



I first moved to Hove – which sits on the south coast of England – many years ago. I immediately fell in love with the area; the spirit of the place, the people and the sea! And as I immersed myself in my new surroundings, I discovered that there once stood a huge Bronze Age burial mound right in the middle of Hove, which was flattened in 1856 during building works. It used to stand twenty feet high, close enough to the shoreline to have been seen far out to sea. This burial mound revealed a coffin roughly hewn from a hollowed-out tree trunk, and inside that, nestled amongst the bones and burial goods, sat a cup crafted from Baltic Amber – a cup that was over 3,000 years old!

Excitedly I told everyone about my findings – and was amazed that no one seemed to know anything about this mound, this cup – this forgotten chieftain once so important to the area. Even the place name itself – Hove – is derived from this monument. (The old Danish word “Hof” which means burial ground.)

I started imagining who this person might have been to be buried in such fine style. And what the significance of

this small amber cup could have been? With each question, the germ of this book grew and grew. And with it, so did Rose Muddle – my heroine; a workhouse girl who is plucked from obscurity, only to discover that her future holds dangerous – and magical secrets...

I have borrowed many elements of *The Amber Pendant* from local history: there was a Chalybeate spring in St Ann's Well Gardens, renowned for its health-giving qualities. A Gypsy Lee really did use to tell fortunes from a wagon in St Ann's Well Gardens, and many of the geographical places you find in the novel can still be seen here in Hove today.

I hope this story inspires you to uncover forgotten secrets wherever you live – please let me know what you find!

*The Amber Pendant* is Imogen's debut novel and won a place in the 2014 Undiscovered Voices anthology. Imogen loves local history, and stories that aren't limited to beautiful countryside locations or secluded seaside coves.



Find out more about Imogen at [mysteryverse.wordpress.com](http://mysteryverse.wordpress.com)