

# Newsletter 130



**GLOUCESTER AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP**

Charity no.252290

[www.gadarg.org.uk](http://www.gadarg.org.uk)

**Spring 2012**

## **Notice of AGM 2012**

The 45<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Group will be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at Ribston Hall High School, Stroud Road, Gloucester, starting at 7:30pm.

### **STOP PRESS: REVIEW OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE**

As a result of a review of the Archaeology Service the core team of 6, funded by the county and district councils, will be reduced to 5 towards the end of the financial year 2012-13. Fieldwork undertaken in connection with development will cease early in 2012-13, and other archaeological projects that are externally funded will be completed over a two year period. No new projects will be undertaken.

The implications of this are radical and disturbing- the current team of 20 will be reduced to 5 with consequent redundancies, and the county will no longer benefit from funding available from English Heritage (EH), Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) etc for Heritage Environment Record (HER) enhancement, outreach and education projects, and archaeological survey/management. GADARG members may wish to contact their County Councillors. At the time of writing I am trying to find out at what Committee this decision was discussed and agreed.

Marta Cock, Secretary

**COMMITTEE, SEE BACK PAGE**



### **EXCAVATION IN DEERHURST CHURCH**

10 GADARG members have taken part in an excavation in the south west corner of St Mary's Church, Deerhurst, directed by Carolyn Heighway, Richard Bryant and Michael Hare. The opportunity to excavate inside the church arose because the PCC wished to remove the pews and pew platforms and to create a new chapel there. When the church underwent extensive restoration in the early 1860s, the vicar at the time, the Revd George Butterworth, recorded finding wall foundations in that area, parallel to the south and west walls, indicating that the church was once narrower and shorter. Unfortunately there is no detailed plan of what he found. The excavation aimed to rediscover the foundations so that they could be properly recorded.

The expected wall foundations were duly found and an account will be published in a future edition of *Glevensis*. Just as interesting to the diggers as the remains of early walls, however, was the uncovering of a fine brick-vaulted 19th century tomb that probably contained the remains of four people referred to on nearby memorials. Finds included large pieces of carved stone from windows in an earlier phase of the building. These had been re-used in low walls that had supported the pews. Coffin handles, window glass and small pieces of lead were also found. This was a fun and rewarding experience for all those who were lucky enough to take part.

*Ann Maxwell*

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS** Subscriptions for 2011-12 become due on 1<sup>st</sup> March, though anyone who has joined since December 2011 is paid up until 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012. The current rates are £12 for Ordinary members, £15 for two joint members and £3 for those under 21. Please consider signing a Gift Aid form if you have not already done so.

## MEETINGS VENUES FOR 2012-2013

St Andrew's URC hall, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham and Ribston Hall High School, Stroud Road, Gloucester have been booked again for our eight meetings on Wednesdays starting, respectively, on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October.

Twenty out of twenty four members who regularly attended meetings in Gloucester in 2010-11 returned answers to a questionnaire which was sent to find out why attendance at our new venue was so low last autumn.

Answers showed that date clashes, unrelated to the day of the week, were the main reason, with a good number intending to attend later. The suitability of the venue and distance did not seem to have any significant impact. Wednesdays were an issue with a few people and even fewer said the subject did not interest them.

The few people who cited dark winter evenings as a disincentive are so widely dispersed that we could not see how we could reliably run daytime lectures convenient to enough members.

That said we are not averse to running some kind of day school during the next year at a cost which would cover expenses. There was a good attendance at our first meetings of 2012 at both venues.

### LINTON FARM (NEAR HIGHNAM): THE NEXT PHASE

In the last Newsletter (no.129), we described briefly the field-walking project carried out by GADARG members at Linton in March 2011. This was the second phase in the Group's involvement in this potentially exciting site following a resistivity survey of the site the previous September. That was prompted by an earlier contractor, magnetometry survey seeming to indicate the presence there of a Roman road. All these activities (full report due out in the next Glevensis) were intended to form a profile of the site in advance of an excavation to try and confirm the existence of road remains. Plans have now been finalised for an excavation to be carried out by a GADARG team over the weekend of 9-11th March, beginning with machine excavation of a 15m long trench across where the road is thought to run on 9<sup>th</sup> March. Subject to weather conditions being favourable, and if we find the anticipated archaeology, hand excavation and recording will be undertaken during the following days. Sorry folks, but any results will have to await the next issue of this newsletter!

Terry Moore-Scott



### Kingsholm: History on your Doorstep Project

This Heritage Lottery Funded (HLF) project was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> January at Kingsholm and Wotton Community Centre, Sebert Street, Gloucester by the Archaeology Service of the County Council. Anna Morris, from the Archaeology Service will be working with members of the Kingsholm Community on documentary research, artefact and pottery identification, plans for geophysical survey and the excavation of around 20 test pits to see what more can be found out. On the launch day people from a wide area around Gloucester as well as Kingsholm locals visited to find out more and to sign up for the project. GADARG members were there too. Some of them are in this photo looking at artefacts found by local people in their gardens.

