



NEWSLETTER 140

Spring 2017

50 YEARS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY



Photo: David Jones

Following the tradition of an event to mark every ten years of Glosarch/GADARG's existence, our 50th anniversary was celebrated in style with a dinner at the Hatton Court Hotel in Upton St Leonards, attended by forty members and guests. The distinguished speaker on this occasion was Professor Tim Darvill OBE, a Glosarch member since boyhood and now Professor of Archaeology at Bournemouth University (pictured above with Glosarch President John Rhodes). He referred to the history of archaeological work in Gloucester and the county over the last fifty years, noting the valuable work done by the society, but the main thrust of his speech was the challenges of the present and the future. The eras of "rescue" and of "conservation" are all in the past and the emphasis now is on localism. In particular he suggested that the introduction of Neighbourhood Plans offered potentially a powerful boost to amateur archaeology groups through the opportunity to introduce an archaeological and heritage dimension to concerns to be considered in relation to any local development proposal. This would open the way to community projects sparked by bottom-up initiative.

***** *The Summer Programme is at the back of this Newsletter* *****



Photo: Mike Milward

MARTIN ECCLESTONE 1935 - 2017

Martin's death in January, following a long illness, robbed Gloucestershire Archaeology of one of its most widely known and respected members.

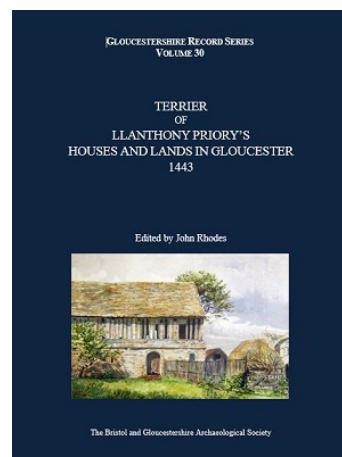
He arrived in Gloucestershire with his job in 1980s with archaeology prominent amongst his wide-ranging interests, and threw himself into the local archaeology scene where he rapidly became an active and influential figure. While excavating as a volunteer at both Frocester and Crickley Hill, as well as other opportunities as they arose, notably working with Mick Aston in Somerset, he also took on administrative roles and became Secretary of the Gloucester and District Archaeological Research Group, as Glosarch was then called, in 1995. He resigned in 2012 after 17 years in the post, our longest serving secretary, after which he was granted honorary membership. During his time as secretary, he effectively led the society and represented our interests in all sorts of local fora, as well as being prominent in the work of the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire (CAG).

Copies of *Glevensis* published between 1990 and 2010 reveal the range of Martin's interests, including reports on surveys at Winchcombe Abbey, Kinley Chapel, Rodborough Common and Haresfield, as well as fieldwalking at Slimbridge. There are also long learned articles on subjects like woodland in Gloucestershire, and research revealing the full range of Gloucester craftsmen.

This is just a reminder of Martin's immense contribution to Gloucestershire Archaeology; a full obituary will appear in a future *Glevensis*.

PRESIDENT'S BOOK

Glosarch's distinguished President, John Rhodes, has published a book: *The Terrier of Llanthony Priory's Houses and Lands in Gloucester 1443*. He gave a presentation on the book at the recent Members' Evening, but for those who missed it, the *Terrier*, with much use of maps, provides precise details of the many properties held by the Priory within the medieval city. It is a vital resource for everyone interested in the early history of the city. More details and the opportunity to order a copy can be found on the BGAS website <http://www.bgas.org.uk>.



FIELDWORK TRAINING

One of the things Gloucestershire Archaeology as an organisation struggles with is, on the one hand providing fieldwork opportunities for those members who have signed up wanting to work in the field, and on the other getting a consistently good response from members when opportunities are offered. The committee has concluded that one of the reasons for this situation is a shortage of people willing to offer leadership of fieldwork projects. It may be that there are members with the requisite qualifications who lack the confidence to volunteer to take a lead, it may equally be the case that there are members who would like to lead projects but feel they lack qualifications and/or experience.

Regarding the most accessible form of fieldwork, resistivity surveys, one of the ways in which we would like to address the perceived lack of experience is to make the equipment we have more familiar to more members. Many of us have participated in resistivity surveys using this kit, but it always seems to involve relying on one of a very small number of people able and willing to perform the initial equipment set-up, and then the subsequent download and analysis. As a first step towards increasing that number of people, we could mount some training where volunteers are shown the procedures and given the opportunity to practice them repeatedly until they are second nature. For this, we need a suitable location and now one has become available. A private landowner has offered the chance to practice on a large area of pasture, where some initial research by a local detectorist group has indicated the possibility of archaeological features beneath the turf.

The same location could be used for practice in the techniques of physical survey which some of us learned at Newnham-on-Severn, but which have not been exercised since. All the skills that are needed for the subsequent recording and reporting of the surveys, geophysical or physical, can easily be taught. If we can thus generate a larger body of people with the confidence to undertake small survey projects with other volunteers, it opens the possibility that Glosarch might be able to conduct excavation projects where appropriate.

Look out for the details of where and when the proposed training will be. The committee will hope to send out an email later in the spring.

MEANWHILE.....Upcoming Fieldwork Opportunities

Emily Taylor part of the Outreach Team at Cotswold Archaeology has written to introduce a potential HLF Community Archaeological Project that will be seeking volunteer support to deliver should it be possible to go ahead.

She is currently looking for volunteers for a potential Community Dig programmed for this summer in South Cerney, Gloucestershire. The project would involve the excavation of part of the Scheduled Monument of South Cerney Castle and its environs. The aim being to address a series of heritage and community objectives, with a key focus on identifying the exact nature of the monument, and particularly to confirm whether its current schedule listing as a 12th century castle is correct. There is appreciable evidence that the monument may have a more complex origin between the 12th and 17th centuries.

