

Newsletter 133

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Summer 2013



www.gadarg.org.uk

Charity no.252290

NEW NAME, NEW COMMITTEE, NEW CHALLENGES

Marta Cock

There is a new world out there for archaeology and not just in Gloucestershire. As local authority budgets and national support diminish, more is expected of the voluntary archaeology sector and the partners with which it works. In **Gloucestershire Archaeology** we are looking hard with our **new expanded committee** (see emailed programme or posted programme card) at how we can better run our affairs, meet the needs of members, attract and interact with a public that has come to assume that opportunities for taking part in fieldwork and excavation will continue to be provided as they have been so successfully in Kingsholm (see p 5). We have started with a new logo designed by our new Publicity Officer Emma Keep. You will hear more about other developments as they reach maturity, especially about the launch of our proposed new website. Until its launch our website remains www.gadarg.org.uk.

The County Council has implemented its policy for its Archaeology Service, leaving a core of five staff. Our well respected County Archaeologist Jan Wills leaves at the end of August. We will miss her experience, advice, thoughtful judgement and stewardship of archaeology in the County. We welcome the incoming team (see p x) and recognise the huge change they will have to negotiate while mourning the loss of so many people who gave their best to the county.

CHAPEL HAY CHURCHDOWN - REVISITED

Michael Philpott

We have been very busy investigating this site, with a further three geophysics surveys performed over the period April to June 2013. First as a follow up to the geophysics performed late 2012 and illustrated in the last newsletter, we decided to investigate as much of the remainder of the site as possible, using the GlosArch equipment. As a result of



Team at Work Using 1m Probe Equipment

that survey Tony Roberts agreed to undertake a whole site survey using his Archeoscan equipment, with a wider (1m) probe separation to improve the ground penetration. Having heard about our exercise the residents of the house with a garden adjacent to both Chapel Hay and the cemetery invited us into their garden to perform a further survey, using GlosArch's equipment.

NOTE: Depending upon ground conditions the Glos Arch equipment with 0.5m

probe separation will potentially detect variations in sub-surface resistance down to about 0.5m, therefore the 1 meter probe set will potentially detect down to a depth of about 1m.

In April and May 2013 a team of volunteers assisted in the follow up surveys in Chapel Hay, then in June 2013 a small team again assisted in the survey of the private garden.

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Figure 1 Geophysics Results and Archaeology Composite

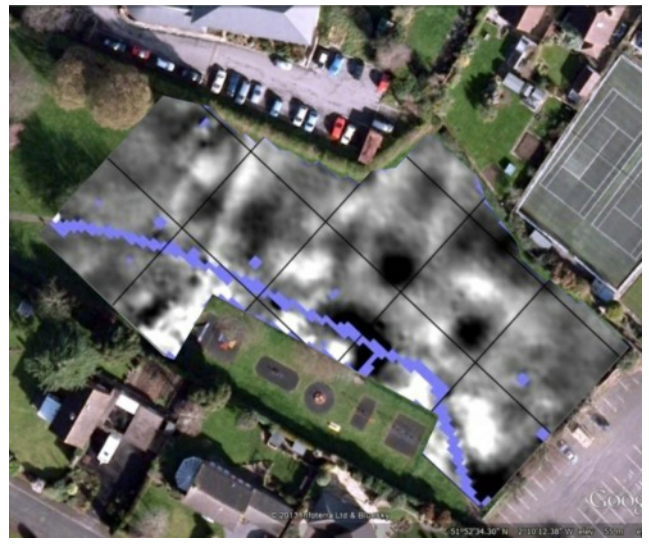


Figure 2 Geophysics Results Using 1m Probe Equipment

In figure 1 (north at top) the position of some possible features are highlighted with the black lines to aid clarity. The results from the surveys using the Glos Arch equipment illustrate a series of linear features across a large part of the area surveyed, with one linear running into the private garden reference figure 1, together with a semicircular feature at the western edge of the illustration. Our current interpretation is, that since many of these lines are parallel with apparently right angled returns, they are likely to be man made and could represent the foundations of a structure which may be a building or buildings. The eastern most linear features at right angles could be interpreted as the boundary of the cemetery whilst the darker “enclosed” area could be the site of further inhumation burials. The dark areas in the centre of the broken boxed lines could be interpreted as a pit/s or possibly lower level to the proposed structure. The western most semi-circular feature is difficult to interpret, although it is suggested that an apse could fit this form. At this time however there does not appear to be any relationship between the geophys results and the proposed Saxon ditches and wall foundation revealed in the St Andrews church archaeological exploration.

