

Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic Alumni Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

www.asnc.cam.ac.uk

Issue 5 August 2012

(all in 9 West Road unless otherwise stated)

ASNC Alumni Reunion, Alumni Weekend 2012:

22 September 2012, 5–7 pm drinks and video in the ASNC Common Room

Festival of Ideas event (Judith E. Wilson Drama Studio, 9 West Road):

Saturday 3 November 2012, 2–5 pm: 'Dreams and Nightmares in Early Britain and Ireland'. This event features short talks by ASNC staff and readings in the original languages by ASNC students

Quiggin Lecture:

Thursday 29 November 2012: Professor Ruairí Ó hUiginn, NUI Maynooth

Chadwick Lecture:

Thursday 14 March 2013: Professor John Blair, University of Oxford

Kathleen Hughes Lecture (at Hughes Hall):

Monday 29 April 2013: Professor Robert Bartlett, University of St Andrews

ASNC Summer Garden Party:

Wednesday 19 June 2013: Trinity College, Fellows' Bowling Green, 6 pm

ASNC Alumni are warmly welcome to attend any of these events (see www.asnc.cam.ac.uk for updates)

From the ASNC Alumni Outreach and Fundraising Committee

Many thanks for all your support over the past year. Should you wish to find out more about our current research and teaching or our future development plans, or to let us know about news that you would like reported in future newsletters, please contact us through the Departmental Secretary either electronically at asnc@hermes.cam.ac.uk or at our postal address: Dept of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic, 9 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP, United Kingdom. The Departmental website also has an alumni section (www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/alumni/index.htm).

ASNC Reunion 2012

This year's alumni event will be held in the ASNC common room from 5–7 pm on Saturday, 22 September. It will provide an opportunity to chat over drinks and look at recent photographs featuring alumni – you are welcome to bring your own photographs! Alumni should feel free to call in at any point between 5 and 7 pm; from 5.30–5.50 pm we will show 'Memories of Old Awake', a video featuring ASNC alumna Dr Emily Lethbridge and her recent work in Iceland.

Please do consider joining us!

At the end of another busy year in ASNC we round up stories from staff, current students and alumni, beginning with the Head of Department's report. (The photo below features students making the most of some rare sunshine on the ASNC terrace).

As I write, I glance at the calendar and note that it claims my first year as Head of Department is coming to a close; I have to say it doesn't feel like it. When Máire was HoD, she used to run up and down the corridor; I don't move so quickly but I now understand why she did... The job has its moments, but it is only doable through the support and hard work of colleagues, and in particular I am

grateful to Máire for always being willing to share her hard-won experience, often, I suspect, with a sense of relief. During the year, the administrative support has been re-vamped; we bade farewell to Jayne Riley who had been standing in during Victoria Lever's maternity leave; Victoria has now taken up a post in Slavonic Studies, and we welcomed both Charlotte Watkinson and Lisa Gold to the Department, Charlotte in the office in the Department to deal with most of the main internal admin and Lisa downstairs with Faculty responsibility for external liaison and events; you will probably encounter both of them in your various contacts with the Department.

Continued overleaf



There have been some sad losses, too, which are commemorated elsewhere in this Newsletter: Mark Blackburn died after a long illness; Ray Page and Ursula Dronke both passed away during the year. There have been some great successes, too, among our students in securing post-doctoral fellowships. Rory Naismith has been awarded a Leverhulme Post-doctoral Fellowship to continue his fine work on Anglo-Saxon numismatics; Paul Gazzoli has been awarded a British Academy Post-doctoral Fellowship to work on the Life of Anskar. Others have gained success elsewhere: Lizzie Boyle leaves us to take up a Marie Curie Fellowship in Cork funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation; Ali Bonner has been awarded a British Academy Post-doctoral Fellowship in Oxford to work on a new edition of the Pelagian text, *Ad Demetriadem*; George Younge has gained a Post-doctoral Fellowship at the Centre for Medieval Literature in York and Odense, funded by the Danish National Research Foundation, and Megan Cavell goes off to Toronto on a post-doctoral fellowship. We have also been successful in our grant applications with Máire Ní Mhaonaigh and Roy Flechner gaining funding for a Leverhulme

