

## **Talk on Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup> The Didcot Mirror**

By David Moon

David is the curator of Archaeology at the Oxfordshire museum services

Most importantly £33,000 was raised to ensure the mirror did not go to a private collection.

He gave an overview of the Bronze Age period before relating the story to the settlements found in the vicinity of Didcot, and then a detailed description of the mirror which dates from the 1st Century BC and is decorated in an unusual style, there has been only 18 of this type of mirror found so far in the UK.

This particular mirror was found to the west of here but the location was kept a secret.

Historians are unclear on what the exact function of mirrors in the Iron Age society would be but David Moon, Curator of Archaeology with the Museums service, believes that they could have been used for other purposes than just to check their appearance.

He said: "They would certainly have been prestigious items, owned by few people. Mirrors can be used to reflect light into dark spaces or to signal across distances as well as to apply make-up or check your hair. In many cultures mirrors are magical objects, which reflect an alternative view of the world, or act as a portal to another world, like Alice found in *Through the Looking Glass*. This may well have been the case in Iron Age, Druidic society, and mirrors may be connected to fortune telling or shamanic activity. While this mirror was a casual find with no archaeological context, some have been found in association with cremation burials, so mirrors may also have had a function connected with death or afterlife."

David Taylor  
Chairman.