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The Somme Cauldron - Life and Death in the La Boisselle Sector

Tuesday 17th June 2014, 6 for 6.30pm
at Room 6E 2.8, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, University
of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath, BA2 7AY

Speaker: Jeremy Banning



In 2011 a team of military historians commenced a long-term study of a unique piece of First World War battleground. Bordering the village of La Boisselle at the heart of the Somme battlefield the sector was known to the British troops as the 'Glory Hole'. Having lain practically undisturbed since 1918, archaeology has revealed a host of features including evidence of French, British and German occupation spanning the evolution of trench warfare. The ground was also extensively undermined, forming one of the most important and labyrinthine tunnel systems on the Western Front.

This talk will look at the history of the sector, focussing on specific wartime actions and telling the stories of men who fought and died above and below ground. The engineering aspects of tunnelling will be discussed and a comparison made with the methods adopted by the team in re-opening and exploring the system nearly one hundred years later. The talk is liberally illustrated with images of underground exploration and archaeology with a special focus on those who lost their lives at La Boisselle.

About the Speaker: Jeremy Banning is a military historian and researcher specialising in the First World War. He has collaborated on a number of books, radio and television programmes, appearing in the BBC's Who Do You Think You Are, Coming Home, and various Time Team Specials. Recent work includes research for BBC Four's The Somme: Secret Tunnel Wars and a BBC Two programme looking at poets and writers on the Somme which will be broadcast in 2014.



Booking is required, please see below.

All are welcome, you do not need to be an ICE member to attend.

For bookings and/or enquiries, please contact Natalie Wills:
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CPD: This event may be considered for contributing to a recognised Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme as part of personal development. Delegates should check their individual scheme requirements.

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