



UNCOVERING OUR PAST TOGETHER

# NEWSLETTER 136

Spring & Summer 2015



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GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY  
CHARITY NO. 25229OR

## EDWARD (EDDIE) GODWIN PRICE MBE FSA *An appreciation*

Marta Cock

Our Chairman, Mike Milward wrote to Arthur Price, Eddie's son, on behalf of the Committee and membership of Gloucestershire Archaeology to convey our heartfelt condolences to him and his family on the death of his father on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015 at the age of 91. Eddie was for many years President of what was then GADARG, and it was his strength of character, clarity of purpose and tenacity over 46 years of archaeological investigation that provided the bedrock for this Group to grow into the successful organisation it has become.

The excavation of the Frocester Court Roman Villa runs like a silver thread through the history of GADARG and many members cherish their memories of weekends spent working there over so many years, an experience that was formative for many of us and precious to us all. We remember not only the kindness and tolerance Eddie showed to all his teams of diggers, novice and expert alike, but also the immense energy and enthusiasm that enabled him to bring the whole project to a triumphant conclusion marked by publication of the four volumes entitled "Frocester, A Romano-British Settlement, its Antecedents and Successors" starting from 10,000 BC ending with a thorough history of Frocester village. Gloucestershire Archaeology will always be grateful for Eddie's generosity towards us, in particular for his decision to entrust us with the residue of the Frocester Fund, which enables us to support the publication of archaeological reports in the county. We are proud to have been so closely associated with Eddie and Frocester and will feel his loss keenly.



Eddie at Frocester

photo: Martin Ecclestone

## COULD THE FROCESTER FUND HELP YOU TO PUBLISH YOUR RESEARCH?

The main object of the Fund, established by a generous gift to Gloucestershire Archaeology (formerly GADARG), from our past President Eddie Price (see above), was designed to help archaeologists pay for the publication of archaeological reports relating to Gloucestershire.

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.). These might be necessary elements of the publication of excavation projects (either as standalone documents or in "Glevensis") and/or other expenses incurred by excavation projects.

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. Two grants have been allocated since the Fund was established one to David Evans towards analyses of material from his 2004-05 dig at Kings Stanley and one to Michael Philpott towards carbon dating of bone from his recent dig at Churchdown. Both reports will be published in due course.

**For an application form and further details please contact the Hon Secretary, Marta Cock, 8 Churchfield Road, Stroud, GL5 1EQ, phone 01453 767822 or email her at [glosarch@btinternet.com](mailto:glosarch@btinternet.com)**

## SOS! New Secretary needed for election at AGM 16<sup>th</sup> March

To find out about the role contact the current Secretary Marta Cock at [marta.rc@btinternet.com](mailto:marta.rc@btinternet.com), T: 01453 767822 or the Chairman Mike Milward at [m.milward1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:m.milward1@yahoo.co.uk)

**CONTENTS: p2/3 News from Museums, p3 Fieldwork Bagendon, p4 Fieldwork Linton Farm, Ashleworth, p5 Fieldwork Ashleworth contd., P6 Fieldwork A volunteer digger's tale, New notes of guidance for authors for Glevensis, p7 Atlas of Hillforts project- get involved, P8 Spring/Summer programme of visits**

## NEWS FROM MUSEUMS

### **“FOOD FOR THOUGHT”**

#### **BRINGING NATIONAL COLLECTIONS TO THE REGIONS**

**Emma Stuart, Learning Development Officer**

This coming April the Corinium Museum will showcase an exhibition entitled ‘Food for Thought’ in partnership with the British Museum and Oxford, Exeter, London and Reading Universities. The exhibition will bring together unique objects, some rarely on display to the public, from Cirencester as well as from Silchester (near Reading) and across the Roman Empire including Pompeii, Rome, Athens and Tunisia.

