



New Series 5.30 Sunday 29th April

NEWS RELEASE

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Immediate

Chester Resident is Remaining Witness
to the Most Important Archaeological Treasure Found in Britain

What would it be like to be present at the unearthing of the most magnificent treasure ever found on British soil?

This happened to 80 year old Elsie Lloyd who now lives in Chester but remembers as a girl watching spellbound as a 1,600 year old 90ft Saxon royal ship burial emerged from the ground at Sutton Hoo when on holiday with her aunt.

Elsie held the famous treasures as they were freshly unearthed by the archaeologist Basil Brown and his helpers.

She chillingly recalls the macabre sight of the Saxon King's body in the centre of the ship's burial chamber, a sand ghost which crumbled into dust a few moments later.

Elsie was given three pieces of the ship, two rivets and an incredibly rare piece of the ship's timber - which she treasures to this day.

Her recollections and other local finds are revealed in the new series of *Lost Treasures* which is broadcast Sunday 29 April at 5.30 for eight consecutive weeks.

Christleton based producer Phil Hirst: “ It never ceases to amaze us what treasures are shown to us when we begin filming. So many times we have had to change our schedules as new exciting finds come up. With so much spin blighting our sense of reality, Elsie’s story is hard to believe but 100% genuine.”

The series shows how ordinary people outside archaeology can turn up extraordinary ancient artefacts or discoveries.

Cheshire features highly in the series with an alternative angle on Roman Chester showing how the Romans suppressed ancient native cultures like the Druids and the Celts.

Programme presenter Mark Olly, a lecturer at West Cheshire College, suggests that these cultures never left us and simply went underground allowing christianity to flourish.

ENDS

For further information contact Keith Thompson, Effective Media 07913 755 583

Note to Editors

Elsie West can be pictured provisionally on Wednesday 25 April (tbc). She is on holiday and we will update you on the photocall at which time she will be able to produce her treasured remains (ship rivets and timber) from the Sutton Hoo ship itself. If your deadlines are too acute, we can also offer a general release regarding specific references to archaeological discoveries featured on the programme in the Wirral, North Wales and Cheshire areas together with a picture of Mark Olly. Contact Keith Thompson 07913 755 583 or keith@effective-media.co.uk if you would like to be sent a copy by return.