

Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic Alumni Newsletter

Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic

Issue 14 September 2024



The department wish Judy Quinn (Old Norse) all the best on her retirement at the 2024 garden party at Clare Hall - 19 May 2024.



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A Message from the Head of Department

Dear All, it is my great pleasure to write this to you already partway through my second go round holding the tiller of the good ship ASNC. It has been a very busy but excellent year, at the start of which we welcomed not only the formidable Ben Guy as Assistant Professor in Celtic, but also one of the largest MPhil cohorts (22!) in many years, as well as a genial, if slightly smaller than usual, crop of freshers. The year ended with a massive thank-you to Judy Quinn, retiring after 24 years in ASNC which has included a stint of service as HoD, tenure of every other admin role in the Department, many hours of astute presence in meetings, fostering a love of Old Norse literature that has seen so many to go on to MPhil level in the subject, as well as nurturing a wonderful community of PhD students, helped by her dedicated commitment to taking a group every year to the symposia in Bergen (see photos elsewhere in the newsletter). It was lovely to welcome back all the alumni who came to the garden party to toast Judy, and amazing also to see all the messages pour in from her former students, to be recorded in a book that was presented to Judy at the party. I say 'thank you' rather than 'farewell' here because Judy will still be around and supervising grads, and we hope to see lots of her at Departmental events. We also said a fond goodbye to Margo Griffin-Wilson, who has been with us since 2006 teaching Modern Irish and much more (see Máire's piece below). This year, farewells went also in December to Francesco Marzella at the end of the 4-year Leverhulme-funded Latin Arthurian literature project on which he was the researcher, and to Marie-Luise Theuerkauf, researcher on another Leverhulme project 'Mapping the Medieval Mind', who goes, with our hearty congratulations, to take up a Marie Curie Global Fellowship.

Between that start and finish much else has come to pass on the ASNC corridor and beyond, not just the usual round of teaching and learning, examining and being examined, C'room chat and pub-meets, but also guest lectures, conferences and trips. In December we were treated to the usual deliciousness of the Yule Play, this year including an epic film starring one of this year's graduands, George Cox, as well as music provided by ASNC's resident rock-star guitarist, András Droppa. Another end-of-term highlight was the Quiggin lecture on Northumbrian law by Dr Kristen Carella. December also saw two successful and closely-allied workshops, first on the rise of fiction in the long 12th century (associated with the Latin Arthurian project) and straight after, on Merlin, linked with David Callander's AHRC

A Message from the Head of Department (cont.)

funded Welsh Merlin project which Ben was part of before taking up his post in ASNC.

Marching on through the year, on 27th January the hard-working ASNC Society held yet another very well attended Black-tie Dinner (in Magdalene) which saw many an ex-Pres sip from the mead-horn and it was fantastic to meet so many alumni on that joyous occasion. February the annual graduate-run conference CCASNC took Travels and Transgressions as its topic, and we were really pleased to welcome back to ASNC Professor Clare Downham as the keynote speaker for that highly successful day. In March it was wonderful also to welcome back Professor Julia Crick, to give the Chadwick lecture on the palaeographer T. Julian Brown and the very illuminating archive of his correspondence. March also saw an extremely successful ASNC contribution to the Cambridge Festival, organised ably by Ben and involving eagerly-crafting MPhils and excellent papers from our postdocs and graduates. In April we were delighted to appoint Dr Dale Kedwards as Assistant Professor in Old Norse from October 2024 (see elsewhere in the newsletter for a brief introduction). That month we also welcomed Dr Gordon Noble from Aberdeen to give the annual Kathleen Hughes lecture, bringing riveting new insights into the Pictish Kingdoms. May brought the annual celebration of peak ASNC-ness which is the Peter Clemoes Reading prize, at which the joint winners were Marko Trandafilovski (switching languages from his victorious reading of Irish last year, to read Dafydd ap Gwilym's Trafferth mewn Tafarn in Medieval Welsh) and Toby Trusted, dramatically ousting a small pestilence with the Old English Charm Against a Wen. Honourable mention was accorded to Adrián Rodríguez Avila, who performed their specially-written De compositione ('On Composition') in Latin [surely time for someone to endow an ASNC composition prize?!! Ed.]

