



UNCOVERING OUR PAST TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER 137

Summer 2015



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GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGY
CHARITY NO. 252290R

New Committee

With the resignation of Marta Cock from the position of Hon Sec, a post she has filled with great distinction since 2010, there has been a reshuffle within the committee. At the 2015 AGM, Mike Milward resigned as chairman and was elected as Hon Sec; other responsibilities remained the same, ie. Angela Newcombe - Treasurer, Russell Weston - winter programme, Diane Charlesworth and Les Comtesse - Glevensis, Tony Roberts - fieldwork, and Emma Keep - publicity. John Rhodes (President), Marta Cock, Linda Mills and Terry Moore-Scott continue to serve on the committee. At their first meeting after the AGM, the committee elected Russell Weston as their new chairman.

Fieldwork

a) The 2015 season of excavation at Bagendon ran in June/July under the direction of Tom Moore of Durham University (see <http://www.bagendonproject.org>). In association with this, GlosArch will be organising fieldwalking in the Bagendon area between 24 Aug and 4 Sept. If you wish to take part in this activity and have not already contacted Les Comtesse, please do so at comtesse@virginmedia.com or call Les on 01242 511550.

b) At the request of the Newnham History Group, on 6 May 2015 4 members of GlosArch conducted a resistivity survey (1 metre intervals) of the interior of the ringwork at Newnham on Severn, assisted by 8 volunteers from the History Group (*right*). The weather on the day could scarcely have been worse: a constant gale with frequent rain squalls, requiring a close eye to kept on the mature trees round the perimeter of the site. The site had been scheduled in 2012 as a probable medieval ringwork, a form of castle possibly dating from the 11th or 12th century, but there was no hard evidence concerning its origins or function. According to the Heritage Environment Record, an excavation was reputed to have been carried out in the 19th century but no results, or indeed details, are known, although an adjacent house changed its name at this time to "Castle House", implying that evidence that the earthwork was a castle had been uncovered. Three 20x20m and one 20x10m squares were surveyed; impenetrable vegetation on the outside of the bank prevented completion of 4 regular squares, but the interior was fully covered. Preliminary analysis of the resulting plots appears to show two features which may be trenches from the reported 19th Century excavation, while a rectangular shape showing in the SW quadrant could represent the site of a building. GlosArch intends to revisit the site in the coming winter to conduct a physical survey as a training exercise.



Photo: Larry Bellamy



Photo: Larry Bellamy

c) An archaeological watching brief was carried out at St Giles' parish church, Maisemore, in association with the installation of a wheelchair ramp through the church's south porch. The porch and tower are all that remains of the late medieval (14/15th century) church, the rest of which was demolished in a late 19th century reconstruction. Excavated deposits below the floor of the porch produced nothing of particular archaeological significance but beneath the stone benches lining each side of the porch the excavation did expose layers of earlier foundation stonework the lowest of which tentatively dates to the first Norman church known to have existed on the site, but of which no structural material has previously been recorded.

Know your Place

The South Gloucestershire Council has issued the following press release on this exciting project which we are happy to publicise in this newsletter.

Know Your Place – West of England digital mapping project launches

We have officially launched the new digital mapping project 'Know Your Place – West of England'.

Know Your Place is an ambitious online mapping project that overlays maps from various periods of history, allowing users to compare how streets or areas look today with maps from yesteryear.

We are leading a partnership of local authorities and voluntary organisations in the West of England area which has been awarded £379,800 in funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the project, with £24,270 match-funding and additional support contributed from us, Wiltshire Council and other partners.

Working with the British Library, local councils, records offices, community groups and volunteers, 'Know Your Place West of England' will digitise and transcribe a large number of historic maps and documents. The result will be a public website which will hold all of the historic digital maps of the local authority areas of South Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset, North Somerset, Bristol and Bath & North East Somerset, many of which have never been featured online before or are too fragile for researchers to access. The Know Your Place website can be viewed at: <http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/>

The project will provide unprecedented online access to maps of the historic landscape of the region, on which users will be able to add their own heritage information – building a rich and diverse community map of local heritage for everyone. South Gloucestershire Council's Communities Committee Chair, Cllr Heather Goddard, said: "We are grateful for the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver this exciting project which will use digital technology to enable people to see how their street or community has changed over the years. Through working with the volunteers and neighbouring local authorities we will be able to provide a valuable resource for local people researching their area."

Nerys Watts, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund South West, said: "The Know Your Place project is a significant project not just for the South West but in the development of historical community mapping projects. This project will open up access to these wonderful ancient maps and give people a fascinating insight into their local heritage and how the areas they live and work in today have been shaped over the years."

As well as providing a website available on a range of

mobile devices which anyone can contribute to, the project will also provide volunteer opportunities, a programme of outreach events, school learning materials and a touring exhibition across the region.

Follow the project's progress on Facebook:

*[Know Your Place - West of England](#) and
Twitter: [@KYPWestEngland](#)*

Trip to Caerleon

On 16 May, 30 members set out from Gloucester and Cheltenham to enjoy a guided tour of the Roman fortress at Caerleon and the Roman town, 10 miles away at Caerwent, led by Tim Copeland. Tim, the author of "Life in a Roman Legionary Fortress", brought into vivid life for us the barracks, baths and amphitheatre in Caerleon. In the afternoon, he led us round the impressive standing walls of Caerwent where we also saw the remains of the Forum and Basilica.