The British Museum has made it possible to bring collections from parts of the UK and the, once Roman, world, to a small museum in the rural Cotswolds. New ways of working and new collaborations have helped turn this vision into a reality. The British Museum has broadened its remit to loan items to smaller museums across the regions with the view of developing a ‘new kind of engagement’ and also to address some of the difficulties museums are facing with cuts to funding and resources.

Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum, says; ‘It means an unprecedented level of travelling loans, right across the country.’ He also feels it will engender support for museums as well as unlock new sources of funding.

The summer partnership with the Corinium Museum has been spearheaded by recent research into Roman food by archaeologists at leading universities. Ongoing discoveries about food in Roman Britain are blogged @notjustdormice on Twitter. With so much information being shared and revealed through excavations, it offered the potential for an innovative, collaborative summer exhibition. ‘Food for Thought’ will feature utensils used in the Roman world, reveal how people prepared their food and how we know about these practices, including food remains from a sewer in Herculaneum.

The exhibition is being curated by Dr Zena Kamash, Dr Erica Rowan, Dan Stansbie, Dr Lisa Lodwick and the Corinium Museum. The project team will be running a series of talks and hands-on workshops in conjunction with the Food for Thought exhibition which runs from 25th April to 5th July 2015.

See events listings on [www.coriniummuseum.org](http://www.coriniummuseum.org) for more details and museum opening hours. Entry to the exhibition is free.



The British  
Museum

### **MUSEUM IN THE PARK, STROUD– ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS**

**Alexia Clark**

Following recent changes to the National Curriculum, the Museum’s Collections Officer and Learning Officer have been working to help teachers get to grips with the new topics by using the breadth of the collections in store, which enable us to respond to new service demands. One such topic is Stone Age Britain, for which the staff came up with the idea of a box of artefacts from the stored collection which children can handle under supervision to get a real



Image shows the Palaeolithic layer of the Archaeology Box

glimpse into how people lived in Britain between 2,000 and 300,000 years ago. The box is ‘stratified’ and so works like an archaeological dig with each era assigned a layer – as you remove each layer so you go back through time. The layers cover the Iron Age, Bronze Age, Neolithic, Mesolithic and Palaeolithic eras and each hold hand axes, scraper tools, arrowheads and the like. The box enables users to discover each era through the tools actually used by our ancestors, and children and teachers alike have been both enthused and awed by being able to handle an axe made over 300,000 years ago. Looking at the tools through the layers in more detail also allows the children to see the technological advancements made by our ancestors from the very roughly shaped flints of the Palaeolithic to the

exquisitely worked arrowheads from the Bronze Age. So far the box has been receiving very positive reviews from the schools using it, and it is hoped that we can continue to use the collections in store to complement the new curriculum and tell the stories of our past in this way.

Museum staff with responsibility for archaeological archives and archaeologists from Gloucestershire County Council have been meeting over the last few months to discuss the problems with archaeological archives generated through developer-led archaeology and their deposition in museums. The initial meetings were driven by Museum in the Park, Stroud which has had to put a moratorium on accepting any new archives due to increasingly limited space in their stores, but now Corinium Museum, Tewkesbury, The Wilson, Dean Heritage and Gloucester City Museums have all come together with Stroud and Gloucestershire's Museum Development Officer to try to find a local solution to this universal problem. Following discussion with the archaeologists the museums decided that their first priority ought to lie with tightening up their own policies – making it clearer for archaeology units what material they do and don't want deposited, how it should be packed and the importance of making time for a mid-project review where volume of finds can be accurately gauged. The new county-wide deposition guidelines should be completed to draft stage by the end of February and will be followed up by a thorough review of deposition charges – taking in to consideration the actual cost of curating these archives alongside the charges made by other museums across the UK. Work will have to be done to rationalise the collections already in store, but with a dearth of specialist archaeological knowledge and skills in some of the museums, and a lack of time in them all this phase of the project may require some external support or funding to achieve.

