



UNCOVERING OUR PAST TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER 134

Spring 2014



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GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY
CHARITY. No. 252290R

LOOKING FORWARD

Emma Keep, Publicity officer

Later in the Spring, we will be launching the newly branded GlosArch Group to the media and the public generally, highlighting our aim to engage as proactively as possible with the community, the creation of a new group website, and initiatives to drum up new members... watch out for more details!

An important aspect of this initiative is the development of a long-term programme of fieldwork opportunities for GlosArch. Tony Roberts has very kindly stepped forward to be our new Fieldwork Co-ordinator. He has already amassed a calendar full of exciting new activities for this year and the next. Thanks Tony!

FROCESTER FUND GRANT APPLICATION

Objects of the Fund

1. The primary object of the Fund is to finance the publication of archaeological reports relating to Gloucestershire.
2. At the discretion of the Gloucestershire Archaeology Executive Committee money from the Fund may be used to meet the costs of specialist reports (e.g. pottery, carbon dating etc.) which might be necessary elements of the publication of excavation projects (either as standalone documents or in "Glevensis") and other expenses incurred by excavation projects.
3. Only one allocation of up to £1,000 can be made in any one year, the year to run from 1 October to 30 September.

For an application form and further details please write to the Hon Secretary, Marta Cock, 8 Churchfield Road, Stroud, GL5 1EQ, phone 01453 767822 or email her at glosarch@btinternet.com

GLOSARCH FIELDWORK

Tony Roberts, Fieldwork Co-ordinator

The Committee are working hard on producing a programme of fieldwork for members during the 2014 season. Potential activities include geophysical surveys at LLanthyony Priory and some recently discovered Roman sites within the County. It is anticipated that further work will be conducted at the Romano-British settlement at Woeful Lake to expand on the recent successful field walking and geophysics conducted there over the past few years. Excitingly, there will also be an opportunity to join excavations on the Iron Age complex at Bagendon and a recently discovered Romano-British site in the Cotswolds. We already have an invitation to participate in some work on Robinswood Hill with Andrew Armstrong the Gloucester City archaeologist. I am hopeful that this is the first of many such opportunities. More information will be circulated to all members when the details are finalised.



GlosArch has its own geophysical equipment and some fieldwork equipment. Members are encouraged to consider individual projects that may be of interest in their local area. All fieldwork is coordinated through the committee to ensure that the maximum support is offered to anyone undertaking fieldwork as part of GlosArch. Advice and support can be provided from the planning stage, through assistance with equipment and manpower, to the report writing stage. Hopefully, a short article on your work can be published in the Group's magazine 'Glevensis'. If you have a project that you wish to take forward let the fieldwork coordinator Tony Roberts know on archeoscan@hotmail.co.uk or have a chat on 07901 746140. Hope to see you in the field during 2014.

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Oakridge Lynch Fieldwork

Recent work undertaken by GCCAS included a day of fieldwalking training and two days of test pit digging as part of Heritage Lottery Funded project at Oakridge Lynch. The cropmark of an Iron Age enclosure was targeted as part of the fieldwalking survey. Twelve participants were taught the traverse and stint method of systematic fieldwalking collection. Finds included flints and pottery.

The two days of test pit training were undertaken in the allotments at Oakridge Lynch. Over 20 people were involved in the digs and the whole primary school (all 22 pupils) came for a site visit!



Test pits at Oakridge Lynch

Tewkesbury Archive Deposition

Between March and October 2013 we worked on a number of pre PPG16 archives from excavations undertaken by the late Alan Hannan of the Tewkesbury Archaeological and Architectural Committee (TAAC) in the early to mid 1970s. The majority of this material was from excavations at the Sabrina Cinema site in Tewkesbury, undertaken in 1972 and 1973, with additional material from a number of smaller excavations and watching briefs in the Tewkesbury area from the period 1971 and 1974. TAAC operated under the *aegis* of Tewkesbury Borough Council and the archives have been stored at the council offices since the excavations were completed.