At the dwindling of the academic year, we congratulate one of the largest graduating undergrad cohorts we have had for a while, also our lovely big bundle of graduating MPhils – all the very best to all, whatever the future holds for you, and come back and see us soon if you're leaving Cambridge! Hearty congratulations go to all the doctoral students who submitted their PhDs during the last year. I'd personally like to offer warm congratulations to all my wonderful colleagues who as well as teaching, examining, DoSing, mentoring and administering all year, also each in their different ways

A Message from the Head of Department (cont.)

continued to push back the frontiers of scholarship by giving papers, plenaries and public lectures, publishing, and editing the publications of others. Sincerest thanks to you all for being such stalwarts: it has been a privilege to keep watch at the helm as ASNC has navigated through another academic year. Considerable gratitude is owed also to Tony Harris for taking on the editing and production of this newsletter for another year.

Please keep on staying in touch! The [Alumni Facebook group](#) and email (office@asnc.cam.ac.uk) are good ways to let us know what you've been doing.

Rosalind Love



Prof. Love with Paddy McAlary and Davide Salmoiraghi, two of the PhDs who successfully completed their vivas this year, as well as contributing to the teaching in ASNC.

Departmental News and Research

Dr Margo Griffin-Wilson: Slán agus Beannacht, agus Buíochas ó Chroí
Máire Ní Mhaonaigh

Dr Margo Griffin-Wilson who has taught Modern Irish in the Department for almost twenty years will return to her home in Worcester, Massachusetts at the end of this academic year. Margo's engagement and inspirational teaching has been enjoyed by generations of ASNCs, as well as by other students in the University, all of whom developed 'grá don Ghaeilge' as well as considerable competence therein under her expert guidance. Becky Shercliff and Alice Taylor-Griffiths led a tribute to Margo at the ASNC Garden Party in June of this year, at which gifts and a Book of Appreciation were presented to her, in recognition of Margo's outstanding contribution to the Department and University. Warm and heartfelt comments, as well as striking photos adorn the Book's pages, thanking Margo for her 'energy and commitment, and her 'many years of friendship and learning'; for her organisation of 'many brilliant events for the Cambridge community'; and above all for her endless patience and unceasing fun. Margo will be sorely missed 'agus ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann i gCambridge inár measc'.



Some future ASNAC potentials wish a fond farewell to Dr Margo Griffin-Wilson (Modern Irish) at the garden party.

(With thanks to Professor Máire Ní Mhaonaigh)

Prof. Dance Wins a Pilkington Prize (2023)



The Pilkington Prize awards were inaugurated in 1994 by Sir Alastair Pilkington, who believed passionately that the quality of teaching was a crucial part of the University's ability to continue to attract undergraduates of the highest calibre. Twelve prizes are awarded each year to individuals who make a substantial contribution to the teaching of a Department, a Faculty or the University. Received too late to include in last year's newsletter, the prize winners are listed [here](#) of which Prof. Dance was one.

As everybody in the department knows, and as the judges commented, 'He is an outstanding teacher: creative, enthusiastic, and much admired by his students and colleagues, not least for his linguist's love of puns. His dedication to teaching meant that he continued with his full teaching load throughout his term as Head of Department from 2017-18 through 2019-20 (the latter year encompassing the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, which added substantially to the responsibilities of leading the department). Richard is a brilliant teacher of Old English and Old English literature; studying Beowulf with him richly rewards our students for all the trials of Grimm's Law, Verner's Law, and seven classes of strong verbs. His contribution to the Germanic Philology paper, coordinated jointly with Dr Sheila Watts of the Faculty of Modern & Medieval Languages & Linguistics, is a stellar example of teaching collaboration within the School of Arts & Humanities. Richard is always oversubscribed as a supervisor of undergraduate and MPhil dissertations, and he is regularly sought out by students wishing to visit. In short, Richard is a magnificent colleague.'