Trust-funded International Network on 'Converting the Isles'. In addition, we have gained a pleasingly high number of post-graduate awards from the internal and external graduate-funding competitions. There is no doubt that as a small Department we punch well above our weight in all these areas. We continue, too, to receive funding from the respective governments to support the teaching of Modern Icelandic and Modern Irish for which we are extremely grateful. In these times of increased fees, we have to work even harder to attract the best undergraduates; a new video about ASNC is now available on the Admissions Office website (www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/index.htm); we are still involved in the Sutton Trust Summer Schools (and Lizzie Boyle's hard work will be much missed in that respect); we have also been awarded a grant from the Admissions Office to run three 'Away-Days' over the next three years in Plymouth, Wrexham and Northern Ireland respectively. But in the quest for great students you are, as Máire said last year, our best ambassadors.

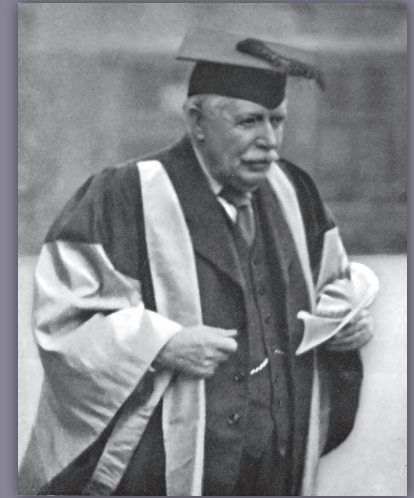
Paul Russell



Professor Paul Russell addresses the ASNC open day 2012

H. M. Chadwick lecture and seminar, 15–16 March 2012

This year's H.M. Chadwick Lecture (15 March) was given by Michael Lapidge on the subject of H.M. Chadwick himself (or 'HMC'). Because the lecture focused particularly on H.M. Chadwick's efforts to establish 'Anglo-Saxon and Kindred Studies' (including Celtic) as a University Department, and to oversee the expansion of that subject in the years following the Department's foundation in 1927, a number of members of the present Department thought that the lecture would provide a suitable pretext to hold an informal seminar on the writings of HMC: to ask what aspects of his huge corpus of published work are still relevant to the discipline as studied today. The seminar also provided an opportunity to invite the participation of a number of former members of the Department. Accordingly, the seminar took place at 9 West Road on the Friday morning (16 March) following the Lecture, and included the following papers: Richard Dance on HMC and Old English philology, Rory Naismith on HMC and Anglo-Saxon coinage, Simon Keynes on HMC and Anglo-Saxon documentary sources, Patrick Sims-Williams on HMC and early British history (which included some lively reminiscence of Kenneth Jackson, who had been the Department's first Lecturer in Celtic), Máire Ní Mhaonaigh on the treatment of Celtic literature in the massive work, *The Growth of Literature* (published by HMC and his wife, Nora Kershaw Chadwick, in three huge volumes between 1932 and 1940), Andy Orchard on the treatment of Anglo-Saxon literature in the same work, and Fiona Edmonds on HMC and early Scotland. The seminar was concluded by some warm personal reflections on Nora Chadwick by Isabel Henderson, who had been an undergraduate in the Department in the 1950s, and who had done her Ph.D. under Nora Chadwick's supervision. The two sessions were chaired, respectively, by Paul Russell and Oliver Padel. The seminar was deemed a great success, and plans are now underway to publish the proceedings as a volume entitled *H.M. Chadwick and the Growth of Anglo-Saxon Studies in Twentieth-Century Cambridge*, edited by Michael Lapidge; it is intended that the eventual volume will be available to ASNC alumni at a substantial discount.



H. M. Chadwick receiving his LittD from Oxford in 1943



Nora Chadwick

Seachtain na Gaeilge, 5–17 March, 2012

Modern Irish language classes, which are supported by a generous grant from the Irish government, continued to thrive in 2011–12. A number of events were organized by Margo Griffin-Wilson (Teaching Associate, Modern Irish) to celebrate *Seachtain na Gaeilge* ('Irish Week'), an international festival of Irish language and culture which takes place annually in March around St Patrick's Day. The opening event was a reading by the Irish poet, Biddy Jenkinson, who has been praised by Professor Ciaran Carson (Queen's University, Belfast) as 'one of [Ireland's] greatest writers in any language'. Jenkinson introduced each poem and drew attention to themes in medieval Irish texts which influence her work; the poems were read in Irish. A reception followed in the ASNC Common Room, with music by accomplished harpist and second year ASNC student, Katie McIvor. The Department is grateful to the Judith E. Wilson Foundation for its support of this event.



