



New series ITV Granada 5.30 Sunday April 29

NEWS RELEASE

**April 20
Immediate**

Of Druids, Saxons, Vikings and TV archaeologists

A new series of Chester-based Lost Treasures, presented by West Cheshire College lecturer Mark Olly starts Sunday April 29th for eight weeks and features new discoveries in Chester and North Wales.

The series shows how ordinary people outside archaeology can turn up extraordinary ancient artefacts or ground breaking reasearch. So 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 while 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.

Christleton based producer Phil Hirst said: “ 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.”

An alternative angle on Roman Chester shows how the Romans suppressed ancient native cultures like the Druids and the Celts. The trail extends to Anglesey, Wrexham and Hexham, the location of Hadrian’s Wall.

Programme presenter Mark Olly suggests that these cultures never left us and simply went underground allowing christianity to flourish.

In the opening episode, The Huxley Hoard of 15 pieces of Viking silver found at the Castle is also under the scrutiny of guest archaeologist Rob Philpott.

www.lost-treasures.co.uk

ENDS

For further information contact Keith Thompson 0789 266 2634 or Phil Hirst 0798 361 4567