Congratulations to Prof. Dance. Well deserved!

Fifteenth Bergen International Postgraduate Symposium in Old Norse Studies



Pictured left to right: Adrián Rodríguez Avila (PhD), Kendra Nydam (MPhil), Rhiannon Warren (MPhil), Kyla Rowe (MPhil), Prof. Judy Quinn, Winnie Axworthy (MPhil), Daisy Bonsall (PhD), Molly Bovett (MPhil), Alexia Kirov (PhD), Alison Owen (PhD) & Hugo Small (PhD).

In April, graduate students from the Department were once again invited to participate in the Fifteenth [Bergen International Postgraduate Symposium in Old Norse Studies](#), hosted by the Department of Linguistic, Literary and Aesthetic Studies at the University of Bergen in Norway. Papers were presented on a wide range of subjects including Old Norse literature, Scandinavian mythology, medieval Scandinavian history, Icelandic palaeography, comparative studies of Old Norse and Irish literature and of Old Norse and Old English literature as well as the connections between Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon textiles. As is our tradition, the Cambridge contingent gathered for a photo (in dazzling sunshine) under the statue of Snorri Sturluson, outside the Bryggen Museum where we spent a happy few hours exploring the display of Norwegian runic inscriptions, carved on wood, bone and leather.

(With thanks to Prof. Judy Quinn)

Introducing Dr Dale Kedwards



Dale Kedwards

Dale will start as Assistant Professor in Old Norse-Icelandic language and literature in ASNC on 1 October, as well as becoming a Fellow of King's College. He comes to us immediately from Reykjavík where he was a Research Fellow at the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies, and before that the HM Queen Margrethe II Distinguished Research Fellow at the University of Iceland, funded by the Carlsberg Foundation. He has also held postdoc positions at the Universities of Southern Denmark and of Zurich. He did his first degree at the University of Birmingham, holds an MA in Norse and Viking Studies from Nottingham and did his PhD at York, so he has seen a great variety of different institutions and cities during his career and we sincerely hope he'll find Cambridge and ASNC a good place to settle.

In 2020 Dale published a book on the Icelandic *Mappae Mundi* (medieval world maps) but his current project looks upwards to the heavens and explores the way medieval imagery is used to conceptualise space and space-exploration. We look forward very much indeed to welcoming him to the Department.

Dale writes that 'I am delighted to join the ASNC community, whom I've admired from a distance for quite some time! It's an honour to contribute to this next chapter of Old Norse at Cambridge, and I look forward to getting to know everyone.'

(With thanks to Prof. Rosalind Love)

Prof.Dance becomes Editorial Secretary of the Early English Text Society

Anyone who reads Old and Middle English literary texts will be familiar with the mid-brown volumes of the EETS, with the symbol of Alfred's jewel embossed on the front cover. Most of the works attributed to King Alfred or to Aelfric, along with some of those by bishop Wulfstan and much anonymous prose and verse from the pre-Conquest period, are to be found within the Society's three series; all of the surviving medieval drama, most of the Middle English romances, much religious and secular prose and verse including the English works of John Gower, Thomas Hoccleve and most of Caxton's prints all find their place in the publications. Without EETS editions, study of medieval English texts would hardly be possible.

You can find out more about EETS [here](#) and our congratulations go to Prof. Dance on his new appointment. He commented that EETS is 'always keen to welcome new subscribers'.



A selection of EETS volumes in the library at St. Catz.