The problem of archaeological archives has been in the spotlight for some time now, and was thoroughly discussed in Rachael Edwards' report in 2012, however nationally, action is slow moving and it is hoped that this local solution will help Gloucestershire's Museums to find their own way forward.

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## **FIELDWORK**

### **BAGENDON EXCAVATION-2014**

*Les Comtesse*

Glosarch was invited by Dr Tom Moore of Durham University to join his students on an ongoing excavation of the Late Iron Age territorial oppidum at Bagendon, a few miles north of Cirencester. The site encompasses an area of between 80 and 200 ha and includes a large system of visible dykes. A comprehensive account of the site's development may be found in this year's (2014) issue of *Glevensis*. A feature of this year's work was the discovery, by geophysics and subsequent deep trench excavation of a large banjo type enclosure (see fig. 1).

Six Glosarch diggers, over a two week period, helped to detect and define the existence of several deep postholes, probably associated with roundhouses and agricultural buildings, within the enclosure. The opportunity and encouragement was given to 'own' one's posthole by the completion of context sheets, section drawing and photography. Personally I found this activity, working alongside much younger but more experienced students to be quite a rewarding one. Enthusiasm is certainly quite contagious.

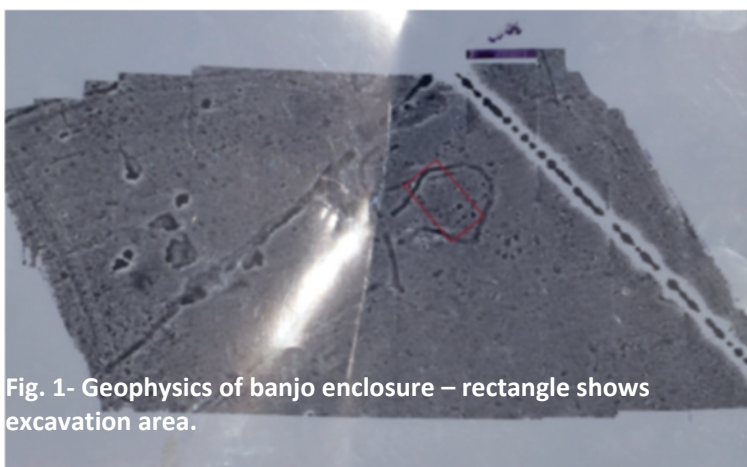


Fig. 1- Geophysics of banjo enclosure – rectangle shows excavation area.



Fig. 2 gives a general view of the site and shows how the bedrock needed to be cleaned before features were discernable.

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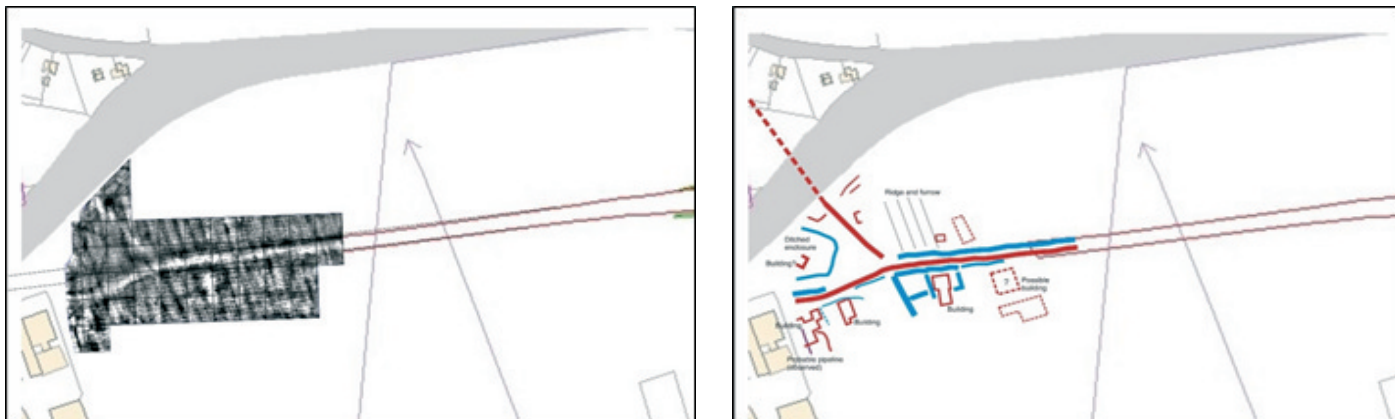
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## FIELDWORK

### GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AT LINTON FARM

Tony Roberts

During the Autumn members of GlosArch combined with members of the Hucclecote Metal Detecting Club to conduct a geophysical survey at Linton Farm, Over. It had long been suspected that the main Roman road that headed West from Gloucester passed through one of the fields at Linton farm after crossing the River Severn at Over. Metal detectorists have, over a number of years, recovered numerous Roman artefacts from these fields including many Roman coins. The presence of Roman pottery, particularly Samian ware, on the surface of the fields prompted a survey of the projected track of the road. The results of the Resistance survey, lead by Tony Roberts, were quite revealing.



The high resistance returns (white in Figure 1) of the Roman road can clearly be seen. In common with most Roman roads, a ditch flanks either side of the road. It was always believed that the road continued in a straight line as it progressed to the West. However, it is apparent from the geophysics that the road takes a turn at the Western end of the field. At the same point another road joins the main road from the North. Is this the original Highnam corner? Other features are also apparent on the geophysics. The interpretation (Figure 2) shows that a number of roadside buildings are clustered around the road junction. These high resistance anomalies also coincide with the more concentrated scatters of pottery noted in the field. In the crook of the junction of the roads is a ditched enclosure within which stands a small building. Given that the road appears to respect the enclosure, and swerve around it, perhaps it predates the construction of the road.

Overlying all of the underlying archaeology is the faint trace of ridge and furrow. Work is still ongoing here and it is anticipated that the survey will be extended to the East. A full report will follow in *Glevensis*.

### ASHLEWORTH EXCAVATION

Terry Moore-Scott

One of the exciting things about archaeological excavation is never being quite sure what you are going to find in the end, and this was certainly so for some of us back in 2013. It came about because of the curiosity of Dr Jeremy Barnes of Ashleworth Manor regarding an area of raised ground in a small paddock close to his Tudor house and the possibility that it might indicate the presence of buried archaeology. As a summer residence for the abbot of Saint Augustine's Abbey Bristol, the site has a history dating back into medieval times. Previous metal detecting by a local detecting club over the ground immediately around the house produced a number of objects of medieval date, including a 'papal bulla' associated with Pope Boniface VIII (1294-1303) and jettons and buckles from the 13-14th-century; a number of early post-medieval metal objects were also found. In addition, a GlosArch metal detector survey carried out in the paddock produced a small early medieval copper alloy decorated strap end of the Trehiddle style dating from the late 9th-10th century.

Apart from the raised earthworks, the only feature on the site today is a roughly metalled cart track curving in an arc across the site and this was revealed very clearly in a subsequent GlosArch resistivity survey covering the area of the raised earthworks (feature '1' on the plot). But also evident were additional patches of high resistance (features '2' and '3') which could not be explained. They could be due to natural geology, but equally could reflect buried archaeology.

