



# ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

No. 47 APRIL 2014



**In this issue** From our President • Grants and Awards • Research Grant Reports •  
Dates for your Diary • RAI Annual Conference 2014 • Meeting Notes

Two organisations which have been in the news might at first glance appear to have similar interests overlapping with ours; this note seeks to explain how we complement each other.

The first is the Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars, which in February became the 110th Livery Company in the City of London. It was begun in 2005 as the Guild of Arts Scholars and its membership includes those engaged in the study, curation, collection and trade in antiques, antiquities and objects of decorative and applied art, as well as in associated support businesses such as restoration and conservation, insurance, event organisation, tax and legal advice, packing and shipping. On their website at <http://www.artsscholars.org> there are reports and photographs of their events past and future, many of which portray formal dinners. They raise charitable funds and encourage appreciation and knowledge of the decorative arts, fostering future excellence through scholarship, and provide a number of educational awards up to about £1,500 a year, as well as supporting publications, exhibitions and other projects.

Also in February this year, the Institute for Archaeologists was granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation. Their objective is to act as the professional body for archaeologists, and so their petition focused on showing that they already offer the components of any professional body seeking recognition: accrediting individuals and organisations, measuring compliance with standards, and investigating allegations of unprofessional practice, all through demonstrably robust and fair processes. See more at <http://www.archaeologists.net>. They may now take the necessary steps to become a chartered institute, alongside those representing other professions from accountancy to waste-management. The new body will be known as the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, or CIfA, and its primary objectives are concerned with professional standards and ethics in archaeological training, education, and work, and in heritage conservation.

Our Institute, which has been in existence since 1844, was awarded its Royal Charter of Incorporation in 1961. Our primary objects are elegantly described in the Royal Charter, (which you may see in full via the link near the end of this page on our web site, [www.royalarchinst.org/about](http://www.royalarchinst.org/about)). They are summarised on page 4 of the Annual Report which is in this mailing, and put simply are the functions of a learned society for archaeological, architectural and landscape history, to organise meetings and lectures, to publish the *Archaeological Journal*, and to make grants, principally for research; all this is to be done charitably. Our grants annually average about £15,000 in total.

---

## FROM THE PRESIDENT David A. Hinton

---

### Our Honorary Secretary

As announced in the last *Newsletter*, the Institute's long-serving Honorary Secretary, Dr Gill Hey, has decided to stand down. There will be an opportunity for members to thank Gill for her care and industry on our behalf, after the AGM and lecture on May 14.

Council has agreed to put forward to the AGM Dr Peter Wilson as Gill's successor. Dr Wilson served on Council until last year, and is on the Editorial Committee. We are fortunate to have someone with his experience to help to take the RAI forward.



## National Policy Consultations

The Institute has responded to two consultation documents since the last newsletter. The proposal for a 'new model' English Heritage has caused concern, though it is not possible to say outright that it is a bad idea. With proper funding, the new body charged with looking after the 'portfolio' of state monuments could be successful, but there are many caveats. The part of the present English Heritage responsible for statutory duties will remain within government; here, the principal concern is the lack of funding, which is already seeing diminution of the quality of service being provided.

The other consultation concerned provision of local authority services for archaeology, principally scrutiny of planning applications and maintenance of the Historic Environment Records. Both have already suffered from cuts in most county and other local government bodies, and the fear is not only that the National Planning Policy Framework cannot be implemented, but that the loss of expertise from redundancies, voluntary severances and non-replacement of vacant posts can never be made good.

Members who wish to read the Institute's responses can do so through the web-site of the 'Heritage Alliance', which we joined last year: [www.theheritagealliance.org.uk](http://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk). In the right-hand column, a link to a response from the Alliance leads also to responses from member organisations.

The Institute's Council agreed at its March meeting that we should respond to yet another consultation, this time about reaction to English Heritage's Research Frameworks documents. The National framework was drawn up some time ago, with others for counties and regions produced some four to five years ago, and they are mostly available on-line. They are useful surveys, but whether their recommendations have been taken up remains to be seen. A fourth consultation has now been launched, and it would be useful if members living in England who are interested in the National Heritage Protection Plan could find the time to respond on an individual basis. The RAI's Secretary wrote a long response in support of the Plan only a couple of years ago to a similar request, to which we will draw attention. If anyone should go to one of the workshops, it would be useful to know.

'Even if you have not been involved with or do not have a detailed knowledge of the current plan, please tell us what matters to you and what you see as the opportunities and threats for England's heritage. There are two ways you can take part: by participating in one of thirteen half-day workshops taking place across the country and/or by taking part in a brief online survey which is open until 2 May 2014. For full details, see <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/national-heritage-protection-plan>

## Publishing our journal

In the last two *Newsletters* it has been explained that Council has decided to enter an agreement with a commercial publisher for production of the *Archaeological Journal* and the Summer Meeting Reports, and we hope to sign a contract soon. Ordinary members will be receiving Volume 170 with this *Newsletter*, and Volume 171, together with the 2013 Summer Meeting Report of the visit to Germany, will follow in the Autumn, at no extra charge. These volumes will be produced by Oblong Creative Ltd. Volume 172 will come out in 2015 and will be the first to be produced in partnership with the commercial publisher; we do not intend that there should be any change to its format. With Volume 172, members will also receive the Summer Meeting Report for 2014, based on the visit to the Tweed Valley.