Irish poet Biddy Jenkinson. Photo taken by Margo Griffin-Wilson, during a recent meeting with the poet in Dublin

Students from the Modern Irish classes gathered in the ASNC Common Room to present *Dánta agus Ceol*, 'Poems and Music'. Poems by modern poets Máirtín Ó Direáin, Seán Ó Riordáin, Caitlín Maude, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill and Biddy Jenkinson, were beautifully recited by the Irish language students, and a group from the advanced class performed excerpts from an eighteenth-century lament (*caoineadh*) preserved in oral tradition. The participants displayed their musical as well as linguistic gifts in a lively rendition of traditional Irish songs, accompanied by fiddles, harp and guitar.



ASNC students at Seachtain na Gaeilge; Katie McIvor on harp and Caitlin Ellis

A highlight of *Seachtain na Gaeilge* was a special exhibit of more than thirty items of Irish and Irish-related manuscripts from the Parker Library's world-renowned collection. The exhibit was organized by Dr Denis Casey (Trinity Hall, 2005), in cooperation with Dr Christopher de Hamel, Librarian at the Parker Library, Corpus Christi College. Visitors viewed exquisite examples of Irish Insular art, decorated initials, glossaries, saints' lives, prophecies, chronicles and charters dating from the eighth to the sixteenth century.



Students viewing manuscripts in the Parker Library

For more information about Modern Irish teaching in ASNC, visit: www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/currentstudents/irish/index.htm

Dr Mark Blackburn (1953–2011)

Dr Mark Blackburn (1953–2011), Reader in Numismatics and Monetary History in the Department since 2004 and Keeper of Coins and Medals at the Fitzwilliam Museum since 1991, died on 1 September 2011 after a long struggle against cancer. Mark initially studied at Oxford to become a lawyer, and subsequently left a promising career in corporate finance to pursue numismatic scholarship full-time in Cambridge. For more than three decades he was a leading scholar of Anglo-Saxon and Viking coinages and currency, on which he published more than two hundred books and articles, most recently a volume of collected papers on *Viking Coinage and Currency in the British Isles*.



Mark Blackburn

Ursula Dronke (1920–2012)

While Ursula Dronke's official academic ties were with Oxford University (she was a student there in the 1940s, Fellow and Tutor in English at Somerville College from 1950 to 1961, and Vigfússon reader in Old Icelandic literature and antiquities from 1976 to 1988), she lived in Cambridge from 1962 until her death earlier this year. As well as directing studies at Girton College in the 1960s, Ursula delivered occasional lectures and seminars to Cambridge undergraduates during the 1960s and 1970s on what was to become her major work, a three-volume edition of the *Poetic Edda*. Oliver Padel recalls her Saturday morning seminars on *Völuspá*: 'No-one was allowed to remain silent, so we all ended up feeling that we had some contribution to make, and that we were ourselves involved in a very exciting, ground-breaking project.' To celebrate her ninetieth birthday in 2010, Judy Quinn and Emily Lethbridge threw a party for Ursula (who is pictured here about to cut her birthday cake); colleagues and former students from across Europe joined in the celebration.



Ursula Dronke on her ninetieth birthday

Professor Raymond Page (1924–2012)

Professor Raymond Page (1924–2012), Elrington and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon (1984–1991), and Life Fellow of Corpus Christi College, died in March after a long illness. Ray specialised in deciphering and interpreting the runic inscriptions of medieval England, but this was by no means his only interest, and he was well-known for his wide-ranging contributions to medieval history, philology, palaeography, and codicology. Among many significant works, his seminal *Introduction to English Runes* (1973) laid the foundations for the study of this important corpus of material. For connoisseurs of good criticism, Ray's book reviews are essential reading. He was a renowned drinker, with particular fondness for ale and whisky, and was possessed of a sparkling wit (upon first seeing a digital camera, he remarked: 'C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas Daguerre'). Ray is survived by Elin, who he married in 1953, and his two daughters. His son, Alexander, predeceased him.



