



UNCOVERING OUR PAST TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER 135

Summer 2014



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GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY
CHARITY. No. 252290R

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR

Mike Milward

Your society has been through a major convulsion over the last twelve months, ditching the title it has had for most of its existence to become simply Gloucestershire Archaeology, bringing fresh faces onto the Executive Committee and taking steps to increase its income both from annual subscription rises and from charging for attendance at talks and fieldwork events. One of the principal reasons for doing all this was the perception that our membership numbers were declining as the average age of our members increased and we therefore needed to attract more and younger members if we were to survive. Attracting more members requires us to become less passive and more active; we can attract new people to archaeology only if we have archaeology to offer and that means having a programme of fieldwork offering opportunities over the next few months. Tony Roberts has provided this programme (a most impressive one) for us, and it will be a major feature of our relaunch event when that happens in the hope that it will catch the eye of people attending that event. Meanwhile, it was expected that the current membership would respond to the new opportunities as they arose and sign up for the chance to excavate after a period in which such chances have been few and far between. So it is a little disappointing that the numbers signing up have been relatively low. We all want to see the reborn Gloucestershire Archaeology develop into a successful organisation with a thriving and diverse membership, and I'm sure that that will be achieved all the more effectively if there were already a fair momentum to the fieldwork programme.



Sherbourne, summer 2013

LAUNCH AS GLOSARCH *Marta Cock*

Our launch and publicity drive for us as Gloucestershire Archaeology was originally planned to start at an event at St Oswald's in Gloucester but, despite advance press interest and partnership with our professional colleagues, we had to drop it due to very high insurance costs on such a public site. A new venue is being investigated which we hope to announce soon.

FROCESTER FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS SOUGHT

Objects of the Fund

1. The primary object of the Fund is to help finance the publication of archaeological reports relating to Gloucestershire.
2. 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.) which might be necessary elements of the publication of excavation projects (either as standalone documents or in "Glevensis") and other expenses incurred by excavation projects.
3. 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 or T: 01435 767822, E: marta.rc@btinternet.com

CONTENTS: pp 2-3 City & County Updates, pp 3-4 Round & About in Gloucestershire, p 5 Lecture programme changes, p 6 Adopt a Coin & Volunteer, p 7 Glosarch updates, back page Fieldwork report
THE WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME is on the Members' Programme Card, with this Newsletter or on www.glosarch.org.uk

GLOUCESTER CITY & COUNTY UPDATES

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE (GCCAS)

Anna Morris

Volunteering on our archives

We have been running a series of volunteer days for people to help us work on past projects to get the archives to a standard where we can deposit them with the relevant museum. We have had a very positive response from these days and have more planned for the future. The sites that we have been working on recently include a large excavation undertaken in the Roman small town near the Fosse Way at Bourton on the Water, Roman town houses at Paternoster School, Cirencester, a Roman, Saxon and post medieval site at Ashchurch, post-medieval iron working at Lydney Institute and the remains of Whitecross Manor, also in Lydney. Thank you to everyone who has helped with these archives – we really appreciate it! To get involved in future sessions or to join our mailing list to find out about other opportunities email anna.morris@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Core team work

Planning - We are still very busy commenting on large planning and pre-planning applications many of which are solar arrays (basically fields full of solar panels) and major housing developments in the county.

At Longford, excavations have commenced by Oxford Archaeology on a site where later prehistoric and Roman settlement remains are present, focussed within several enclosures. The evidence of previous evaluation undertaken on this site indicates that pottery was manufactured there during the Roman period.

Historic Environment Record (HER) – We are continuing to add the Listed Buildings to the HER and currently have only one parish left to complete to have full county coverage.

To make an HER enquiry visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/her

Countryside Schemes – The new Farm Environment Plan trial scheme we mentioned in the last newsletter has now come to an end. We completed 70 applications in two months (which is normally how many we comment on in a year!) This involved a lot of officer time and effort. These schemes will run for 10 years and will help to protect the rural archaeology of the county.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION – KING’S SQUARE AND THE BUS STATION

Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist

Thus far two trenches have been excavated in King’s Square and we’ve had interesting results from both:

Trench A (in the south west corner of the Square) was excavated to a depth of 3m below ground level. Whilst no evidence for Saxon or medieval settlement was identified Roman remains were found to be well preserved and to be present throughout the trench. The remains include two mortared stone wall foundations set either side of a compacted floor surface – this has been interpreted as representing a room or corridor – forming part of a building or complex of buildings. The rest of the trench is essentially covered in multiple compacted mortar surfaces which appear to represent a series of floor repairs and replacements – a third, very substantial stone wall foundation has been found cutting these.



