



Newsletter 148

Autumn 2021

Welcome to the Autumn 2021 GlosArch newsletter. Summer is over and the weather is definitely turning autumnal. Although the COVID-19 pandemic is clearly not yet consigned to the history books life seems to be getting back to something approaching normality, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme. As a result, I am very pleased that we are able to return to in-person meetings/lectures, starting on 27th September with an update on the fieldwork activities that were underway or being planned when the pandemic struck. Thanks to a successful grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund we will also be broadcasting the lectures live over Zoom and posting recordings via our website for later viewing. So if you feel uncomfortable attending in person (or just can't make it) you can join the lecture live from home or come back to it when you are free. The Zoom link for each meeting/lecture will be sent by email to all members a few days in advance and the link for the recording will be emailed afterwards. Can you please check that I have a current email address for you and update me if not. The full programme of lectures can be found below. Lectures, whether attended in-person or remotely are free to all for this series, thanks to the lottery grant. We are likely to have to reintroduce charges for the 2022-23 season.

Another benefit of the somewhat improved COVID situation has been the chance to run two summer visits, to Evesham battlefield and Guiting Power. Short reports appear later in this newsletter. On the afternoon of October 4th we shall be returning to Guiting Power, but this time we will be visiting the excavation being run by Archaeoscan under the direction of Tony Roberts. The visit starts at 2pm. Further details will be sent out by email. Last but not least, we have started fieldwork again. Our first activity was a resistivity survey at Brookthorpe, near Gloucester, in search of the rest of a Roman villa that was largely destroyed by construction of the M5. We are planning to return there soon to undertake a gradiometer survey with our brand new magnetometer, purchased with some of the money from our recent bequest. We are also planning a small excavation in

Minsterworth, where we did some geophysical surveying pre-COVID and also some more magnetometry at the hillfort on Cleeve Common.

On a less positive note, academic study of archaeology is coming under increasing threat, with the announcement of the closure of the archaeology departments at Sheffield, Hull and Worcester Universities. Chester University's department narrowly avoided a similar fate. In addition, you are probably aware that proposed changes to the planning process have the potential to devalue the benefits of developer-led archaeology that have revealed so much about the past in Britain. You may be interested to find out more by visiting <https://dig4arch.co.uk>

GlosArch Osteoarchaeology Training and Recording (Sophie Beckett)

The SHARP Human Osteology Course and Follow-on Recording Sessions in went very well and I really enjoyed running them.

The venue of the Folk Museum worked really well and I will be looking at booking it again for osteology training in the future.

After running the SHARP sessions, here is an update on plans for the GlosArch sessions, supported by a grant from Gloucestershire County Council's Growing our Communities Fund.

After the SHARP sessions running so well with a smaller group - I will be capping numbers at 6 per session (or 7 to allow for those coming as a couple). Here are details of spaces available:

Date: Number of places available:

20/9	2
22/9	1-2
27/9	2
29/9	3
4/10	1-2
6/10	3
11/10	1-2
18/10	1-2
20/10	4

Do let me know if you would like to attend any of the sessions, if you haven't already. I can be contacted by email: drsophiebeckett@gmail.com

All sessions will be held at the *EdShed*, Gloucester (Quay Street, GL1 2PG)

Website: <https://thefolkofgloucester.co.uk/edshed>

Sessions will run from 10 am - 4 pm. The on-site cafe might be open but it is not guaranteed. A carton of milk is provided by the venue and is stored in the fridge within the same room we will be working in. Separate milk sachets will also be available if you wish to use these. The fridge is available for storing your lunch if needed and there are mugs available also if you wish to use these. Please still bring your own tea towel and please wash up your mug at the end of each day if you use one from the venue. Please bring your own lunch and snacks. There are a few places you can buy lunch from locally if needed and the on-site cafe is not open.

The bifold doors will be open fully or partly during the whole of each session - so do bring a warm jumper as the weather gets cooler.

Please take a lateral flow test before arriving for each session. This will be taken on trust and you don't need to send me a photo of the result but do let me know if the result is positive.

Please bring a mask with you. For the SHARP sessions, participants wore a mask whilst in the training room and this worked well and we will continue with this practice for the GlosArch sessions. Do let me know if you would like a free reusable clear face mask from the Lets be Clear Fund grant. There are no disposable clear masks available.

Outings

With the easing of Covid restrictions Mike Milward was able to organise two outdoor summer visits this year.

Evesham Battlefield

A rather gloomy evening of 30th June saw a group of GlosArch members take a guided tour of the site of the Battle of Evesham, led by David Jones. The battle, in 1265, saw the defeat of an uprising by a group of barons, led by Simon de Montfort, by the troops of King Henry III under the command of his son, the future King Edward I. David regaled us with the story of the unfolding of the battle and the bloody massacre of the rebel barons by Edward's men. The uprising had been a response to Henry III's failure to recognise the rights given to the barons by Magna Carta. The tour took us from the riverside car park through the mediaeval streets of Evesham, past the abbey and out of town to the site of the battle where Simon de Montfort, his son and other nobles were killed and their bodies dismembered as a warning to others who might consider rebelling. Despite the immediate failure of the uprising, de Montfort and the barons are credited with setting in train the

creation of a representative parliament by Edward I when he became king. This was an entertaining and very educational evening. Many thanks to David Jones for guiding us.