Mapping the Medieval Mind: Ireland's Literary Landscapes in a Global Space



Mapping the Medieval Mind: Ireland's Literary Landscapes in a Global Space is an ongoing project in the Department funded by the Leverhulme Trust and focussing on a corpus of narratives relating how various places in Ireland got their names (*Dindshenchas Éirenn*, the History of Ireland's Notable Places). The postdoctoral researchers on the project, David McCay and Marie-Luise Theuerkauf, together with project director Máire Ní Mhaonaigh, continued to transcribe, translate and interpret these engaging stories: of Sinann who gave her name to the River Shannon, drowning therein while seeking to acquire poetic knowledge; and of lamenting and nut-eating Óengus, whose pursuit of an abducted lover is depicted as underlying the name of Knowth, Co. Meath – Cnogba, interpreted as Cnó-Guba, literally 'Nut-wailing'. The trio presented results of their research at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds in July of this year, and published work has also recently appeared, including articles by Marie-Luise and Máire on the River Boyne and on Tara, a symbolic site of kingship in that river-valley in a volume on *Classical Antiquity and Medieval Ireland*. We will bid farewell to Marie-Luise Theuerkauf at the end of this academic year, as she moves to Harvard (and subsequently Bonn) to take up a prestigious Marie Curie

Global Fellowship; she leaves with our heartfelt gratitude for her substantial contribution to our collaborative research. In her absence, David and Máire will continue to roam Ireland's textual landscapes, as the research continues until 2026. Alumni and their guests will have the opportunity to hear a talk about the project on Saturday 28th September 3-4pm, Room GR-07/08, Faculty of English, 9 West Road. All welcome and booking available here:

<https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/festival/events/a-storied-space-reading-the-environment-in-medieval-literature-of-place>.

Dating a Dictionary

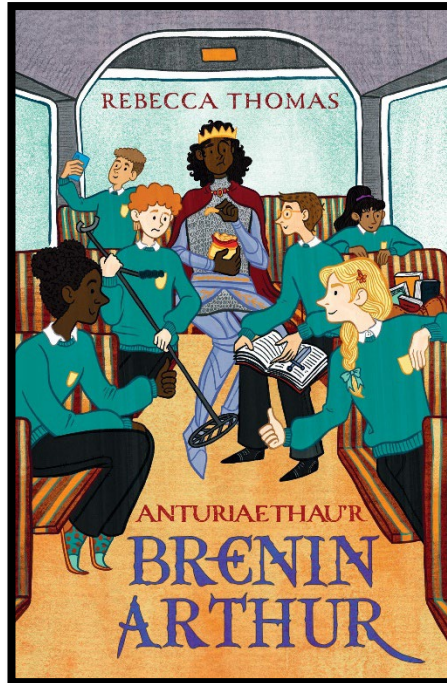


ASNC colleagues, Dr Sharon Arbuthnot and Prof. Máire Ní Mhaonaigh continued their research as part of the Chronology of the Medieval Irish Lexicon project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Together with Prof. Greg Toner of Queen's University Belfast who leads the project, they have been grappling with the considerable complexities of how many medieval Irish texts cited in the electronic Dictionary of Medieval Irish (eDIL: www.dil.ie) have been dated. In addition to augmented information which will be displayed as part of that electronic resource, an anticipated outcome of the project is a collaborative volume on the general issues and challenges involved in placing pre-modern texts in time. Greg presented some reflections of lexicography and chronology, while Máire discussed loanwords at the International Conference for Historical Lexicography and Lexicology in June of this year; and together with Sharon, they will host a workshop on dating later medieval Irish texts in Dublin on Thursday 4 September 2024. In the meantime, you can spend time with the project by following our account on X (formerly Twitter), @eDIL_Dictionary.

(With thanks to Professor Máire Ní Mhaonaigh)

Dr Rebecca Thomas (Cardiff)

Lecturer in Medieval History, Welsh Language Co-ordinator, School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University



Rebecca's third novel, 'Anturiaethau'r Brenin Arthur', was published by Gwasg Carreg Gwalch in the spring. Who is the hero that Wales needs today? A group of children from Bannau Brycheiniog think they know the answer! It will be an easy task to find King Arthur, to wake him and persuade him to help them to save the world. But they are unprepared for the adventure that follows... The novel includes a map of the adventure, drawn by another ASNC, Dr Ben Allport.