### KINGSHOLM ARCHAEOLOGY

**Free Day School open to all on Saturday 17th March at Gloucester Rugby Club, Kingsholm Road, Gloucester, 9:30 to 13:00**

- Introduction
- Talk on Roman Kingsholm
- Talk on Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Kingsholm
- Discussion

Followed by a choice of tours. Choose one or the other or both.

- Behind the scenes at Gloucester City Museum  
*Half hourly from 14:00 to 16:30*
- Guided tour of Blackfriars Priory  
*Approx 1.5 hrs starting at 14:00 and 15:30.*

#### Booking Essential

For more information and booking contact Anna Morris on 01452 425705 or email [archaeology.outreach@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology.outreach@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

### GADARG SUMMER 2011 SURVEY

We were disappointed that fewer than 5% of you returned the Survey Form, and that number included Committee members. We had tried to make it user friendly while not making it a "tick box" return because we very much wanted your views. We thought that by including SAEs and giving a short time-scale for returns there would be a good response. Clearly, we got that wrong. Perhaps you will now tell us what stopped you responding? However those who did reply gave us food for thought. There are some very good suggestions and ideas for the future so a small working party is being established, to include respondents in order to review the way forward. We will report in due course.

**Nominations required for a new Meetings Secretary**

## GADARG PROGRAMME: SPRING AND SUMMER 2012

**DAY TRIP: STANTON DREW Saturday 23 June 2012 Cost: £21.50**

Stanton Drew is one of the largest and most complex stone circle sites in Britain, but one of the least well-known. In 2009 and 2010 major geophysical projects were conducted there, which have revealed a wealth of new information about the site. The three stone circles with their associated avenues and the cove and other outlying features are all given a new context by the discovery of elaborate pit alignments of concentric circles within the Great Circle, and a very large enclosure ditch outside it.

Richard Sermon, formerly Gloucester City archaeologist and GADARG member, is now the Archaeological Officer at Bath and NE Somerset and has been involved with these projects and with the subsequent reporting. He will guide us round the site, describing and explaining both what we can see and what we cannot.

The Druid's Arms in Stanton Drew comes recommended by Richard and will be available for lunch, but please bring sandwiches if you would prefer to. In the afternoon, we will drive into the Mendips to look at Charterhouse with its lead and silver mining history and associated remains from c 49AD in the company of CHERT (Charterhouse Environs Research Team).

Pick up by Bennetts Coaches will be at 0800 from St Georges Road, Cheltenham, and 0820 from Oxstalls Campus in Gloucester. Return to Gloucester c. 1830, Cheltenham c 1850.

To book, write to Michael Milward, Woodlands, Queenwood Grove, Prestbury, Cheltenham, GL52 3NG. with details of numbers and where you will join the coach, enclosing a cheque payable to GADARG and a SAE for acknowledgement. For more information, call Michael on 01242-241700 or email [bodvaruk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bodvaruk@yahoo.co.uk).

**Closing date for bookings: 9<sup>th</sup> June**

### EVENING VISITS

**Thursday 31 May. Hetty Pegler's Tump** at Uley has been closed to the public for some time while restoration work has been carried out; it reopened last year. Toby Catchpole of the Archaeology Service of Gloucestershire County Council will meet us there and give us a tour of the site, explaining what was done and why. It is one of the best preserved of the Cotswold-Severn neolithic chambered tombs and is impressively located high above the Severn Vale. The location is 3½ NE of Dursley on the B4066 (SO 78963 00043). Meet there at 7 pm.

**Wednesday 13 June. St Mary's Church Bibury** was one of the most important Saxon Minster churches in Gloucestershire, and much of the structure of that church survives, although it was substantially added to in the following centuries so there are Norman, Early English and Gothic features to be seen. Our expert eye will be Carolyn Heighway, GADARG member and author of *Anglo Saxon Gloucestershire*. The location (SP 11824 06504) is just off the B4425 to the E of the centre of Bibury in the direction of Burford. Meet there at 7 pm. Parking is available at the church.

**Thursday 28 June. Prestbury** is a village that has almost been swallowed by Cheltenham, but has its origins as a planned town of the 13th century where the burgage development still survives. The village has a large number of architecturally interesting buildings of all periods from the 14th century onwards. Local guide Roger Beacham will lead us on a walk around the historic circuit. Meet at 7 pm. outside Prestbury House (a former hotel) located in The Burgage at SO 968 240. To find this, take the B4632 (Prestbury Road) in the direction of Winchcombe from Cheltenham, at the double mini roundabout in Prestbury turn sharp left into Tatchley Lane which is the B4075 towards the racecourse; the first turn right is The Burgage, and Prestbury House is on the right beyond the Library. There are two excellent pubs, The Royal Oak and The Plough, in the vicinity.

