduate Scholarship, funded by HEFCE, and a programme-based award of £10,000; and Ms Divindy Grant, a chartered civil engineer specialising in urban water and sanitation infrastructure at Mott Macdonald, receives the prestigious Clarendon Scholarship. Said Joanne, ‘Being at the very beginning of my professional career and coming from a humble background, I would not have been able to accept my place on the course without this generous funding.’ For more information on the scholarships, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/msudscholarships; and for information on the MSc in Sustainable Urban Development, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/msud

FUNDING AWARD: HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

*Ten scholarships have been funded for students from Africa and South Asia*

Funding has been secured from the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, the Alistair Berkley Charitable Trust (African awards only) and Kellogg College, Oxford, for ten scholarships for candidates from developing African and South Asian Commonwealth countries. The scholarships will provide course and college fees over two years, travel to and from the scholar’s home country for each residential session, and a stipend for reading materials. Said Dr Andrew Shacknove, Director of the International Human Rights Law programme, ‘This makes it possible to offer full support to a third of our students, coming from developing countries with significant human rights challenges and potential.’ For full details, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/irhlscholarships

OXTALENT AWARD, EVIDENCE-BASED HEALTH CARE

Dr Sharon Mckan, Course Director of our MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care, and her team have won an OXTALENT award in the category ‘Using WebLearn to Support Continuing Professional Development’. Dr Mckan has championed a paperless approach to making module learning materials available. For the full story, please see: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/oxtalent2014

THE ‘RESPONSIVE’ WEBSITE

In April 2014, over 25% of people who visited the Continuing Education website did so using a smartphone or a tablet device. To accommodate this trend, the Department’s website was upgraded in mid-June to employ an approach called ‘responsive web design’ – which makes our site respond to each visitor’s device (mobile phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer) and optimise the online content accordingly. Learn more at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/responsive