Little Nell and her Grandfather (courtesy of Caroline Page)

The Leverhulme Trust has awarded a grant to the Department to establish an international research network called 'Converting the Isles: Conversion to Christianity in the Insular World'. The process of Christianisation is one of the most profound and far-reaching processes human civilisation has undergone. Affecting all strata of society, it transformed not only religious beliefs and practices, but also the nature of government, the priorities of the economy, the character of kinship, and gender relations. It is against this backdrop that the network 'Converting the Isles' has been founded to examine social, economic and cultural aspects of conversion in the early-medieval Insular world, covering different parts of Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia and Iceland. The combination of places on which the network will focus reflects the Department's wish to establish a wide comparative framework that will highlight these cross-cultural connections, and cover areas that are of significance to the study of conversion in both the pre-Viking and the Viking eras.

'Converting the Isles' will foster genuine interdisciplinary dialogue between historians, archaeologists, linguists and literary scholars. The Network's website will serve as a major port of call for researchers engaged in the study of conversion and will also provide a resource for members of the general public interested in the topic. A temporary website is currently available at www.asnc.cam.ac.uk/conversion. This will be updated after the appointment of a Network Facilitator, who will work closely with Máire Ní Mhaonaigh (the Principal Investigator for the grant) and Roy Flechner, who has recently been appointed to a Lectureship in University College Dublin. The Network will also involve scholars from the Universities of Oxford and Bangor in the UK and Dublin and Cork in Ireland, as well as the University of Bergen in Norway and the University of Iceland.

Elizabeth Boyle (*Corpus Christi*, 2002) has recently been awarded a Marie Curie Fellowship for Experienced Researchers in the Historical Humanities, in the European Union's M4HUMAN programme, administered by Germany's Gerda Henkel Foundation. Lizzie will spend two years visiting the Department of Early and Medieval Irish at University College Cork, where she will be researching medieval Irish beliefs about the end of the world.

Her project is entitled 'The End of the World? Apocalyptic Expectation in Eleventh-Century Ireland', and it focuses on the so-called 'great panic' of 1096, when Irish chronicles report a moment of panic among certain people who believed that the world would end imminently, and that this could only be averted through prayer, fasting and penitence. By examining 1096 within the wider historical context of religious thought in medieval Ireland, but also – crucially – within the wider European context of the social upheavals of the 1090s, Lizzie hopes to show that apocalypticism was actually very rare in medieval Ireland, as elsewhere, and that most religious writings attest to Irish Christians holding the same eschatological beliefs (that is, beliefs about Judgement Day, heaven and hell) as most other peoples throughout western Christendom. This project grows out of another, recently concluded at University College Cork, with which Lizzie was also associated, namely '*De finibus*: Christian Representations of the Afterlife in Medieval Ireland' (<http://definibus.ucc.ie/>), funded by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences.



Clonmacnoise, Cross of the Scriptures (replica)



Fiona Edmonds delivers a talk to sixth-form students

Sutton Trust Summer School

The 2011 Sutton Trust Summer School in ASNC was a great success. The Sutton Trust is a philanthropic organisation which seeks to improve social mobility through education. Ten teenagers from non-privileged backgrounds spent a week in the Department experiencing lectures, seminars and supervisions. As with the previous year, the week included a trip to the Parker Library to look at Anglo-Saxon and Celtic manuscripts; a new addition to the timetable was a walking tour of 'Anglo-Saxon Cambridge' with Dr Debby Banham. The students must have enjoyed themselves, as a large number went on to apply for ASNC: A-level results permitting, we hope to see many of them arrive in Cambridge as undergraduates in October. Applications for the Summer School continue to increase dramatically, and the 2012 Summer School (which takes place 13–17 August) promises to be equally successful.

Talks at schools

Fiona Edmonds has delivered a number of talks at schools in the north-west of England. The topics have included Gaelic-Scandinavian influence in the Dee-Mersey area; Furness Abbey and its daughter houses in the Isle of Man and Ireland; and a Welsh migration to Lancashire.