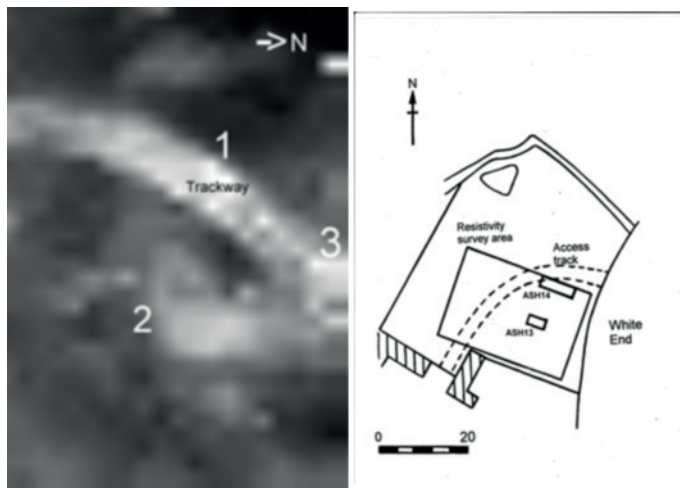
archaeology. Old maps of this part of Ashleworth going back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century show the paddock enclosure much as it is today but none showed the existence there of any buildings. Only excavation would resolve the uncertainty.

The excavation programme was carried out in two phases. In the summer of 2013, a 4m x 2m trench (ASH13) was opened focussing on the area around feature '2', and a year later a second trench 8m x 2m (ASH14) was opened slightly further to the northeast to investigate feature '3'. Both week-long excavations were led by Nigel Spry and overall involved a dozen or so GlosArch volunteers. Each trench, after removing turf and top soil, was hand excavated to identify the various contexts present and ascertain where natural lay. Plan and section drawings and photographic recordings were made.

In both trenches, a mixed spread of hard deposits of pebble and gravel were found suggestive of river terracing, associated with the nearby river Severn, which often floods over the site. A notable feature revealed in the ASH13 trench though was a shallow linear ditch running west to east containing an amount of dumped building material, including a complete Tudor period brick. Also uncovered in the ASH13 trench were several postholes of modest size, seeming to form a right angle, two of which had been cut into, and therefore post-dated, the infill of the ditch. A small amount of slag was also found in ASH13.

Inevitably, in the ASH14 trench, a dominant factor turned out to be the adjacent trackway which skirted, and in places extended into, the excavation trench; the track surface was made up of small stones and gravel and within the trench itself there was a linear feature consisting of modern broken brick, tile and lias rubble, seemingly representing additional reinforcement of one edge of the track.

From both trenches, we collected a quantity of pottery and other ceramic material, comprising a mix of Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern pieces. Although not without interest, much of this material was probably residual and in poor condition, suggesting derivation from a ploughed environment and re-deposited from elsewhere. No other finds of significance were recorded for ASH14.



In summary therefore, we concluded that the raised earth levels and the high resistivity returns on the site had no archaeological significance. None of the features noted in ASH13 (such as the ditch with building material in it and the post holes) were found to extend into ASH14. As to the building material found in the ditch in ASH13, it is unclear whether this came from the nearby main house or from activity on the excavation site itself; although the presence of the post holes suggests that a light structure of sorts (an enclosure or small workshop perhaps) may have stood

on the site in a later period. The finds of iron slag would also be consistent with small scale industrial activity, possibly taking advantage of the higher and drier levels at this particular spot of ground.

No earth-shattering outcome in archaeological terms therefore but ASH13 and 14 provided GlosArch members with valuable and highly enjoyable hands-on excavation experience (cost-free) in a very pleasant setting (not to mention

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I have had a lifelong interest in ancient history and archaeology and as a teenager had intended on pursuing it as a career until I became distracted by a career in TV and my life took a very different path. I'd never entirely forgotten about it however and always had a hankering at having a go on a dig. When I saw an opportunity a few years back to join in at a villa site near my home in Stroud (Nesley Farm near Tetbury) with Tony Roberts of Archeoscan I jumped at the chance and haven't looked back. It is now a staple of my summer and I try and fit in as

many days as I can in the field, it has been hugely enjoyable and has sated my curiosity finally after 20 years of thinking about archaeology but never having gotten my hands dirty. Being out in the field trowelling provides a great opportunity to get away from work, domestics and DIY, meet like minded people and hopefully connect with the past. I've worked on four sites in Gloucestershire now and have learnt a great deal about the technical aspects of field archaeology through practice as well beginning to develop an understanding of landscape archaeology and surveying techniques. I might even do a qualification if I ever have the time. This year I'll be training up on flying drones for aerial photography and TV work, hopefully I might be able to lend these skills to GlosArch and Archeoscan in the future, a good collaboration between my interests and my work.