The results from the survey using the 1m probe equipment has revealed some additional detail. The furthest west linear feature appears to be about 2m wide at the greater depth and continues on across the site, the possibility is that it could be either the remains of an early wall, perhaps collapsed, or a conduit either with a relatively modern history and/or associated with the pond that existed into the early 20th century in the area of St Andrews church hall. To the east of the site there are now two clear sub-circular features apparently in a deeper context, that could be interpreted as potential kiln sites although further investigation, perhaps with a magnetometer could assist in consolidating this theory. At the south of the site adjacent to the children’s playground there is what appears to be a sub-circular annular feature, which may be interpreted as either a ditch surrounding a cist or a collapsed kiln since there appears to be a sub-circular high resistance core present.

There is still no conclusive evidence for the Saxon Chapel although there are clear indications of human intervention on the site. We are hoping to run a short trial with a magnetometer to test the kiln theory and are committed to presenting our results to the Churchdown Parish Council in September, which will recommend that a community based exploratory archaeological excavation should be considered, since it is probably the only way any of the above theories can be tested. In the intervening period we have excavated a test pit in the grounds of the Churchdown Club adjacent to the cemetery and Chapel Hay and are now processing the excavated material. So hopefully we will soon be able to date the cemetery illustrated in Figure 1.

With thanks to Les Comtesse for processing and illustrating the Glos Arch equipment results, Tony Roberts for the loan of his equipment and results processing and illustrating, Walter Griffiths for the geophys photos and all those volunteers that helped with the surveying.

COMMITTEE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire **conference is on Saturday 26 October 2013 in the Guildhall, Gloucester.** The theme of the conference is ***Towns in Gloucestershire: origins and development*** and speakers include Neil Holbrook, Tom Moore, Antonia Catchpole, Jeremy Haslem, Bob Jones/Peter Insole, Jan Wills/Anna Morris and Ray Holt/Martin Watts. Tickets cost £15 including tea/coffee and booking is essential. Please send a cheque made out to CAG and send to the CAG Secretary, John Loosley, Stonehatch, Oakridge Lynch, Stroud GL6 7NR. For further information email john@loosleyj.freemove.co.uk.

WHERE IS THE CHURCH? - EXCAVATIONS AT STONES FARM, SHERBORNE

Tony Roberts

Archaeologists and locals have been unearthing more of the hidden past of Sherborne over the past few weeks. Tony Roberts of Gloucestershire Archaeology (GlosArch) & Archeoscan led a team trying to discover the location of the lost church of Sherborne that disappeared from the historical records in the 14th century. After Byron Hadley had concluded, through documentary research and local folklore, that the remains of the church lay in the old orchard at Stones Farm he asked GlosArch if we could help. A geophysical survey of the site indicated a stone walled enclosure and some possible buildings. This would seem to be a logical option for the location of the church given the proximity of the remains of a Norman church built into the cottage (number 88) close by.



Over the course of two weeks volunteers from Gloucestershire Archaeology, and other archaeological enthusiasts, dug in anticipation of finding the Norman structure. However, a pleasant surprise was to emerge. Rather than finding the structural remains of a church they uncovered a large Roman corn dryer suggesting that this was the site of a previously unknown Roman farm. The corn dryer can be seen in the picture. A fire would have been lit at one end and the warm air drawn through the structure that would have had a wooden floor on which grain crops would be spread out to dry after the harvest. A practice that still occurs on the modern farm today!

Other finds of painted wall plaster, domestic Roman pottery and artifacts, such as a shale spindle whorl, also indicated that there must be a quite high status Roman building very close by.

The dig also gave glimpses into other periods of Sherborne's history. Finds of worked flint show that people were living in the area thousands of years ago. A large amount of pottery from the Norman, and later medieval period, may mean that the orchard was close to the centre of the 11th century settlement and that the site of the church is not far away. The redevelopment of this end of the village in the 19th century caused a lot of this archaeology to be mixed up together and one of the retaining walls for the lane constructed in Victorian period, was still visible in one of the trenches.



Many local people visited the dig and the children from the local school enjoyed their time pot-washing. The dig has helped to write more of the history of Sherborne and has proven that the village has been inhabited for thousands of years.