These surfaces are usually overlaid by building rubble containing domestic waste and roof tiles – it looks like the roof tiles were deposited after abandonment – so they may represent collapse rather than demolition. Two postholes have been found cutting these deposits – these contained only Roman pottery but may prove to be later and could be Saxon or medieval in date.

Trench B (in the centre of the Square) has been excavated to a depth of about 2.6m below ground level. Like trench A Roman archaeological remains survive throughout the trench but no later remains are evident. Thus far a number of very sizable structural remains have been identified including a very large wall, a huge block of worked stone which

appears to be insitu, a stone retaining wall (plastered or rendered on one side) and multiple floor surfaces. At the time of writing the archaeologists still have five days in which to investigate this trench so we should have more information soon.

Three more trenches are planned over the next four weeks – all of these will be located in the Bus Station – where we hope to find evidence for the Whitefriars complex and perhaps for a Roman cemetery (if one is present).



Stone Wall in Trench B

FRIENDS OF BLACKFRIARS PRIORY

Samantha Hosler

At present, Blackfriars Priory in Gloucester is trying to collate information about the priory's history. This information is to be used in developing educational resources, creating a historical archive for the site and a timeline. We would like to create a research group, that would like to research the priory and help us piece together the site's history. We are particularly interested in the time of the friars, Thomas Bell in the Tudor period and the early twentieth century. Our educational visits will focus on 'Archaeology at Blackfriars', 'Life as a Friar' – looking at the priory, monastic herb gardens and illuminated manuscripts and 'Tudor Life at Blackfriars' – focusing on Sir Thomas Bell, Lady Bell and life in a Tudor household. We are also looking to develop resources for university students and to develop a guidebook.

A large amount of documents and sources has already been collated but research is ongoing. If anyone is interested in this and would care to help collate information and follow some leads, your help would be most appreciated. We would also welcome articles if you wanted to present your work for the Friends of Blackfriars newsletter and updates.

If this is something that may interest you, please contact Samantha Hosler at Blackfriars Priory on 01452 396384 (I am based at Gloucester Guildhall) or via email; blackfriars@gloucester.gov.uk. Thank you.

ROUND AND ABOUT IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

COMMITTEE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

John Loosley

The Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire conference is on
Saturday 25 October 2014 in the Guildhall, Gloucester.

The theme of the conference is "The History of Gloucestershire in 9 sites"

The provisional programme is

Tim Darvill	Belas Knap and the Cotswold Long Barrows
Neil Wilkin	The Lydney goldwork hoard in its Bronze Age context
Tom Moore	Bagendon and Iron Age enclosures in the Cotswolds
Martin Papworth	Chedworth and the villa's local and Romano-British significance
Michael Hare	Anglo-Saxon Deerhurst
Stuart Prior	Berkeley Castle construction and other Gloucestershire Castles
Tim Allen	Llanthony Priory
John Rhodes	Gloucester's Civil War Defences
Ian Standing	Whitecliff Furnace and Gunns Mill

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 GL67NR.

For further information email john@loosleyj.freemove.co.uk

THE FESTIVAL FOR ARCHAEOLOGY 2014 12TH TO 27TH JULY
SOME EVENTS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Follow the link below to find out what's on and how you can get involved!
<http://www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk/>

ARCHAEOLOGY OPEN DAY AT CORINIUM MUSEUM, SAT 19TH JUL 2014

Celebrating its 25 year anniversary, *Cotswold Archaeology* joins up with the Corinium Museum for this special Festival of Archaeology open day. Archaeologists, finds specialists and local find liaison officer, Kurt Adams, will be on hand to identify your archaeological artefacts, so if you have found something you would like to have identified, bring it along.

There will be a chance to explore recent objects excavated by Cotswold Archaeology and talk to the archaeologists involved in discovering and interpreting the finds.