**Note from Anna Morris:** "we have just added some more of our English Heritage funded reports to our website. You may find them interesting! <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/archaeology>"; well worth trawling through.

**Interested in DIY aerial photography?** Check out this website: <http://www.armadale.org.uk/archaeologyindex.htm> Its instigator John Wells now lives in Stroud for part of the year. Also check out <http://jiscdigitalmedia.ac.uk/infokit/3d/uav-survey> for advice about using drones.

## NEW GUIDANCE NOTES FOR AUTHORS FOR GLEVENISIS

Diane Charlesworth

The guidance notes for authors for Glevensis have now been updated and agreed by the committee and will be placed on the website under publications. Will prospective authors please visit the website to read the revised version as this will affect all contributors.

The format and house style has been updated with minor changes and additional advice to authors provided on use of quotations and capital letters.

Please note that we now allow the Harvard referencing system for archaeological reports, as well as continuing with sequential referencing for historical articles. The section on copyright has also been updated to take account of the revised regulations. Authors are deemed to have accepted that copyright passes to Glevensis when their article is accepted for publication by the editor. But should an author wish to have their article reprinted elsewhere following publication in Glevensis then consent would normally be provided. However if Glevensis content were required to be published separately in another medium a further copyright agreement must be made.

Regarding illustrations, all authors are expected to acquire appropriate illustrations for their article and to ensure they meet copyright requirements and obtain precise acknowledgement wording required by the copyright owner, which should be forwarded to the editor. All costs associated with obtaining agreement for publication from the copyright owner must be met by the author.

Where illustrations in colour are required by the author, contributors will be expected to fund the extra cost associated with this.

## Fresh air, exercise, hill-walking, contributing to the creation of a unique online resource for archaeologists, historians, planners: what's not to like?

### **THE ATLAS OF HILLFORTS OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND – GET INVOLVED!**

Professor Gary Lock

Although hillforts are one of the most obvious field monuments across many parts of Britain and Ireland, in many ways they are poorly recorded and understood. In England, for example, at the moment it is very difficult to map the characteristics of hillforts across county boundaries without accessing numerous existing records and combining and compiling them. Information such as types of entrances, numbers and form of ramparts and evidence for dating does exist but in a very fragmented form which is not searchable. If you wanted to produce a map of all uni-vallate hillforts in England with an in-turned entrance and dating evidence that would be quite a challenge.

The Atlas project is aiming to change this situation and produce a single unified on-line resource that will enable anyone to search all hillforts across England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland. The data will be structured in such a way that detailed searches based on a range of characteristics will be possible producing informative results that link to Google Earth so that sites can be viewed. The project will also produce a printed atlas which will provide an overview of hillforts and their characteristics across the five countries.

The project is based in the Universities of Oxford and Edinburgh and is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, it runs for four years ending in September 2016. Project partners are the various National Monuments Records and University College Cork.

**An exciting element of the Atlas is the opportunity for members of the general public to get involved through Citizen Science – i.e. collecting data that will be of great use to the project team. We have produced a survey form and Notes for Guidance which are downloadable from the project website (<http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/hillforts-atlas.html>) together with information on the project and pointers to accessing existing hillfort information. It is impossible for the project team to visit every hillfort (nobody knows how many there are, we estimate about 4,000) so our work is very much desk-based. We are encouraging people to visit hillforts for us and carry out a structured survey. We see this as having value as it enhances a visit to a hillfort (an enjoyable thing to do anyway and many people do) by making you study the earthworks and landscape setting and record them.**