FROCESTER PUBLICATIONS FUND

The primary object of this fund allows an annual grant of up to £1,000 for the publication of an archaeological report relating to Gloucestershire. In 2012 your Committee awarded its first grant to David Evans of up to £850 to make further investigations into environmental remains from two Neolithic pit fills discovered during his earlier excavation at King's Stanley. (See the Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society 128 pp 29-54.) His purpose was to determine if cultivation took place as he suspected, to identify species being cultivated and to increase our knowledge about the late Neolithic in Gloucestershire. So far expert analyses he has commissioned are not yet complete. The resulting report will be sent to the Editor of the Transactions for potential publication and an outline reported to our members in the most appropriate form.

Applications for a grant from this fund for the current financial year are now sought. For an Application Form and further information please contact the Hon. Secretary, Marta Cock, 8 Churchfield Road, Stroud, GL5 1EQ, tel. 01453 767822 or marta.rc@btinternet.com

CELEBRATING KINGSHOLM 2013

Anna Morris

The Archaeology Service at Gloucestershire County Council has been working with the residents of Kingsholm, Gloucester, over the last 18 months to research the history of their community. The *History on Your Doorstep* project was about hands-on participation in archaeology, especially for those who have never been involved before.

Over 5 hectares (approximately 52,000 square metres) of resistivity and magnetometry survey have been carried out by 190 volunteers in sixteen areas ranging from tiny back gardens to a field of nearly 2.5 hectares. In fact, we have tried to cover all of the open areas of Kingsholm, hunting for the Roman fort as well as for other evidence of the evolution of the settlement.

Eleven 1.5m square test pits have been dug in back gardens and three larger trenches have been excavated by residents and other volunteers under professional supervision. Roman material has been retrieved from all of the excavations. Some of the most significant pottery and artefacts came from two large trenches covering 69 sq. m. on a former playing field. These included part of an early military face pot, a painted glass bead, imported wares including Baetican olive oil amphora and 1st century Central and Southern Gaulish Samian.

Amongst the local Kingsholm military wares from the excavations there are flagons, mortaria, honey jars, open lamps, dishes and bowls that are all typical of an early Roman military assemblage.

Whilst the location of the Roman fort remains frustratingly elusive we have engaged over 1000 people in exploring the archaeology of their city – from Romans to the 20th century - including school children, home educated groups, local archaeological societies, and residents of Kingsholm.

The project ended in June 2013 with an exhibition at Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery, Brunswick Road, Gloucester. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the project for your support and enthusiasm over the past eighteen months



KINGSHOLM 1987- NOSTALGIA FOR A LOST WORLD

Photos from GADARG's archives

Digging the Richard Coude Site



The late Bernard Rawes who contributed so much to GADARG's development and the archaeology of the County



Phil Moss who continues to contribute to all things archaeological in Gloucester and Gloucestershire

NEW STRUCTURE FOR THE COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

Toby Catchpole

The Heritage Team Leader will be Toby Catchpole, formerly a Senior Project Officer. Toby has worked for the Archaeology Service for 20 years as a project manager and has led fieldwork around the county as well as managing the Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey and ongoing National Mapping Programme for Gloucestershire. He will begin his new role from 1st September 2013.

From 1st July 2013 Charles Parry and Tim Grubb will have the role of Archaeologist. Charles has worked for the County Council for 26 years most recently in the role of Senior Archaeological Officer (Planning) and Tim has been Historic Environment Record Officer for over 16 years. Anna Morris is now Assistant Archaeologist and Jo Fletcher is Technician. Both will initially work part-time.



The core of the new team's work will include maintaining the county HER, providing advice on planning and development and advising on the management of the rural historic landscape of Gloucestershire. Jan Wills, County Archaeologist, who has worked for the Service since 1985, is leaving in early September after 28 glorious years with the County Council. The current project team of Jon Hoyle, Paul Nichols and Briege Williams are working on their post-excavation commitments. Their future after 31st March 2014 is not certain and negotiations with the County Council are on-going.

During the next few months the new team will be getting used to their new roles and working arrangements. Please bear with us while we undergo this process of change.