A series of short talks will take place throughout the day by archaeology specialists from Cotswold Archaeology covering different sites and periods.

Website: <http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/> <http://coriniummuseum.org/>

VISIT TO BAGENDON EXCAVATIONS

The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society is organising a tour of the Iron Age excavations at Bagendon, run by Tom Moore of Durham University at 2pm on July 12th.

To book please contact John Loosley on john@loosleyj.freeseve.co.uk or tel 01285 760460.

The event is free

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVENTURES AT THE MUSEUM IN THE PARK IN STROUD

The Museum in the Park has a host of activities and exhibits this summer to coincide with the CBA's Festival of Archaeology.

Come along to see our Foyer Case display which will feature awesome artefacts from Anglo-Saxon mill paddles to Roman domestic goods and more besides – many items have only been in the collection for a matter of months and so have not been displayed before.

In addition you can Meet the Curator and get the chance to get really close (and maybe even handle) archaeological artefacts from across history.

And budding archaeologist shouldn't miss our day of archaeological activity with mini-digs, drawing activities and archaeological sorting tasks.

Foyer exhibition: 8th July – 27th July, Meet the Curator: 23rd July 2pm – 4pm, Archaeology Day: 25th July 11am-4pm

All events are Drop In <http://www.museuminthepark.org.uk/>

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2014-15

CHANGE TO MONDAYS, CHANGE OF GLOUCESTER VENUE

Marta Cock

As previously announced, we are returning to Monday evenings for our talks because Wednesdays caused too many clashes with similar organisations. Start times will remain at 7:30pm.

Also because many of our members indicated that they would prefer a venue nearer the City Centre than Ribston Hall High School we looked around again for a suitable one. We chose Kingsholm & Wotton Neighbourhood Centre in Sebert Street. Its first floor meeting room has a lift for disabled access and an adjacent secure car park as well as being within walking distance of the Bus and Rail Stations. And, for those of you who fondly remember our lectures in Gloucestershire Archives, it is now too expensive for us and no longer available on Mondays (our original reason for changing to Wednesdays.)

**Dates in Gloucester are 27th October, 8th December, 2nd February and 16th March
Dates in Cheltenham are 6th October, 17th November, 12th January and 23rd February**

The full programme is detailed on our programme card which is enclosed with the Glevensis and Newsletter mailing. It can also be found on our website at www.glosarch.org.uk

NEW MEETINGS SECRETARY

Marta Cock

I am delighted to inform you that Russell Weston became our new Meetings Secretary in May when he took over from me. In effect the 2014-15 programme is a joint effort. Russell says he was drawn to archaeology many years ago when living near Hadrian's Wall and Vindolanda, but was only able to pursue an interest after retirement from business. When first studying archaeology part-time at the Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford, his focus was initially on the Mesolithic and Neolithic. However a foray backwards to the Palaeolithic period resulted in the publication of articles on the palaeoliths of the Thames headwaters and on William Buckland's discovery of 'The Red Lady of Paviland'. In the last few years Russell's 'Time Machine' has transported him forwards into the Medieval period and he is now conducting DPhil research into the formation and structure of Cistercian monastic granges in southern England.'

THE 2014 BERNARD RAWES' LECTURE

Terry Moore-Scott

In recognition of the outstanding contribution former GADARG member Bernard Rawes made to the archaeology of Gloucestershire, one of our lectures each year, ideally one on a Romano-British theme, will be named in his memory. Bernard Rawes FSA (1917-1995) was for many years the personification of the dedicated and meticulous local 'amateur' archaeologist. His main interest was in the late Iron Age and Roman period and a special area of his expertise was in the study of local Romano-British pottery types and Samian ware. His work spanned the whole of the county but he will be particularly known for the excavations he carried out, assisted always by his wife Barbara, in and around Gloucester city, at Wadfield, Tredington Rise, Haymes, Wycomb, Manless Town and Vineyards Farm (Charlton Kings). He took pride in that all his excavations were published and his numerous reports appear in Glevensis, the Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society and even in Britannia. During his time, he served as GADARG Secretary and Secretary, later Chairman, of the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire, and in 1992 was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He was also elected to be President of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society for the year 1995-96 – an honour sadly cut short by his death in the summer of 1995.