Using our well established group of volunteers we processed, quantified and repackaged 122 boxes of finds, and re-ordered the documentary archives for these excavations in line with current museum standards.

Over 500 iron objects have been X-rayed and important local assemblages of small finds (principally Roman brooches and worked bone pins) have been appropriately packaged. In addition further conservation of two Roman shale bracelets was undertaken.

Some finds already held by Tewkesbury Museum have now been reunited with the rest of their archives, and the assemblages also contained a few items (such as an iron arrowhead from the site of the Battle of Tewkesbury and a polished stone axe head) which were originally in the museum collection but had been 'missing' for some years.

The archives were deposited with Tewkesbury Museum for long-term curation in early December 2013. Thank you to everyone who helped with the project!

Core team work

Planning - We have been very busy commenting on large planning and pre-planning applications many of which are solar arrays (basically fields full of solar panels) and major housing developments in the county. We've commented on the archaeological aspects of several local and neighbourhood development plans including the Joint Core Strategy for Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury and the Cotswold Local Plan – these will help to inform future areas for development.

We have also had an input into various national consultations including a ministerial review of local government archaeological services and the restructuring of English Heritage.

Historic Environment Record (HER) – We are continuing to add the Listed Buildings to the HER and currently have only Cotswold District to complete to have full county coverage. We are also enhancing our WWI records to mark the centenary of the outbreak of war.

The County and City Archaeology Services are working towards a joint HER so that there is seamless coverage for the county. We are also working towards putting a simplified version of the HERs onto Heritage Gateway – this will mean that people can do simple searches of our records online rather than by contacting us directly. Complex and commercial searches will still be undertaken by our team. To make an HER enquiry visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/her

Countryside Schemes – We are proud to be part of a national trial for a new Farm Environment Plan scheme run by Natural England. The trial ends on March 14th and we are expecting 90 consultations which will cover large parts of the rural areas of the county. These will help to protect and manage the archaeology of the county for the next 10 years. If the trial is successful this method of management will be rolled out across the country. English Woodland Grant Schemes and felling licence applications which we receive from the Forestry Commission are also taking up a lot of our time but ensure that important archaeological features that may be hidden by woodland (you can't see the archaeology for the trees) are protected and well managed.

And finally!



Bourton-on-the-Water Archive Opportunities – We need you!

We are currently working on processing the finds from this important excavation. The project ran from 1993-1994 and was undertaken prior to a large housing estate being built in the Lansdown area of Bourton. It produced a large amount of Roman material including complete pots, a coin hoard, a stone statuette of a Roman goddess and brooches. The finds haven't been looked at for 18 years so we are quantifying them in order to get a full understanding of the collection. If you'd like to find out more about the project or get involved at our next workshops email anna.morris@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Roman figurine from Bourton-on-the-Water.
This forms part of the archive that we're currently looking for volunteers to help us with.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Mike Milward

GlosArch's expanded committee, now 11 strong, has been working hard to develop the society and continue to drive it forward. The website, leaflet and application form have been redesigned with a new banner and logo, and this has all been done in the context of a relaunch event which is currently being planned by Terry Moore-Scott, Tony Roberts and our new Publicity Officer Emma Keep, the details of which will be revealed to members and to the general public very shortly. Tony Roberts has also agreed to take over as Fieldwork Coordinator with a view to setting up a programme of fieldwork projects for the coming year which can be used to attract new members who want to be certain they will get the chance to get out into the field. Committee meetings will themselves be refocused to give more emphasis to practical archaeology, with contributions from the Fieldwork Coordinator and the coopted City and County Archaeologists moving up the agenda. At the same time, our much valued Secretary, Marta Cock, has indicated that she must reduce her workload, so the Committee now has to find a way to reassign responsibility for the winter programme and/or the secretarial functions. Anyone interested in finding out more about either of these roles or in helping us to fulfil them is invited to discuss them by phoning me on 01242 463696 or emailing m.milward1@yahoo.co.uk