For more information contact:

Heritage Team Leader – Toby Catchpole – 01452 425688 toby.catchpole@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Archaeologist – Charles Parry – 01452 425669 charles.parry@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Archaeologist – Tim Grubb – 01452 425705 tim.grubb@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Assistant Archaeologist – Anna Morris – 01452 426245 anna.morris@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Technician – Jo Fletcher – 01452 425672 joanne.fletcher@gloucestershire.gov.uk

GLOUCESTER CITY DEVELOPMENTS

Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist

Work has started on the 'Media Studies' site on Brunswick Road (opposite the Museum). This is part of the wider 'Greyfriars' development. Current works on site have been limited to clearance and demolition works and piling will start soon. The site is of interest because previous investigations have identified a number of Roman period pottery kilns and a cemetery (those interested should see Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society 91 (1972) pp 18 – 59 and TBGAS 98 (1981) pp 67-72). Archaeologists monitoring the demolition works have identified two features which may be pottery kilns – or be associated with them. They have also noted at least four inhumations and a possible cremation. Interestingly the archaeologists have noted a fairly high occurrence of what is thought to be copper slag – although this isn't confirmed yet – which may suggest further industrial activity. At the time of writing the site is being prepared for piling, once this is complete a programme of archaeological investigations will be undertaken in those areas which will be directly affected by the development.

As part of the proposed re-development of the King's Quarter area (essentially the area of King's Square and the bus station) plans are progressing to undertake an archaeological evaluation before the end of the year. This will involve the excavation of trial trenches within King's Square itself and in areas around the bus station. The work should hopefully shed light on the extent of Roman remains in the King's Square area, and on the survival (or otherwise) of the remains of the Whitefriars Priory. This is only the first phase of archaeological investigations on the site and will be fairly limited in scope due to the access and logistical issues. The results of the evaluation will be presented publicly at a later date.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS

MUSEUM IN THE PARK, STROUD

Alexia Clark

Made of Metal exhibition 9th July – 1st September

A small finds exhibition from one local metal detectorist, Made of Metal is an exclusive opportunity to see a range of finds from genuine treasure to 20th century trash and everything in between. With buttons, bullets, buckles, coins, toys and more this bite-size exhibition in the foyer of the Museum is sure to have something for everyone. The quantity of material and the quality of much of it is exceptional and selecting the objects for display has been an absolute treat for the Collections and Documentation Officer, Alexia Clark, who is co-ordinating the display. There will also be the opportunity to find out about responsible metal detecting and the Portable Antiquities Scheme which seeks to record finds from all over the UK.



As part of an extensive summer program of events and activities there will also be the chance to 'Meet the Curator' - see and handle a selection of archaeological finds from the Museum's collections which have not previously been displayed - these events are on the 26th July and 9th August from 2pm – 4pm.

ANCIENT WISDOM Explore ancient inventions and mechanical marvels.....Shoot down a castle wall with a Roman Catapult and see how the Egyptians locked their doors. Hands on fun for children of all ages. That includes adults.. A travelling exhibition from Science Projects Ltd. **1-26 August, admission free**

WHAT WOULD YOUR IDEAL MUSEUM BE LIKE? David Rice, Gloucester City Museums & Art Gallery

At Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery we are planning to submit a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to transform our upper floor galleries, and we would like your help to make it a success. This is your chance to have a say.

Back in 2011 the downstairs galleries were refurbished to tell the story of Gloucester from the earliest times until the Middle Ages. Now we want to continue that story until right up to the present day and to modernise the temporary exhibition galleries. Tell us what stories you would like to see, and how you would like it presented. This might be with objects in cases with labels, pictures, sound, or hands-on interactives.