Teachers' Day

On Saturday 14 January 2012 we welcomed a group of some seventy teachers to the Department to hear some of us talk about our research: Simon Keynes and Rory Naismith on numismatics, wealth and power; Paul Russell on reading Ovid in medieval Wales; Lizzie Boyle on the Celtic influences in English literature; and Richard Dance on 'Roots, blends and buttocks' (we leave that to your imagination). Not only were we delighted by the number who attended: the feedback was universally positive.

Inspiring Ideas

Elizabeth Boyle gave a lecture in the 'Inspiring Ideas' series, organised as part of Cambridge University's 'Festival of Ideas'. A group of Year 9 students from local schools listened to Lizzie's lecture on the historical Macbeth as part of a day of lectures on subjects which they might not have encountered at school. Feedback from the students praised Lizzie as being a 'positive female role model' ... so they've clearly never seen her in the pub!



The launch of *TOME* on the ASNC terrace in September 2011

In the latest round of Senior Academic Promotions, Paul Russell has been promoted to a Professorship and Rosalind Love to a Readership. Congratulations Paul and Rosalind!

The Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic hosted this year's Cambridge-Oxford-London symposium in Old Norse, Old English and Latin ('COLSONOEL') at Newnham College, Cambridge. We were pleased to welcome over forty delegates and speakers from the three universities. Topics ranged a variety of subjects in Old Norse, Old English and Latin, including literature, history and philology. Naomi Bennett and Christine Voth would like to extend a special thanks to the presenters and respondents for providing such a stimulating and thought-provoking atmosphere.

Several members of the Department journeyed to Oslo in May to participate in a seminar and workshop on the theme of 'Communication and Cultural Contacts in the North Atlantic Community 1000-1300', which looked at bishops, saints and church organisation in Norway, Ireland, Iceland and Scotland. Future seminars are planned for the topics of economy and trade; centres of learning and cultural organisation; and warfare and military organisation, which will be linked with the millennium of the Battle of Clontarf.

In addition to presenting their research at conferences and seminars, members of staff have published numerous articles and books this academic year. Here are just some of the recent books associated with members of the Department:

TOME: Studies in Medieval Celtic History and Law in Honour of Thomas Charles-Edwards, edited by Fiona Edmonds and Paul Russell (Woodbridge, 2011), was launched at a reception in the Department on 23 September. The book features

contributions by Máire Ní Mhaonaigh and Roy Flechner, amongst many others.

The Tripartite Life of Whitley Stokes (1830-1909), edited by Elizabeth Boyle and Paul Russell (Dublin, 2011), was officially launched at 5 Merrion Square, Dublin (formerly the home of the Stokes family, now part of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies), in November.

Money and Power in Anglo-Saxon England: the Southern English Kingdoms 757-865, by Dr Rory Naismith, discusses who designed, made and used coinage in eighth- and ninth-century England, and why. A companion volume, *The Coinage of Southern England 796-865* (published by the British Numismatic Society), catalogues and illustrates the coins of the period.

Elizabeth Ashman Rowe (Lecturer in Scandinavian History) has just published her second book, *Vikings in the West: The Legend of Ragnarr Loðbrók and His Sons* (Vienna: Fassbaender, 2012). This work investigates the legend of the Viking Ragnar Shaggy-Breeches from historical as well as literary perspectives.



ASNC staff and students, amongst others, at COLSONOEL

The ASNC Society: a report by Ben Guy (Selwyn, 2009)

In 2011, twenty intrepid ASNCs set sail on the high seas on a mighty quest that would see the ASNC society expand its horizons beyond the shores of ancient Albion. This was the Brittany road trip; armed with nothing but Fiona Edmonds' 2009 PowerPoint presentations and a rudimentary knowledge of Middle Breton, we entered the Celtic lands of France and began our week-long adventure. We made a pilgrimage to the shrine of holy Saint Gildas at Saint-Gildas de Rhuys, admired the ruins of Landévennec Abbey and discovered the identity of the Ælfifu of Bayeux tapestry fame, a mystery which has eluded Simon Keynes for many years. A good time was had by all, as is encapsulated by the immortal Gesta summary, *Garion inebriatus est*.