Photo: David Jones

Witcombe Roman Villa

Amongst other visits this summer, GlosArch also went to Witcombe to hear Richard Massey of Cotswold Archaeology explain the conservation problems at the site and recent research which has shown the villa complex to be much more extensive than previously understood. We were also able to see the rarely displayed mosaics.



Photo: David Jones



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AUTUMN/WINTER PROGRAMME 2015-16



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The Cheltenham venue (St Andrews Church, Montpellier St., GL50 1SP) is unchanged.

Parking on street free after 6pm.

Gloucester meetings this year will take place in the Quaker Meeting House, about 50m along Greyfriars St, (turn off Southgate St at St Mary de Crypt).

Parking at Ladybellegate St, at Longsmith St, free after 7pm

28 SEPTEMBER (Chelt)	Bryn Walters	A Reassessment of the Roman Villas at Great Witcombe and Chedworth. The Bernard Rawes Annual Lecture
19 OCTOBER (Glos)	Andrew Armstrong	Yet More New Archaeological Discoveries in the City of Gloucester!
16 NOVEMBER (Chelt)	Andy Moir	Dendrochronology and Buildings Archaeology
7 DECEMBER (Glos)	Stephen Yeates	Myth and History: Ethnicity and Politics in the 1st Millennium British Isles
11 JANUARY (Chelt)		Members Evening
1 FEBRUARY (Glos)	Phil Rowe	The Second World War Stop Line Green anti-invasion defence in the South-West
22 FEBRUARY (Chelt)	Martin Watts	The Tombstone of Bodicacia from Roman Cirencester's western cemetery
14 MARCH (Glos)	James Bond	Roman and Medieval Gardens
4 APRIL (Chelt)	AGM and Arthur Price	The Inaugural Eddie Price Annual Lecture

We designate a Bernard Rawes lecture and an Eddie Price lecture in our annual programme in order to honour these two giants of amateur archaeology in Gloucestershire. Although their work will never be forgotten, these lectures will serve to remind us of what they contributed both to GlosArch/GADARG and to the story of Gloucestershire's past.

Executive Committee	Tel/Mobile	Email
President: John Rhodes FMA	01452 411271	
Chairman: Russell Weston	07772 175218	russell.weston@kellogg.ox.ac.uk
Hon. Secretary: Michael Milward	01242 463696	m.milward1@yahoo.co.uk
Hon. Treasurer: Angela Newcombe	01452 859308	newcombe@warrentwo.fsnet.co.uk
Meetings Secretaries		
Lectures: Russell Weston	As above	As above
Summer visits: Michael Milward	As above	As above
Glevensis Editor: Diane Charlesworth	01452 790628	diane.charlesworth1@btinternet.com
Fieldwork Co-ordinator: Tony Roberts	07901 746140	archeoscan@hotmail.co.uk
Other Committee members: Marta Cock, Les Comtesse, Emma Keep, Linda Mills, Terry Moore-Scott		

COMMITTEE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire's annual conference is on Saturday 21st November 2015 in the Guildhall, Gloucester from 10am to 5pm.

The theme of the conference is "**Recent Archaeology in Gloucestershire**"

The provisional programme is:-

Gloucester Cathedral: Archaeology and Anticipation by Richard Morriss

The Bodicacia tombstone and Roman Cirencester's Western Cemetery by Cliff Bateman of Cotswold Archaeology
Iron Age burials and medieval farm buildings: excavations at Bourton-on-the-Hill by Chiz Harward of Urban Archaeology

The Upper Thames Valley Project by Dr Wendy Morrison of Oxford University, Institute of Archaeology

The Longford Lane, Gloucester excavations by Vix Hughes of Oxford Archaeology

Recent Community Archaeology in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire by Tony Roberts of Archeoscan

Latest excavations at Bishop's Cleeve by Mike Kimber of Headland Archaeology

Llanthony Priory, Gloucester by Mark Collard of Cotswold Archaeology

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 and booking form visit www.bgas.org.uk or email john@loosleyj.freemove.co.uk

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH WEST

A Day in Cirencester, 19th September 2015

Corinium Museum, Park Street, Cirencester GL7 2BX

10:00 Registration- Tea/Coffee and Biscuits

10:25 Welcome address

10:30 Dr Alison Brookes Collections Development Office, Corinium Museum: *Beaker Burials & the Bronze Age Cotswolds*

11:30 Emma Stuart, Lifelong Development Officer, Corinium Museum: *Corinium Mosaics*

12:30 Lunch

13:00 Martin Watts, FSA MCIFA Head of Publications, Cotswold Archaeology: *Celts and Cults; recent excavations at Roman Cirencester's Western Cemetery*

14:00 Dr Alex Smith Senior Research fellow, Department of Archaeology, University of Reading: *New Light on the Romano-British countryside; current results from the Roman Rural Settlement Project*

15:00 Tea/Coffee and Biscuits

15:30 Historic Tour of Cirencester led by the Town Walk Guides of Cirencester Civic Society

Tickets: £15 for members of CBA South West, £20 for non-members, £10 for students

A buffet lunch is included but booking essential

Please send this booking slip or a copy, along with payment, to K Collins, 89 Fletemoor Road, Plymouth, Devon PL5 1UL

Please reserve.....places at A Day in Cirencester, Corinium Museum, Cirencester GL7 2BX

Name/s.....

Address.....

Email/tel.....

Any special dietary requirements

Method of payment: Cheque by post for the sum of Bank Credit (please contact Katie Collins kmcollins83@gmail.com for details). Cheques to be made out to Council for British Archaeology South West.