Alan James (ASNC visiting scholar 2002-3)

Alan admits to being 80-years young. However, as he puts it, 'his wonderful year in Cambridge' spawned the following publications: 2008a 'A Cumbric diaspora?' in Padel, Oliver J., and Parsons, David N., eds., *A Commodity of Good Names: Essays in Honour of Margaret Gelling* Donington, pp. 187-203; 2008b 'Hopping Hill, Milford, Db' *Journal of the English Place-Name Society* 40, pp. 121-4; 2009a Review of Cavill, Paul, and Broderick, George, eds., *Language Contact in the Place-Names of Britain and Ireland*, 2007, *Journal of Scottish Name Studies* 3, pp. 135-158; 2009b '*Egl̥e:s/ Ecl̥ēs and the formation of Northumbria' in Quinton, Eleanor, ed., *The Church in English Place-Names*, pp. 125-50; 2009c 'A Note on the place-name Dreva, Stobo, Peebleshire' *Journal of Scottish Name Studies* 3, pp. 121-6; 2010a 'Scotland's –ham and –ingham names: a reconsideration' *Journal of Scottish Name Studies* 4, pp. 103-130; 2010b 'A Slippery Customer: IE *slei and its derivatives in some British place-names' *Nomina* 33, pp. 65–86; 2011a 'Dating Brittonic Place-Names in Southern Scotland and Cumbria' *Journal of Scottish Name Studies* 5, pp. 57-114; 2011b 'A note on the two Barloccos Kcb, with Arlecdon Cmb' *Journal of Scottish Name Studies* 5, pp. 169-74; 2011 onward, frequently updated: *The Brittonic Language in the Old North: a guide to the place-name elements*, on the Scottish Place-Name Society web-site: www.spns.org.uk, best-known as BLITON. [*If I'm remembered at all in the world of Celtic philology, I guess this is what will be my best-known contribution!*]; 2013 'P-Celtic in Southern Scotland and Cumbria: a review of the place-name evidence for possible Pictish phonology' *Journal of Scottish Name Studies* 6, pp. 29-78; 2014a 'Cumbric trev in Kyle, Carrick, Galloway and Dumfriesshire' *Transactions of the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society* 88, pp. 21-4; 2014b 'Elements of Latin origin in P-Celtic Place-Names between the Walls' *Journal of Scottish Name Studies* 8, 2014, 1–50; 2017 'Angles and Britons around Trusty's Hill: Some Onomastic Considerations' *Transactions of the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society* 91, pp. 17-48; 2021a 'The Muirheads, The Shaws, and Tongland Abbey: a Preliminary Consideration' *Transactions of the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society* 95, pp. 29-36; 2021b Review of Simon Taylor, with Ronald Maclean and Jacob King, *Place-Names of the Aird and Strathglass* (Kiltarlity 2019) in *Nomina* 40, pp. 158-65; 2022 Review of Ansell, Michael, Black, Ronald, and Cowan, Edward J. eds. *Galloway: The Lost Province of Gaelic Scotland* (Aberdeen 2022), in *Transactions of the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society* 96, pp. 102-12; 2024 (forthcoming) Review of Parsons, David N., *Welsh and English in Medieval Oswestry* (Nottingham 2022) in *Journal of Celtic Linguistics* 22; 2024 (forthcoming) 'What is a "Birren"?' in *Transactions of the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society* 96. (WOW! Ed.)