## AROUND GLOUCESTERSHIRE



### Community Dig, a Gloscat / Media College Community Archaeological Excavation

Here is a wonderful chance to join a dig led by archaeologists from Cotswold Archaeology. Notice is short so be prepared to hurry your application and receive more details which can be

obtained by contacting **Barry Leach, Secretary, Gloucester City Centre Community Partnership, tel: 07981100265**

**email: [secretary@gloscccp.co.uk](mailto:secretary@gloscccp.co.uk) or by post to GLOSCCP, P.O. BOX 3155, GLOUCESTER, GL1 9AA**

One dig site under consideration is the Media Studies site, where evidence was identified during construction of the Media Studies building for Roman period pottery kilns and burials and extra-mural industrial activity from the medieval period. Another is in the north-western part of the site where a soil horizon containing disarticulated human bone was identified. The evaluation of this site by CA has commenced and if considered a viable site for a community dig that is where volunteers will be working. The community dig will cover three weeks from 12<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. The dig will be undertaken by the team of CCCP volunteers supervised by 5 archaeologists from CA. Team members from CCCP will be on site from Tuesday to Saturday (10:00 to 16:00). Training is included.

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHIVES

#### Manorial Documents from c1500

**A workshop by David Smith  
24 April 2012, 10am – 4pm  
Cost £10**

This interactive workshop will help you to understand the manorial system, introduce and explain the technical language of the documents and warn you about common pitfalls and errors. Working in small groups you will read and analyse a wide range of texts relating to courts baron (halmotes) and leets (views of frankpledge). You will **not** need to be able to read Latin or old handwriting. There is an optional free introduction to the [Gloucestershire Archives](#) library, highlighting sources of help for those interested in manorial records. This will run from 9:30am. To get the form to fill in a send with your cheque contact [Rebecca.SHORTER@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.SHORTER@gloucestershire.gov.uk), tel: 01452 425295

**Closing date for bookings : 14 April 2012**

**JENNER MUSEUM, BERKELEY** [www.jennermuseum.com](http://www.jennermuseum.com) 01453 810631

#### Archaeological Dig in Dr Jenner's Garden Mon 14<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 8<sup>th</sup> June

From 12 - 5.30pm visitors to Dr Jenner's House can see the dig run by the University of Bristol and what students have uncovered.

To celebrate the [2012 Festival of British Archaeology](#) we are holding several events in July:

#### Sat 21<sup>st</sup> & Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> July

##### Junior Archaeology Summer School (10am – 4pm)

Come and dig with qualified archaeologists. Students will gain knowledge of techniques used to excavate, how to process finds and how to survey archaeological sites. Reserved for under 18's, min age 12. One day £30, two days £50, hot drinks provided.

#### Wed 25<sup>th</sup> July

##### Archaeology Discovery Day (12 – 4pm)

Fun activities for all ages. Special tours of archaeology in Dr Jenner's Garden, metal detecting, finds from the Berkeley excavations, talks and more! Included in standard admission.

#### Sat 28<sup>th</sup> & Sun 29<sup>th</sup> July

##### Adult Archaeology Summer School (10am- 4pm)

There are spaces for anyone over 18 to come and dig with qualified archaeologists during the Festival of British Archaeology! Excavate archaeological features and recover artefacts that will help piece together the story of Dr Jenner's Garden. One day £30, two days £50, hot drinks provided.

### Gloucestershire Buildings Recording Group (GBRG)

A group of 14 people met at Whiteway Colony Hall on 28th February to discuss the future of this group. It was decided that over the next three months a building would be identified to record with the aim of reactivating the group. For further information please contact Mary Matthews ; 01452 304048 . Email: [marymatthews04@talktalk.net](mailto:marymatthews04@talktalk.net)

### Festival of British Archaeology 14-29 July

The Council of British Archaeology (CBA) established this Festival of specially organised events to encourage people to find out more about their past. GADARG has contributed to events but has not run one. Let's start thinking about next year's Festival and enjoy as many events as possible during this year's. To find out more about the CBA go to <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/> Its magazine *British Archaeology* is well worth the subscription.

**CAG Annual Symposium  
Anglo-Saxon Gloucestershire  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012  
Details: see reverse of AGM  
insert**

#### Committee

##### CHAIRMAN: Mike Milward

email: [bodvaruk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bodvaruk@yahoo.co.uk)

##### SECRETARY: Marta Cock

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##### TREASURER: Angela Newcombe

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##### MEETINGS SECRETARIES :

###### Autumn/Winter programme

Marta Cock : contact details as above

###### Spring/Summer programme

Mike Milward: contact details as above

##### GLEVENSIS EDITOR:

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01386 751662

##### OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Les Comtesse, Martin Ecclestone, Terry Moore-Scott, John Rhodes, Tony Roberts