For this first Bernard Rawes lecture we are delighted that Martin Papworth (Regional Archaeologist for the South West, National Trust) will be speaking on 27th October in our Gloucester venue.

THE FRIENDS OF CORINIUM MUSEUM INVITE YOU TO ADOPT A ROMAN COIN

The Tetbury Hoard was discovered in 2010 and excavated in the days following its discovery. The coins were declared Treasure and initially sent to the British Museum for analysis. They have now been generously donated to the Corinium Museum by the landowner and are ready to be conserved and put on permanent display.

The hoard consists of approximately 1500 coins dating from AD 260s – 280s. This was a time of great political upheaval in the Roman world. The coins are all from the denomination known as *radiates*.

The globular flask of the 'New Forest' type with painted decoration held the majority of the coins. The vessel dates to c. AD 300-330.

The Friends of the Corinium Museum, who were established in 2006 to raise funds to help acquire and restore new artefacts and to help promote greater interest in the Museum, are now asking for your help to conserve the coins and display them in the Corinium Museum.

The Friends Chairman Kevin Ronaldson said "at the heart of the Museum are its collections, the most important of which are the Romano-British collections from the Roman town of Corinium (Cirencester) and the surrounding area. We are asking for a minimum donation of £10 per coin to raise the funds needed to see the Museum's first Roman coin hoard on public display."

To find out more information about how you can adopt a coin please visit www.coriniummuseum.org/support-us/adopt-a-coin or contact the Museum on 01285 655611.

To find out more about the Friends of the Corinium Museum visit <http://coriniummuseum.org/support-us/friends-of-the-corinium-museum/>



CRICKLEY HILL HILLFORT ARCHIVE: VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

Cotswold Archaeology have started work on processing the finds and paper archives from the major excavations undertaken during the 1960s, 70s and 80s by the Crickley Hill Archaeological Trust at the Crickley Hill Cotswold scarp hillfort overlooking Gloucester and the Severn Valley. The work is being undertaken on

behalf of the National Trust with the aim of

bringing together all of the material from the excavations, which is currently scattered across the country, and ensuring it is in a stable condition and fully quantified. The site is open to the public and is well worth a look, with impressive ramparts and views as far as Wales. The remains include those of Neolithic, Iron Age and post-Roman settlers, with episodes of conflict evidence by slighted ramparts and scatters of arrowheads. Indeed, the hillfort may be the site of one of the earliest known battles in Britain. Our work will contribute to the process of getting this important and fascinating site fully published. During the excavations, recording was undertaken by volunteers from across the

world, and part of the ethos of the archiving work is that we are using local volunteers to continue this tradition. Pictured are Tom Brown, Post-Excavation Archaeologist for Cotswold Archaeology and two volunteers, Nicole Burkhardt who is doing her 'A' levels and is hoping for a career in archaeology, and Diana Crane who comes to us with an interest in archaeology. Cotswold Archaeology are looking for more volunteers to join us on this project at our Kemble office, so if you know of anyone who would like to help, please contact Jon Hart at jon.hart@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk .



Links: Cotswold Archaeology website: <http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/>

Cotswold Archaeology on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CotswoldArchaeology>

Cotswold Archaeology on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CotswoldArch>

GLOSARCH NOTES

VISITING THE MARY ROSE IN MAY

Mike Milward



The newly opened Mary Rose Museum at the Historic Dockyard in Portsmouth was the destination for this year's annual GlosArch outing. It had had plenty of coverage in archaeological journals, but, even so, it exceeded all our expectations and two hours passed very quickly in there. The military aspects of life on the vessel - the archery, the gunnery - were exposed both in minute detail and in overwhelming scale; particularly interesting were the small skeletal changes used to identify the archers, but the number and variety of cannons, large and not so large, showed how naval warfare was developing. It was the human aspects however that gripped many of us even more: the ship's surgeon's implements were laid out before us and their uses were illustrated and described in eye-watering detail. The galleys

that fed the crew operated by using huge cauldrons placed in brick-built ovens which sat on the gravel ballast at the lowest level of the ship, an arrangement that prevented the wood fires from setting the ship's timbers ablaze. There were no replicas here, every artifact had been recovered from the sea bed.