Prof Peter Lucas
Honorary Research Associate
Emeritus Professor of Old and Middle English (UCDublin)



As Prof. Lucas observes, 'Thanks to Covid when I couldn't go out and meet people, 'even the UL was shut for weeks on end, I wrote a lot of stuff up, on top of which one publisher was rather slow, so people are saying 'What a year you're having' because two books came out within a month of each other. Peter J. Lucas, *Old English Poetry From Manuscript to Message*, *Utrecht Studies in Medieval Literacy* 58 (Turnhout: Brepols, 2024), pp. xviii + 398. <https://www.brepols.net/products/IS-9782503600314-1>; Peter J. Lucas, *Printing Anglo-Saxon from Parker to Hickes and Wanley, With a Catalogue of Early Printed Books containing Anglo-Saxon 1566–1705*, *Library of the Written Word* 105 (Leiden: Brill, 2024), pp. xxiv + 708. <https://brill.com/display/title/62428>; Peter J. Lucas, 'Elizabeth Elstob and the Printing of Anglo-Saxon', *Anglia*, 141 (2023), 197–233.'

Black Tie Dinner 2024

ASNC Black Tie Dinner 2024 held at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

This year, the annual ASNC Black Tie Dinner took place at the ever-elegant Magdalene College. The evening was simply wonderful with outstanding food, a great performance from the ASNC Quire, and a lively and animated atmosphere that comes with any accumulation of ASNaCs, past and present, dining together in good company. As always, such a night could not have been possible without the benevolent generosity of some of our wonderful alumni!



Regular ASNC Life

Life within the ASNaC Society has continued as usual over the last year. Our annual Yule Play, having come and gone, was filled with some brilliantly comical sketches such as 'The Dream of the Rude' and 'I'm Just Sven', taking influence from the pop-culture sensations of 2023 before applying the usual dose of ASNC comedy and chaos.

Our other weekly events continued to prosper with ASNaC pub being held on the regular and with 'Welfare Wednesdays' becoming even better than ever, most memorably featuring plant pot painting sessions to brighten and decorate the Common Room terrace. Many plants were potted, but it might have been too optimistic to hope that any of them would survive!



**Students Hard at Work on 'Welfare Wednesdays' and
'at the library' (see books in background)**

Isle of Man trip 2024

The first of the trips that our current ASNaC students had the opportunity to embark upon this year was a brilliant short trip to the Isle of Man, organised by past Society Presidents, Lizzy and Will. In January of this year, a small group of ASNaCs, including both undergrads and postgrads, visited stunning landmarks, such as Peel Castle, the Manx Museum and the House of Manannan, seeking out ASNC links at each of these locations whilst also getting to experience the rich history of the Island. Though it was certainly a chilly trip in January, the sun never stopped shining!



Sutton Hoo trip 2024

So far in 2024, our current ASNC students have been treated with two trips! At the end of Easter Term 2024, around 30 ASNC students adventured from Cambridge to the site of Sutton Hoo for a short day out! The weather luckily held out for us, and we all enjoyed a day of exploring the site, dressing up in ASNC-y costumes (polished off with wooden swords, of course) and observing the burial mounds. Upon our arrival at the site, we were excited to find out that BBC's *Time Team* was excavating and filming at Sutton Hoo at the time and we even got to watch some of the behind-the-scenes action that went into the program's creation!



(with thanks to Jennifer Pryce – President ASNaC Society)

Clemoes Reading Prize Winners – 2024

Congratulations to Marko Trandafilovski and Toby Trusted, joint winners of the 2024 Clemoes Reading Prize. Marko won for his performance of Dafydd ap Gwilym's 'Trafferth mewn Tafarn' in Medieval Welsh, and Toby won for their performance of 'Charm Against a Wen' in Old English. An honourable mention is given to Adrián Rodríguez Avila for their performance of 'De Compositione' in Latin.