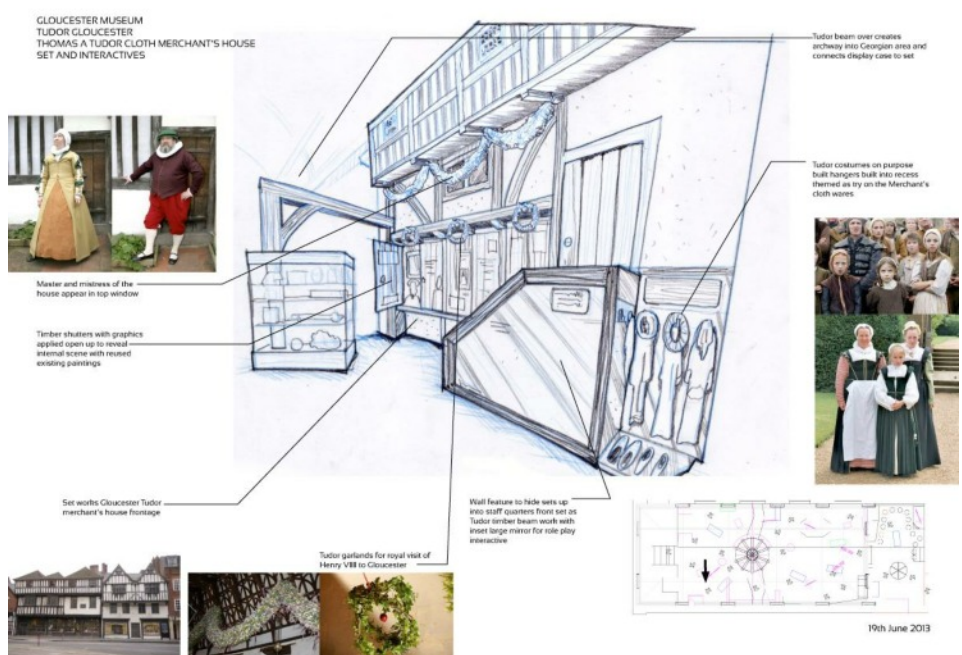
Please contact David Rice Gloucester City Museum Gloucester GL1 1HP david.rice@gloucester.gov.uk with your thoughts.

UNIQUE COIN RETURNS TO GLOUCESTER

A historically important William penny struck at the Gloucester mint has been acquired by the City Museum in Brunswick Road. The tiny silver coin was found at Highnam in 2012 by a member of the Taynton Metal Detecting Club.

Previously there were no known examples of coins struck in Gloucester between the years 1077 and 1080. However this penny now fills the gap and we can say that the Gloucester mint was in operation through the whole of William's reign.

The class VI 'sword type' penny bears the name of the moneyor Silacwine, misspelt 'SILIACPINC' rather than 'SILACPINE'.



The Tudor City Zone in the Folk Museum

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY SUMMER VISIT

SALISBURY PLAIN

Terry Moore-Scott

When I learned that GADARG was planning a summer day trip to see archaeological sites in a normally-prohibited military training area on Salisbury Plain, I knew this was a 'must' for me. I was so glad I went. The weather was superb and we were so fortunate to have as our host and guide Richard Osgood, MOD's Senior Historic Advisor, who not only had an encyclopaedic knowledge of all the archaeology in his care but was clearly very much in harmony with the beautiful chalk landscape and varied natural life of the area.

The military estate on the Plain is vast (30,000 hectares/94,000 acres) and the area around Tilshead which we toured is full of archaeological features ranging from the Neolithic to Roman and medieval (modern too if you include the village of Imber abandoned in the 1940s). Barrows proliferate in the landscape including the Neolithic Bowls barrow, in which was found some Stonehenge type bluestone which could only have come from the Preseli Mountains, and the Kill earthen long barrow on Chapperton Down. Also on the Down there is a fascinating 3rd/4th century linear Roman village straddling a Roman road from Salisbury to Bath with nearby strip field lynchets. Our host also showed us a section of a Bronze Age two metre deep linear barrier ditch - part of a system of ditches which taken together stretched for up to 70 km, cutting through field boundaries and skirting barrows. At the Knook Roman village we saw square platforms on which brick and stone houses once stood, lining each side of a road which bifurcates at its far end to form a kind of 'village green'. At the same site are remains of Bronze Age ditches and Iron Age fields.

Rounding off our tour was a visit to the spectacular late Iron Age (c.300BC) multivallate Battlesbury hillfort – its ramparts every bit as impressive as Maiden Castle's – where we were told that, somewhat surprisingly, its interior has still not been properly surveyed. Very close by are two other equally impressive hillforts: Middle Hill and Scratchbury, the latter including a Neolithic causewayed enclosure. Tradition has tended to depict the Plain as a desolate, dark, even evil place but it is clear from all we saw that man has throughout time made the area his home. Especially thrilling for those with a bent for nature, were sightings of wildlife including roe deer, hare, badger and buzzard and the sounds of the skylark and cuckoo – but sadly no Great Bustard.