Most of us had taken advantage of the group booking to gain access to the other sights in the Historic Dockyard, although it was impossible to fit them all in. Some went round HMS Victory, some HMS Warrior, some managed both, many took advantage of the free harbour tour if only for the opportunity to sit down for 45 minutes. The national RN Museum and the Submarine Museum across the harbour as well as other attractions all eluded me for lack of time. Will just have to go again one day....

SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Marta Cock

We have had many changes during in the last 18 months. Les Comtesse took over managing our website, transferring everything from the old GADARG to the new GLOSARCH one, when our long serving previous webmaster, Julian Rawes, relinquished the position. We are very grateful to Julian for establishing our internet presence when few groups like ours thought of doing so and maintaining it for years with too little support from the committee. We thank him here publicly for his commitment. We have four new Committee members, three being co-opted during the year, including our new Publicity Officer, Emma Keep. Their presence, enthusiasm and range of skills has enlivened our debates and literally rejuvenated us. All were re-elected at the AGM.

Tony Roberts took on Fieldwork co-ordination from Ann Maxwell, who will of course still be closely involved. We are very grateful to her for her continued involvement. Tony's report can be seen here on the back page. He now contacts interested members directly by email but if you do not use it please phone him on the number shown on your Programme/membership card.

We welcomed Toby Catchpole on becoming the new head of GCCAS, on the departure of Jan Wills with the title of Heritage Team Leader and Andrew Armstrong on developing the role of Gloucester City Archaeologist despite his lack of staff.

I do not get any younger so it is with regret that I give notice that even though I was re-elected as your Secretary at the 2014 AGM I will bow out as soon as a replacement can be found and not stand again though I will still support GlosArch in any way I can be useful.

We still need someone to take over the and start developing next year's Spring/Summer Programme, setting Mike Milward free. We are very grateful to Russell Weston who is now responsible for the Autumn/Winter Lecture Programme

Members of Gloucestershire Archaeology have been afforded some opportunities to participate in some fieldwork over the past few months. A few members participated in some geophysical surveys of different areas of Robinswood Hill. This project was funded and coordinated by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and the Gloucester City Archaeologist to promote further awareness of the opportunities that the Hill can afford. Sitting alongside a wider programme of events, a series of 8 days of geophysics were led by Archeoscan and although most of the results were geological in nature some possible archaeological sites may lead to further investigation in the future.

At the time of writing a number of members are participating in the excavation of a Romano-British settlement at Guiting Power. Led by Archeoscan this evaluation is aiming to characterise the nature and extent of the archaeological remains recently discovered between Guiting Power and Hawling. Local enthusiasts had discovered some Roman coins whilst using a metal detector. A large-scale magnetometer survey revealed large enclosure with associated pit groups and a possible building. Whilst still only in the early stages of the excavation it is clear that this is a settlement that was occupied for many years. The presence of artefacts ranging from worked flint to through a 1st century Roman brooch to 4th century Roman coins indicates a longevity of occupation. As this is being written a possible kiln is being uncovered.



Geophysics at Robinswood Hill

Members have also had the opportunity to volunteer to attend the dig at the Iron Age Oppidum of Bagendon run by Dr Tom Moore of Durham University at the end of June. I am sure that more will appear on this excavation in the next newsletter.

Later in the summer there will be the opportunity to help with a large-scale geophysical survey of a field close to Over Farm west of Gloucester. The Roman road that runs out of Gloucester runs through the centre of the survey fields and many Roman artefacts have been recovered from here. When the crops are harvested in the Autumn a survey will be conducted alongside the Hucclecote Metal Detecting Club who have searched this land for many years. Members will be notified when the surveys will take place.



Trench 2 Guiting Power from above

Terry Moore-Scott and Nigel Spry also intend to continue some excavation work at Ashleworth in August and will be looking for volunteers. Keep an eye on the website for details or contact Terry on 01452 750160

Finally, Archeoscan will be conducting an excavation at Miserden on an enigmatic Romano-British site that has a series of enclosures and has produced a lot of diverse metal work over the past few years. Details of this dig can be found on Archeoscan's website www.archeoscan.co.uk Tel: 07901 746140