Congratulations to our Robinson graduands (largest ever number graduating in ASNC there!) George Cox, Andras Droppa, Fred Upton, and AJ Wilson (not pictured here) and their proud DoS



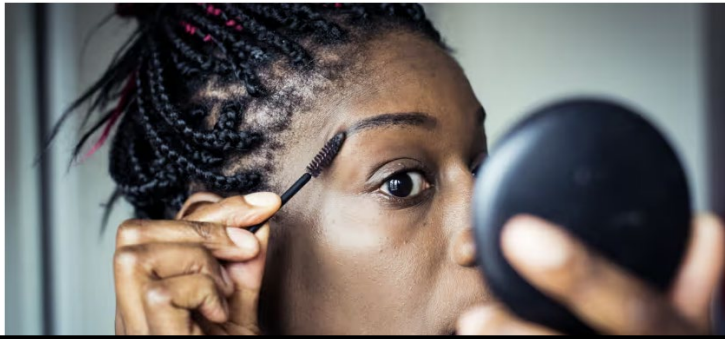
(With thanks to Prof. Love).

Alexandra Zhirnova (PhD Candidate ASNC)

Alexandra was interviewed in the 'Guardian' in March. 'According to a talk at the University of Cambridge, it was in the third century that the Christian idea that "real" beauty is within was first used by influential male writers to try to control how women dressed.' ... 'Zhirnova's PhD thesis shines a spotlight on the misogynistic attitudes of medieval Christian men towards women's makeup, clothing and adornments.' Congratulations Alexandra!

Medieval Christian misogyny shapes how we judge women today, says scholar

Cambridge talk claims early male writers introduced idea real beauty is within to control how women dressed



Dr Anthony Harris (PhD ASNC 2021)

Anthony (Tony) has won a [Fulbright award](#) to visit Harvard in Q1 of 2025 where he will be researching manuscripts of science at the Houghton library and developing electronic summary catalogues for them. He has also won a two year [British Academy Ker award](#) to digitise a Bodleian computistical manuscript (MS Bod. 309) and produce an electronic catalogue of it. Tony maintains the [Kemble](#) website and was recently elected a visiting academic at the department of computer science and technology.

Dr Edmund Hunt

Research Catalogue Administrator, Birmingham City University Faculty of Arts, Design and Media Portal.

Edmund was recently interviewed by Eleanor Barraclough (ASNaC) for her documentary about the music of the Vikings:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0020y90>. He spoke about his recent 'Augmented Vocality' project (which Máire Ní Mhaonaigh and Brittany Schorn were also involved in).

Catrin Roberts (Girton 1996)

After working in broadcasting public affairs and communications, Catrin joined Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales in autumn 2023. As Head of External Relations and Funding, she's an enthusiastic voice for the museum's seven sites and collection centre, which include the National Roman Legion Museum, Viking relics, a round-house reconstruction, and a host of treasures as well as more recent fine and contemporary art and much more. Based mainly at National Museum Cardiff (to which she still can't believe she now has a key!) Catrin would love to hear from any ASNaCs visiting Amgueddfa Cymru (catrin.roberts@museumwales.ac.uk).



Dr Hattie Soper (Kings 2014-2019)



Congratulations to [Hattie](#) who takes up a post as Lecturer in Medieval Literature at the [Department of English](#) at Bristol University. Hattie completed her PhD at ASNAC (2014-2018) and subsequently won a JRF at Corpus (2017-19). After that she was Simon and June Li Fellow in English Literature at Lincoln College (Oxford). Hattie is a frequent visitor to Cambridge and was at the most recent garden party.

Adam Kirton (ASNC 2010-2013)

Adam is keen to re-engage with the ASNC community, and cannot wait to hear from fellow Medievalists. He has returned to teaching and has recently been promoted to whole school reading lead at Oasis Southbank Academy, London. (Ofsted outstanding, June 2024) where he teaches English language and literature. Many of his students are budding medievalists. He has just finished his first policing novel (publishing negotiations ongoing) and is currently editing his Saxon Saga. Do feel free to contact him at adamkirton1@gmail.com.