Guiting Power

Around 25 members turned up for the Summer Programme visit to archaeological sites in Guiting Power. We were met by local archaeologist Geoff Cuthbert, who had kindly arranged parking for us at the village hall. The tour started with a detailed look at the late Norman church of St Michael, guided by Roland Greenhill, who showed us the external and internal features before describing how the church had fallen into disuse, and been taken over by an evangelical cult, which eventually had to be driven out. The church was heavily restored in the 19th century. Adjacent to the church is the Home Ground, which is the location of several features from Bronze Age to Saxon, which had been excavated by Alistair Marshall in the 1980s and 90s, and restored to an extent in order to demonstrate how they might have appeared. Geoff showed us these and, with reference to Alistair's recently published book, gave a detailed account of the sequences. The main feature was a round barrow which Alistair's detailed excavation indicated had been through several stages, at one time being topped with post settings and with a clay layer which had evidence of much trampling. At another time there was abundant burning; there were also inhumations and cremations. The other feature which provoked much discussion amongst the group was the remains of an early Norman church complete with an apsidal sanctuary. This may have been a manorial chapel, with standing room in the nave for no more than ten people, and it was eventually superseded by St Michael's. Geoff finished by walking us around the rest of Home Ground to show the extent of the former Saxon settlement visible as numerous lumps and bumps and linear features.

Lecture series

April 2021

The final lecture of the 2020-21 series, the annual Eddie Price Memorial lecture, was given via Zoom by Tony Roberts who updated members on the Archaeoscan digs that have taken place over the last year.

First we heard of the preliminary excavations near Slimbridge, which appears to have been a significant site based on the previous metal detecting finds and the assemblage of pottery. Magnetometry showed the probability of an extensive site. It appears that it was abandoned by the mid-3rd century at the latest (and probably earlier). The finds

suggested a domestic site rather than a military installation, whilst the extensive building material found indicates a large structure. Occasional Iron Age finds point to prior occupation of the site and there were also some nice pieces of Medieval material. Radiocarbon dating has been performed on burnt material and at the time of the lecture the result was still awaited. Tony speculated that the large structure, which sat on a spur overlooking the River Severn, may have been a trading centre. Further excavations are planned for the late summer.

Next he updated members on the excavations at Doynton, the site of a 3rd-4th century sheep farm. The building is a quarter of the size of the one at Slimbridge. An earlier smaller building lay beside a watercourse, which was diverted when the farm was enlarged. Wall preservation is quite good in some areas although other walls and all floors had been extensively robbed. Wool appeared to have been processed in one of the rooms. Excavation this year uncovered a well-laid trackway running down to a ford across the watercourse. Finds included amphora and other sherds along with some metalwork. Nearby the latest excavations have shown evidence of ironworking in a small building. He showed an impressive range of Roman finds, typical of a busy farmstead. Finally he gave us a sneak preview of the excavation at Guiting Power, which is underway as I write, and some other sites of likely future excavations.

2021-22 Lectures

As indicated above, thanks to a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the 2021-22 Autumn-Winter lectures will be available to attend in person, **at St. Andrews URC, Montpellier St., Cheltenham, GL50 1SP** and also on-line via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent to all members for whom I have an email address, a few days ahead of the lecture. Non-members should contact me via: mailbox@glosarch.org.uk to receive the link. See below for the full programme.

Glevensis

The editors of Glevensis are always on the lookout for papers for the forthcoming editions of our GlosArch annual journal. If you are thinking of writing or submitting a paper please contact the editors via: mailbox@glosarch.org.uk .

Membership Fees

If you haven't yet paid your membership fee for 2021 could you kindly make payment to the membership secretary, Angie Newcombe, 2 Warren Close, Churchdown, GL3 1JP or

bank transfer to: Gloucestershire Archaeology; Sort Code 40-17-53; A/C no 81131095.
 £15 for full member, £7.50 for associate members and student members.



Glosarch – dates and location details for autumn/winter lectures 2021/2022

Date	Location	Title	Presenter	Comments
Monday, 27 th September, 2021	Physical and Zoom meeting	Members meeting – book sale, news, update on active field work, field work planned for 2021-2022 and status of new equipment.	Phil Cox, Neil Cathie, Mike Milward	
Monday, 25 th October, 2021	Zoom meeting	To be advised – probably Wessex Archaeology	To be advised	
Monday, 29 th November, 2021	Physical and Zoom meeting	Worlebury Camp – uncovering Weston-super-Mare's hidden hillfort.	Cat Lodge, Senior Archaeologist, North Somerset Council	
Monday, 13 th December, 2021	Physical and Zoom meeting	Gloucester city centre in Roman and early medieval times.	Henry Hurst, Emeritus Reader in Classics at Cambridge University.	Bernard Rawes memorial lecture
Monday, 31 st January, 2022	Physical and Zoom meeting	Medieval & Historic Graffiti in the Gloucestershire Churches.	Wayne Perkins	
Monday, 28 th February, 2022	Physical and Zoom meeting	Fieldwork at the Late Iron Age 'oppidum' of Bagendon	Tom Moore, Professor of Archaeology, Durham University	
Monday, 28 th March, 2022	Physical and Zoom meeting	Exciting new features and finds from 2021 field work at Slimbridge and Guiting Power.	Tony Roberts, Archeoscan	
Monday, 25 th April, 2022	Physical and Zoom meeting	Discovering the unexpected: ten thousand years of settlement and ritual along the Milford Haven to Tirdley Gas Pipeline.	Jon Hart, Cotswold Archaeology	The Eddie Price memorial lecture

All meetings are on Mondays and start promptly at 19.30pm. **Members and non-members are free for the 2021-2022 this year thanks to an HLF post-COVID recovery grant. Fees will re-start for the 2022-2023 season.**

All meetings planned to be physical but with live Zoom broadcast in parallel for those that cannot attend in person.