In front of the Chieftain Tank



Looking towards Battlesbury Hillfort

Aside from the monuments we saw, it was most interesting to hear from Richard Osgood about how closely he interacts with the army to ensure the protection of his sites and still allow the army maximum exploitation of their training area, and to learn how responsive they were to his concerns by allowing barriers and palisades to be erected around sensitive archaeological sites. These arrangements have had the beneficial effect of sensitising the army to the importance of heritage features, not just on Salisbury Plain, but also in foreign theatres of war where they are deployed. Altogether a wonderful day and Mike Milward, as well as Richard Osgood, deserve our thanks for organising it so well.

If you would like to have more detail on the archaeology of Salisbury Plain, try getting hold of English Heritage's publication *The Field Archaeology of the Salisbury Plain Training Area*, ISBN 1 873 592493.

OBITUARIES

DON MAYES 1927-2013

Marta Cock & Mike Milward

The Society mourns the loss of Don Mayes, who died on 10 March this year. Don, who was given honorary membership in 2004, provided invaluable assistance to GADARG in all things technological including masterminding our acquisition and use of resistivity equipment, physically producing and maintaining much of the hardware we have used in fieldwork and lecture environments to take the organisation of GADARG into the computer age when it was unusual for societies like ours to have such a guru. He co-edited *Glevensis* for 9 years and did an enormous amount of work setting up text and figures for all 4 volumes of Eddie Price's Frocester publication. He established our membership database and actively participated in many field projects. Despite not being a fan of committees he served on ours from 2000-2004.

A full obituary will appear in the next issue of *Glevensis*.

MICK ASTON 1946-2013

Martin Ecclestone

It is hard to avoid using the several obituaries published on 26th June, particularly that written by Christopher Dyer, who I greatly admire. He rightly describes Mick as a leading academic archaeologist who attracted many followers through the Channel 4 TV programme 'Time Team' from 1994. He resigned in 2012, angered when several archaeologists were removed without his being consulted. His contribution was to insist on high academic standards, but also keep the working understandable for the viewers. He rejected experts who 'instructed' viewers. Though some archaeologists criticised Time Team as insufficient, many valued Mick's academic skills and his company. He was very generous in visiting fieldwork projects and attending seminars, giving good advice and encouragement.



He was very generous in visiting fieldwork projects and attending seminars, giving good advice and encouragement.

Born in Oldbury in the West Midlands, son of a cabinet maker, he read geography at Birmingham University, with some archaeology courses, but he taught himself better by enrolling on excavations. He came to know distinguished academics e.g. Philp Rahtz, Trevor Rowley and James Bond. In 1970 he became a field officer for Oxfordshire Museum, and from 1974 to 1978 he was Somerset's Archaeologist. He then became an adult education tutor at Oxford University for one year, followed by 16 years at Bristol University. In 1997 he was made Bristol's Professor of Landscape Archaeology, retiring in 2004.

In 1988 he discussed with Chris Gerrard of Durham a major project what would explore in great detail a Somerset rural parish held by Glastonbury in medieval years. Shapwick was chosen, and this project lasted until 1999. Chris Gerrard was mainly responsible for putting together and publishing a massive book in 2007; a more readable book co-authored by Chris and Mick, called 'Interpreting the English Village' was published in 2013. In his last four years Mick was researching the landscape history of his home village of Winscombe in Somerset, helped by local volunteers and delighting children, whose teacher described him as "The most enthusiastic and inspiring person." The Head of Somerset's museums said "He has been an absolute delight to know; his contribution to archaeology has been without parallel, and he made it a popular and accessible subject."

Personally, I feel I was very lucky to work in different ways with Mick Aston and Eddie Price for 20 years of my retirement – searching medieval manuscripts for and archaeological digging with Eddie. I first met Mick on a visit to Santorini, organised by Bristol University, together with the geologist Peter Hardy, in the summer of 1992. Mick encouraged me to join Bristol's adult education course on Local History from 1994 to 1996. I then became involved in Shapwick, mostly on the historical side. From 2004-2007 I enjoyed taking part in Time Team, digging locally at Standish, Whittington and Coberley. Finally from 2008, Brenda and I were invited every year to Winscombe by Mick and his partner Teresa Hall. His sudden death is a great loss for her and all who knew him.

The 2013-2014 lecture programme is published separately as a card posted to members not on email and in a separate email to members who have given us their addresses. The newsletter is printed in greyscale due to the high cost of colour print. Programme cards will be available at lectures and other events or by sending a stamped SAE to the Secretary.