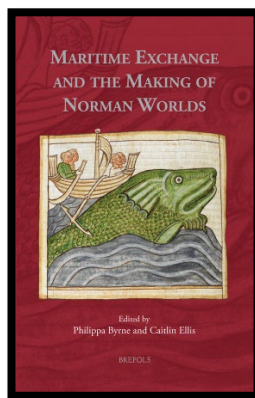


Dr Caitlin Ellis

BA, MPhil and PhD in ASNaC (2010–18)

ASNaC Society Co-President (2012–13)

In the last newsletter we congratulated Caitlin on her appointment as Associate Professor of Nordic Medieval History at the University of Oslo, a permanent post. One of Caitlin's most recent publication is an edited collection entitled [Maritime Exchange and the Making of Norman Worlds](#), published by Brepols. Edited together with Dr Philippa Byrne (TCD) the book is an examination of 'how Normans understood and imagined their own relationship with the sea as a place of exchange, a zone of uncertain control, and an ambiguous kind of border'. Many congratulations to Dr's Ellis and Byrne.



Caitlin has also recently been involved, with a team of ASNaC alumni, of the translation into English of *The Saga of Jón the Player* (*Jóns saga leiksveins*), a *riddarasaga* or chivalric saga that dates from the later Middle Ages (for more see medievalists.net). This is the first time that this saga has been edited or translated in a published work.'

See, Hui, Jonathan Y. H., Brynja Þorgeirsdóttir, Francesco Colombo, **Caitlin Ellis**, Eric Haley-Halinski and James McIntosh. 'Jóns saga leiksveins: A text and translation', in [From Rus' to Rímur](#): New Norse Studies, eds. Shaun F. D. Hughes and Allyn K. Pearson. Islandica, 65 (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2024).

Weddings and Births

Georgina Gearing-Bell (ASNC 2009-2012)



Amelia Willow Gearing Shrive. Born 27 December 2023



Further super-cute newborn baby picture of Amelia

Robin McConnell (Clare 2008) and Kate McQuillian (Caius 2008)

Robin McConnell (Clare 2008) and Kate McQuillian (Caius 2008) were delighted to welcome a son, Aedán Ninian, in April 2024 (see picture below). Alongside parenthood, Robin has recently become the Producer of History Hit's new 'Echoes of History' podcast. [Kate is the Archivist of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle](#); she has co-edited a collection of essays published this year, 'Scribbled in Haste at Windsor', each of which draws on an archival source to tell a story from the Chapel's history. 'Scribbled in Haste' will soon be available to order from the Chapel bookshop. <https://www.stgeorges-windsor.org/shop/>.



Weddings

Among the doubtless very many recent life-events of ASNaCs, two weddings this year have come to the editor's attention (courtesy of Prof. Love): Carly Hiltz (St John's, 2005), now chief editor of 'Current Archaeology', married Simon C.B. Jones at the Bluebell Railway, Horsted Keynes on 27 April 2024, and Kit Finn (Corpus, 2008) married Hannah Pack in Burford on 22 July 2024, an occasion attended by several of Kit's ASNC contemporaries. We send warm congratulations to Carly and Simon, Kit and Hannah.

Dates for Your Diary

(All at 9 West Road unless otherwise stated.)

Alumni Festival: Saturday, 28 September 2024

Cambridge Festival 19 March – 2 April 2025

Quiggin Lecture: Thursday 5 December 2025 (Prof Dr Lena Rohrbach)

ASNC Society Black Tie Dinner: date and location tbc

Chadwick Lecture: Thursday 20 March 2025 (Prof Fiona Edmonds)

Kathleen Hughes Lecture: date tbc in Easter Term (Prof David Stifter)

ASNC Summer Garden Party: Wed. 25 June 2025, 6pm - English Faculty social space.

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

You are warmly invited to join the [ASNaC Alumni Facebook group](#) (**Anglo- Saxon, Norse & Celtic Alumni**) for further announcements and updates and to keep in touch!

If you are interested in finding out more about our current research and teaching or our future plans, or would like to tell us news that you would like reported in future newsletters, please contact us through the Departmental Secretary at office@asnc.cam.ac.uk or by post: 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).