

Exploring the Celtic Twilight
Richard Stone

12th - 13th Aug 2019
Monday to Tuesday

The people known to us as the Picts, chronicled by others but not by themselves, speak to us through a rich artistic legacy, notably skilfully and intricately carved stones. This course explores what we can learn of Pictish life and culture from their art and monuments, and begins with an investigation of Post-Roman Britain in the Age of Arthur.

Description

Life in Post-Roman Britain south of Hadrian's Wall (the period we used to call the 'Dark Ages') is the least documented era in the two thousand years of recorded British history. A period shrouded in myth and legend behind which lie real events. Recent archaeology challenges long-held views and this course will review contemporary sources in the light of the latest finds, and consider evidence for a real 'Arthur'. The Picts were a group of different tribes occupying the north and east of Scotland in the late-Iron Age and early-medieval period from around 200BC to the late-9th century, when Pictish identity was absorbed within a unified nation. Having failed to subdue Caledonia, the Romans settled for containment. The Picts acquired a reputation as wild barbarians. We will challenge this perception: examining the latest archaeological discoveries; exploring the evidence from religious sites; and, tracing the impact of Christianity as expressed in Pictish art, focusing on sculpted Pictish stones and speculating on the meaning of their enigmatic symbols.

Please bring with you

A notebook and pen will be useful.
'Show & tell items' are always welcome'

About Richard Stone

Richard is an experienced tutor and the author of several books on history. He holds a Masters degree from the University of Leicester.

Course Location:

Missenden Abbey

Great Missenden
Buckinghamshire HP16 0BD

Monday	
9am	Coffee on arrival
9.15am	Welcome and tutor introductions
9.30am-1pm	Teaching session
1-2pm	Lunch for all
2-5pm	Teaching session
6.45 for 7pm	Dinner for residents
Tuesday	
7-9.15am	Breakfast for residents
9.30am-1pm	Teaching session
1-2pm	Lunch for all
2-5pm	Last teaching session