In the past twelve months the ASNC Society has moved from strength to strength. Social secretary Adam Kirton (St Catherine's, 2010) welcomed this year's freshers with an action-packed timetable full of ASNC frivolity, and Robin Jones (Trinity Hall, 2010) produced the first Unofficial Guide to ASNC. Thanks to Caroline Purse (Clare, 2010) the ASNC society was able to host the largest Black Tie Dinner on record, accompanied by the tones of Andrea Palandri's (Homerton, 2011) fiddle and by a plentiful stash of mead. Finally, mention must be made of Linda Intelmann (Newnham, 2010) and her phenomenal ASNC lunches; the past twelve months have seen ASNC lunch soar to ever more dizzying heights, with culinary delights ranging from themed national dishes to homemade gingerbread long houses regularly gracing the ASNC common room table!

Funding for skills training in Old Norse and Viking studies

Funding for master-classes and a field school in the Orkneys for PhD students and early-career researchers in Old Norse and Viking studies has been granted by the AHRC to a consortium of four universities (Cambridge, Oxford, Nottingham and the University of the Highlands and Islands). The skills training programme, 'Extending Academic Research about the Viking Diaspora and its Heritage in the British Isles', will take place in 2013 and will involve archaeologists, historians, museum curators and researchers in related fields.



Members of the ASNC Society enjoy Cidre de Bretagne

Graduate seminar in Norway

Members of the Department attending a graduate symposium in Scandinavian studies held in Norway caught up with former ASNCs at a conference preceding the symposium which was hosted by the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Bergen. Those pictured are (left to right): Jo Shortt Butler (Girton, 2006), Michael Raymond (Darwin, 2011), Brittany Schorn (Corpus Christi, 2003), Eleanor Heans-Glogowska (Newnham, 2003), Else Mundal, Judy Quinn, Kathryn Lowe (Clare, 1985), George Younge (Trinity, 2006), Claudia di Sciacca (Emma, 1998) and Rebecca Merkelbach (Clare, 2011).



Some present and former ASNCs in Bergen, Norway

Manon Williams (née Jenkins) (St John's, 1983)

I knew that I would be in for a rigorous and absorbing course of study in choosing ASNC, but I didn't realise that those studies of medieval kingship and tales of cunning courtiers would come in quite so useful in practical terms. I am about to leave the household of the Prince of Wales after nearly eight years as one of his Private Secretaries – my second stint after an earlier five-year term in the 1990s. I postponed starting my career after graduating as we were not allowed to study ASNC for more than two years in those days and I was keen to carry on, which I did by completing a PhD on Medieval Welsh Prophetic Poetry. Emerging blinking into the light, I spent a year writing bilingual policies for Welsh Water plc (and getting used to office hours) before joining Welsh television channel S4C to run their press and public relations department. S4C decided to make a film of His Royal Highness's book, *The Old Man of Lochnagar*, and I was asked to tutor him for his Welsh-language



voiceover, thus finding myself in the right place at the right time when he decided that in the year of the 25th anniversary of his Investiture, he'd like a Welsh Private Secretary. I joined the household on a two-year secondment, directly after my daughter was born. She is now eighteen, so I think it's fair to say the association lasted longer than expected. My six-year gap from the household was taken when Indeg was at primary school, during which time I returned to Wales and worked for the Welsh Assembly during its first years and subsequently for the BBC as Secretary and Head of Public Affairs, first in Cardiff and then for the Nations and Regions in London. I now intend to take a break from full-time employment by a single employer and build a portfolio career, with elements so far including serving as Trustee for Wales on the Heritage Lottery Fund Board, and working as an Associate for a company which specialises in the provision of mentoring for senior business leaders.