This project would provide individuals with training experience by professional archaeologists, including hands on experience of excavation techniques and other archaeological processes including finds washing etc. She will welcome anybody who would be interested, regardless of levels of previous experience.

At present, she is attempting to ascertain who would be interested in participating in order to plan who would be involved. Timetabling the project will be conducted at a later date.

If you are interested, please respond directly to Emily (emily.taylor@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk) with names and contact details. She will then supply more information about the project and a timescale.

.....and still in the Cirencester area:

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF THE ABBEY GROUNDS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Love Archaeology? Would you like to have a go?

Help us discover what lies underneath the Abbey Grounds.

We are looking for volunteers to help carry out the survey.

Volunteer for half a day or all day May 8th to May 16th.

This is a great opportunity for hands on experience.

The survey will be led by Dr Tim Young of Geoarch.



Contact:
welcome@cirencester.gov.uk
01285 655646
www.cirencester.gov.uk



TRAINING

There are online training modules offered by Historic England on their website which may interest some readers, subjects include Heritage Crime, Neglected Buildings and Aerial Photography for Heritage Management. Follow the link below:

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/training-skills/onlinetraining/>

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

16th July

Go Wild at Crickley Hill

Sun, 16/07/2017 - 11:00am - 3:00pm



Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust will be running a family fun day in partnership with the National Trust. A variety of activities such as green wood working, story telling, craft activities and wildlife trails. Suitable for all the family.

Glosarch will have a stall at this event in order to showcase the archaeological significance of the location. To support the Family Fun Day, we will have **fun** archaeological activities for children.

Volunteers welcome !

...and 16th September

The Deerhurst Lecture 2017

The Deer of Deerhurst: Landscape, Lordship, Custom and Ritual

by Dr Graham Jones (University of Oxford)



Earl Harold and his men ride to Bosham as a hunting party (from the Bayeux Tapestry)

16th September 2017
at 7.30pm

St Mary's Church, Deerhurst

Admission on the door from 7pm

Tickets £5 Students £3

(includes a glass of wine and cheese)

Visit www.deerhurstfriends.co.uk

AGM of the Friends in the Church at 6.15pm

REMINDER

Glosarch membership subs
were due on 1st March

Ordinary membership.....£15
Ordinary + associate.....£22.50
Junior membership.....£7.50

Cheques to Miss A Newcombe
2 Warren Close, Churchdown,
Glos, GL3 1JP

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2017

DAY TRIP

Sunday 9 July.

Duropolis and Badbury

The name Duropolis has been coined by the excavators to describe an unprecedented discovery; a large unenclosed, undefended Iron Age settlement in Dorset. The discovery changes traditional perceptions of the Late Iron Age and looks like dramatic confirmation of more recent ideas about the abandonment of hill forts. The excavation featured on the cover of Current Archaeology of April 2016, and work will continue in 2017. Gloucestershire Archaeology will visit the dig on their open day where we will be taken round the site by the Bournemouth University director who will show and explain the open trenches and all the finds. The coach will then take us to Wimborne Minster where there is a good selection of pubs and cafes for lunch, and also the famous Minster church to see. In the afternoon we will continue to nearby Badbury Rings, a prominent hill fort which offers yet more interpretations of the Late Iron Age. Martin Papworth of the National Trust, who has been excavating at Chedworth Roman villa with dramatic results over the last couple of years, and who is also the author of "The Search for the Durotriges", a major study of the Late Iron Age in Dorset, will meet us there and give us a tour of the hill, tell us what he and other excavators have found there and put the site into context within a landscape rich with archaeological features.

Pick up by Marchant's Coaches will be 7.30am from St George's Road, Cheltenham, and 7.55am from Oxstalls Campus in Gloucester. Return to Gloucester should be by 8.00pm and to Cheltenham 8.30pm. The cost for the trip will be £23.00 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 12 June. Please make cheques payable to Gloucestershire Archaeology.

EVENING TRIPS

Wednesday 24 May **Tewkesbury Battlefield**

The Tewkesbury Battlefield Society will provide a bespoke walk for Glosarch members around the site of the 1471 Battle of Tewkesbury. There are numerous battle-associated features to be seen, which can be aligned with written accounts of the conflict in a landscape which, in spite of subsequent building developments, still allows events to be reconstructed. Meet at the Crescent in Church Street at 7 pm, plenty of parking nearby.

Tuesday 6 June **Town Tour of Tetbury**

The Historic Society of Tetbury will kindly host our tour of the town, which is an historic market town with a wealth of Elizabethan and Jacobean buildings and an outstanding 18th century church, described as one of the best Georgian Gothic designs in the country. The walk will take about 2 hours. Meet at 7pm at the Chippings Carpark, 22 Chippings St, GL8 8ET (coming from Cirencester, turn left at the roundabout by the market hall and The Chippings carpark is 30m down on the right hand side).

Thursday 22 June

Cleeve Hill

Tim Copeland is the archaeological advisor to the Cleeve Common Board of Conservators. He will show us some of the more interesting archaeological sites on the Common which has seen settlement and activity through all periods from the prehistoric through to the nineteenth century when Cheltenham racecourse was located there. Meet at 7pm at the carpark by the three masts. If you don't know the way to the three masts, the map below shows a route from the racecourse roundabout on the A435, marked by pink dots. If you use a satnav, the postcode for the area of the three masts is GL54 4EU, but beware that that postcode covers the few farms nearby, so once you are on the lane on top of the hill, continue on to the end of the lane (the three masts are visible from a long way off) and don't get diverted down any of the farm tracks.

