

A DIRTY WINDOW ON THE IRON AGE?

An Article by Jane Webster

Presented by
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Jane Webster

- ▣ Senior Lecturer, School of History, Classics and Archaeology – Newcastle University
- ▣ Maintains the Heritage City Website
- ▣ Co-ordinates outreach programmes
- ▣ Leader of the Newcastle Uni branches of the young Archaeologists club
- ▣ Research focus
 - Colonial material culture
 - Roman Empire – 18th Century
 - Romano-British Iconography
 - Archaeology of Slavery
- ▣ 28 works on Romano-Britain and the Celts



The Article

- ▣ Part of larger work
- ▣ Published 2015
- ▣ 'recent developments in the archaeological study of religious belief and ritual practice in Iron Age Britain'
- ▣ Case study on the 'epigraphy and iconography of pre-Roman Celtic deities'
- ▣ Epigraphy – The study of inscriptions
- ▣ 'Celtic' character
 - Prehistoric Material Culture
 - Classical ethnographies
 - Medieval texts
 - Folklore
 - Nationalist politics

The Article Cont.

- ▣ 'time, place and contingency...had been rendered incidental when it came to the Iron Age Celts'
- ▣ Finds: The 'Doctor'
- ▣ 'Notion that Iron Age Britain was peopled by a single ethnic group'
- ▣ Ritual and the Druids
 - 'specialised "cult" sites are a distinct rarity in England and Wales'
 - "'ritual" appears more firmly embedded in domestic life'
- ▣ Lack of evidence for specialized ritual use
 - Holzhauzen

Key Themes

- ▣ Archaeological evidence
- ▣ The Celts
- ▣ Pre-Roman Celtic Religion

Bibliography

- ▣ Webster J. 'A Dirty Window on the Iron Age? Recent Developments in the Archaeology of Pre-Roman Celtic Religion'. In: Ritari, K, ed. *Understanding Celtic Religion: Revisiting the Pagan Past*. [Cardiff, UK: University of Wales Press, 2015], pp.121-154.
- ▣ Newcastle University, 'Dr. Jane Webster', from: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/hca/people/profile/janewebster.html>; [accessed 30th September]
- ▣ *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*, ed. R. E. Allen, 8th edn. [Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1991]