Chris Bissell, Professor of Telematics, The Open University

I was one of those who combined ASNC with a Part I or II of another Tripos, as was necessary before there was a full three-year offering. Unusually, I began with Natural Sciences; then I was lucky enough to spend two years reading ASNC – my greatest loves being Welsh and Irish under Rachel Bromwich, and Medieval Irish History under Kathleen Hughes. I graduated in 1974, and joined the Open University in 1980 – in the Electronics Department of the Faculty of Technology (exploiting the Natural Sciences, rather than the ASNC, component of my degree). I've been at the OU ever since, obtaining my PhD there,



and becoming professor in 1999. My teaching at the OU has covered a wide range of subjects, from mathematics to media studies. Much of my research, though, from the early eighties, has been into the history of technology, particularly in Germany and the former USSR. And this is where, unexpectedly, my ASNC studies turned out to be surprisingly relevant. Although my Russian is still not particularly good, its six cases, three genders and mind-boggling inflections held no fears for a learner who had grappled in his youth with Old Irish! And the historiographical rigour taught by Kathleen Hughes has proven remarkably germane when closely interrogating documentary sources from 1930s Germany or Russia in the dusty archives of Berlin or Moscow. So I have no regrets about (temporarily) abandoning science for ASNC all those years ago: intellectually, academically, and professionally I have enjoyed the best of both worlds!

www.cands.org/Home/people/chris-bissell-1

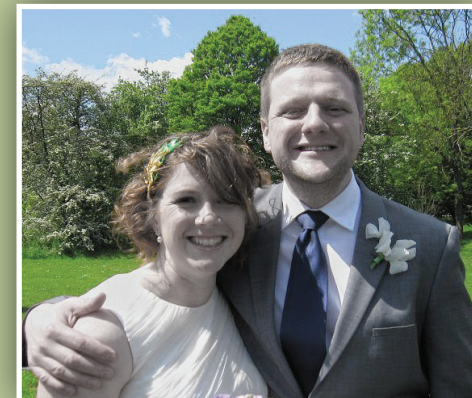
Photo, above left, Manon Williams; above, Chris Bissell with his eldest daughter

Congratulations to Julia Crick (Caius, 1982), who has been appointed Professor of Palaeography at King's College, London. Julia says 'I had the extreme good fortune to be connected with ASNC for ten years, as an undergraduate (Tripos Part I), postgraduate, and later as a research fellow. David Dumville and Michael Lapidge then taught palaeography and textual criticism to undergraduates with characteristic exactness. Without a doubt I owe my subsequent career to them and to the training and academic fellowship which the Department as a whole provided. I am delighted to assume responsibility for introducing postgraduates and undergraduates at King's to the study of manuscripts and to be joining a staff which includes among many distinguished medievalists the ASNC-trained palaeographer, Dr Peter Stokes.' Julia's colleagues at the University of Exeter made her a leaving cake in the shape of a manuscript!



Drinking Peredur and Kelly's health were Ben Snook (Girton, 2001), Bryn Jones (King's, 2003) Alaric Hall (Magdalene, 1997), Matthias Ammon (Robertson, 2001), and Ronni Phillips (St John's, 2008)

Peredur Davies (Queens', 1999), now Welsh-medium Teaching Fellow in Linguistics at the University of Bangor, married Kelly Webb on a rather rainy June Saturday in Anglesey. With a Welsh groom and an Australian bride, it was perhaps surprising that the ceremony took place at the same time as an Australia v Wales rugby test match! During the reception at the groom's parents' house the attending ASNC contingent could inevitably be found sheltering from the weather clustered around the keg of ale in the marquee.



Susan and Cato

Ex-ASNaC Susan Buhr and Cato van Schalkwyk were married on 12 May in Hilly Fields Park, near their home in Ladywell, South London. The wedding was held in the open air in the stone circle at the heart of the park, and the stunning weather and informal ceremony made it a touching and memorable occasion. After the ceremony, we all headed to the Jam Circus, a nearby pub, for the reception. The speeches were all brief, funny and touching. Overall it was wonderful to be able to share in Susan and Cato's happiness, two people who know how to throw a hell of a party. Their immediate plans include travelling to South Korea to teach English, and being inventive and enthusiastic in the special mad way which makes them such a great couple.



L to R: Dr Ralph O'Connor, University of Aberdeen; Dr Abigail Burnyeat, University of Edinburgh; Dr Beth Duncan, University of Edinburgh, with her daughter Ellie Tout - Beth's husband is another ASNC, James Tout; Dr Geraldine Parsons, University of Glasgow; Dr Katherine Forsyth, University of Glasgow; Eystein Thanisch, University of Edinburgh

A group of ex-ASNaCs met at the inaugural Scottish Postgraduate Workshop in Celtic Studies, held at The Burn, Angus, 8–10 June. See photo, right.