PROGRAMME DATES & VENUES FOR YOUR DIARY

Marta Cock

This year, after discussing attendance at our Gloucester venue with members, we came to the conclusion that we needed to find a venue nearer the City Centre, bus and rail stations and with good parking. We also decided to return to meeting on Monday evenings, instead of Wednesdays when so many members find clashes with other similar societies. After visiting a number of possible venues in Gloucester we decided to book Kingsholm & Wotton Neighbourhood Partnership's Centre at 79a Sebert Street, Gloucester GL1 3BS. The room we will use on the first floor is very pleasant & comfortable, with a lift for anyone who finds stairs difficult, toilets close by and the possibility of preparing drinks and food should we wish to offer them on occasion. Secure parking is adjacent. We have also booked St Andrews URC in Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP again.

Final details about our lecture programme will be published in early summer.

Dates for next year are all on Mondays, 7:30 pm to c. 9:00pm. In Gloucester they are 27th Oct & 8th Dec 2014 and 2nd Feb & 16th Mar 2015. In Cheltenham they are 6th Oct & 17th Nov 2014 and 12th Jan & 23rd Feb 2015.

COPIES OF "CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGY" FREE

If you would like a complete set of "Current Archaeology" magazines from March 2002, please get in touch with Nicholas Barton, 2 Church Farm Barn, Point Road, Avening, Tetbury. GL8 8ND or tel: 01453 835541

FOUNDATION DEGREE IN ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION IN CIRENCESTER

The Royal Agricultural University and Cirencester College are pleased to invite applications for a new foundation degree due to start in October 2014. The course has been designed to enable those with a passion for the human past to understand and respond to increasing pressure to conserve cultural and natural environments. It is structured to meet the needs of three distinct categories of students; (1) those entering higher education direct from school or college, (2) mature students who wish to change or develop a new career, and (3) those using the course as part of their agreed professional development with their employer, and who may be attending on a part-time basis.

Employment routes from this qualification include work in the following areas:

- Professional archaeology, • Tourism and leisure, • Museums, archaeological and historical sites
- Conservation and historic landscape management, • Environmental and heritage consultancy
- Work for government agencies and local authorities • Work for non-statutory organisations and charities
- Volunteer and community projects

The programme involves a fantastic variety of teaching and learning activities and environments including lectures, seminars, and tutorials, but also site visits, practical fieldwork opportunities, work-based learning, and directed private study. Modules focus on heritage management, landscape cultural history and change, practical landscape conservation skills, standing buildings and historical conservation, and archaeological methods and practice.

Assessments for each module cover a range of formats that have been carefully devised to suit the needs of these specialist areas. These include fieldwork reports, oral presentations, business and management plans, group and individual research, and supervised assessment of practical field methods. Modules will be completed over two years on a full-time basis. There is also potential to progress from the qualification to a full BSc honours degree.

More information about the course and details of how to apply can be found here: <http://www.rau.ac.uk/study/undergraduate-study/foundation-degrees/fdsc-archaeology-and-historic-landscape-conservation>

If you have any further questions, please contact Dr Ian Grange, Programme Manager (01285 652 531 or ian.grange@rau.ac.uk)



Council for
British Archaeology
South West

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
DR JENNER'S HOUSE AND GARDEN
BERKELEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE
11AM, 10TH MAY 2014**

Join us this year at Dr Jenner's House and Garden for our AGM which will be taking place on the 10th May 2014. The day will include talks and a guided tour of the excavation site at Berkeley Castle with Dr Stuart Prior of Bristol University, along with a guided tour of the museum's "Ghost in the Attic Exhibition".

The cost for the day is £15, £10 for students, which includes free entry to the house and gardens along with a buffet lunch.

We hope that you'll be able to join us. If you are interested in attending then please contact Katie Collins, our treasurer, for more details at kmcollins83@gmail.com or on 07812 542617 or see the website www.cbaw.org for a booking form.