If you want to take part in this survey it is crucial that you read the notes for guidance first as these explain the questions on the survey form and what we need for answers. We also recommend that you undertake a survey in small groups of two or three people as earthworks can be difficult to interpret, can be contentious and discussion can help. It can also be very illuminating for two or more groups to survey the same site and compare the results. It is clear that this work is ideally suited to local societies and other groups and we have many participating across Britain. There is no need to worry about whether a particular hillfort has already been surveyed as citizen science works on the idea of comparing information – if elements of surveys agree then the confidence in them is increased, if they disagree on important elements then we will need to check them out.

Of course this is also meant to be fun and to encourage people to visit hillforts, to enjoy them and their landscape settings as well as trying and understand them. If you have any questions I can be contacted at [gary.lock@arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:gary.lock@arch.ox.ac.uk)

Happy hillforting!

If you don't know anyone who would like to join you on this enterprise please contact Marta Cock on [marta.rc@btinternet.com](mailto:marta.rc@btinternet.com) who will try to put you in touch with like minded members

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY  
CHARITY, NO. 252290R

## SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMME 2015

### DAY TRIP: CAERLEON AND CAERWENT

16<sup>th</sup> May

The Roman legionary fortress at Caerleon near Newport is one of the best examples of this type of establishment to be found anywhere. Tim Copeland, who last summer guided us round Uley Bury, has recently published "Life in a Roman Legionary Fortress", which is based on what was discovered at Caerleon. The book, published by Amberley, examines the archaeological evidence and explains how these camps worked and what life was like for those who served in them. Tim will be our guide around the remains of this large and fascinating site, where further excavations over the last few years have added dramatically to our knowledge of how it fits into its riverside location. While Caerleon (Isca) was the military base for the conquest of the local tribe and the rest of South Wales, the Romans also established a tribal capital down the road at Caerwent (Venta Silurum), which we shall also visit in the afternoon and where there are impressive standing remains to see.

Pick up by Bennett's Coaches will be 08.00am from St Georges Road, Cheltenham, and 08.20am from Oxstalls Campus in Gloucester. Return trip will start at approx 5.00pm, aiming to be back in Gloucester/Cheltenham around 6.00-6.30pm. Either bring a packed lunch or use the pubs and cafes in Caerleon. The cost for the trip will be £17 per person.

To book, send cheque to M W Milward, 1 Chase View, Prestbury, Cheltenham, GL52 3AL. with a note stating how many people and where you will join the coach. **Closing date for booking is 16 April.** Please make cheques payable to Gloucestershire Archaeology.

### EVENING TRIPS

#### Wednesday 3 June Great Witcombe Roman Villa

The building which houses the mosaic will be opened for us, providing a rare opportunity to see the surviving mosaic floors. We will meet at 7.00pm at the small car park at the top of the lane which leads to the villa site from Ermine Street just east of the Cross Hands roundabout at Brockworth. Neil Holbrook of Cotswold Archaeology will be our guide.

#### Tuesday 16 June Frampton on Severn

Historian and GlosArch member Rose Hewlett will give us a tour of her historic and attractive village with its many fine old buildings. Meet at 7.00pm outside the Bell Inn which is at the top of the village green.

#### Tuesday 7 July Stanway Watermill

A tour of this fully restored working watermill at Stanway. The mill, its history and its machinery will be shown and explained to us before being put into operation so we can see it working. There will be an opportunity to buy some of its excellent flour. Meet at 7.00pm outside the mill where there is some parking. Stanway is just off (north) the B4077 Tewkesbury to Stow-on-the-Wold road east of Toddington. Turn off the B4077 at the prominent war memorial and the lane to the mill is on the right after about 100 yards; if you reach Stanway House, you have gone too far. There will be a charge of £2 per head.

*Published by Gloucestershire Archaeology, Editor Marta Cock*