## Archaeological Journal Indexes

The Institute has hitherto produced indexes to the *Archaeological Journal*, recently at ten-year intervals; the last, to Volumes 151–160, was published in 2005. These have not been issued to all members, but only to those who have ordered and paid for copies. We now have to decide whether to continue this practice; because all the volumes will soon be on-line and word-searchable, the usefulness of a printed index is considerably less than it was even a decade ago. A traditional index would be expensive to compile, as software packages only help to a limited extent, and page-setting and other printing costs are high. It is very unlikely that libraries will subscribe to a printed index, as so many are anxious to clear their shelves of physical works, and many RAI members would also now be happy to rely on web access. We need to know whether enough would wish to pay for a printed index to justify its production; the cost to members would have to be high enough to cover at least most of the expense. It would be very helpful if those who would be prepared to pay a guide-price of £35 would contact the President (David.Hinton@soton.ac.uk, or at Archaeology, Avenue Campus, University of Southampton, SO17 1BF), so that the Institute can have some idea of demand.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

### British Archaeological Awards

The Institute sends a representative to the BAA's advisory committee. The 2014 awards will be presented on Monday 14 July at the British Museum. They are looking for the best in a number of spheres of archaeology: the best Project, Community Engagement Project, Book, Public Presentation, or Innovation. This is one of the key events of the Council for British Archaeology's Festival of British Archaeology, a UK-wide celebration with more than 650 events, attended by more than 250,000 people. Details of the criteria for each award, the judging panels and how to attend are available at [www.archaeologicalawards.org.uk](http://www.archaeologicalawards.org.uk)

### Current Archaeology Live

Awards for 2013 were made in February 2014 to: Richard Buckley, **Archaeologist of the year** (sponsored by Andante Travels) for the investigation of Richard III's remains; Julian Bowsher for his **Book of the year** (sponsored by Oxbow Books), *Shakespeare's London Theatreland*, based on the excavations of the Globe, Rose and Curtain theatres; **Rescue dig of the year**, the Links of Noltland, Orkney, excavated by Historic Scotland and EASE Archaeology;

**Research project of the year** (sponsored by Maney Publishing), for 'Return to Star Carr', the Mesolithic settlement excavated by the Vale of Pickering Research Trust.

### RAI Cheney Bursaries

An allocation is available annually from which individuals can apply for a maximum sum of £200 from the bequest of the late Frank S. Cheney, established to enable students to participate in Institute events or other conferences or meetings. Full terms can be seen at [www.royalarchinst.org/grants](http://www.royalarchinst.org/grants). Before applying, please check with the Administrator, [admin@royalarchinst.org.uk](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org.uk) that money remains in the yearly fund.

In 2013, the Institute supported five university students, from Central Lancashire, Durham, Liverpool, Reading, and York, with awards to attend the RAI's conference at Chester, 'The Impact of Rome on the British Countryside' (see report p. 20).

### RAI Dissertation Prizes

The RAI holds two competitions for dissertations on a subject concerned with the archaeology or architectural history of Britain, Ireland and adjacent areas of Europe. In even-numbered years, the competition is for the best dissertation submitted by an undergraduate in full-time education. In

## ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE RESEARCH GRANTS

The Institute awards the following grants annually:

<b>Tony Clark Fund</b>	Up to £500 for archaeological work and dating
<b>Bunnell Lewis Fund</b>	Up to £750 towards archaeology of the Roman period in the UK
<b>RAI Award</b>	Up to £5000 towards archaeological work in the UK

Please download an application form at <http://www.royalarchinst.org/grants> or write to the Administrator.

Closing date for applications: 12 January 2014. Awards announced in April 2015.

odd-numbered years, the competition is for the best dissertation submitted by a Master's student. Nominations are made by University and College Departments. The winner will receive a prize of £500 and the opportunity for a paper based on the dissertation to be published in the *Archaeological Journal*. The chief criteria considered are (a) quality of work and (b) appropriateness to the interests of the RAI as reflected in the journal.

The RAI Master's Dissertation Prize, covering the years 2012 and 2013, has been awarded to Benjamin Brown of the University of Southampton, for 'Out on the Edge – can handaxe edge morphologies be used to show symmetry in hand-axes? A case study from Cuxton, Kent'. Professor Roger Leach presented the prize at the Institute's meeting on 12 March 2014.



Presentation of the Masters' dissertation award (SG-P)

## RAI Research Grants, 2014

Research grants for 2014 have been awarded to the following projects:

Murray Cook and Fraser Hunter *Strathdon Material Culture Review*;

David Petts and Chris Whitmore *Binchester Research Project: Vicus Bath-house* (Bunnell Lewis Fund);

Derek Hurst *New light on Kemerton Camp, Bredon Hill, Worcestershire*;

Peter Halkon and Rodney Mackey *Trial excavation near Melton, East Yorkshire*;

Mike Parker Pearson *Preseli Stones of Stonehenge*;

Elizabeth Foulds *New light on Swallowcliffe Down, Wiltshire* (Tony Clark Memorial Fund).

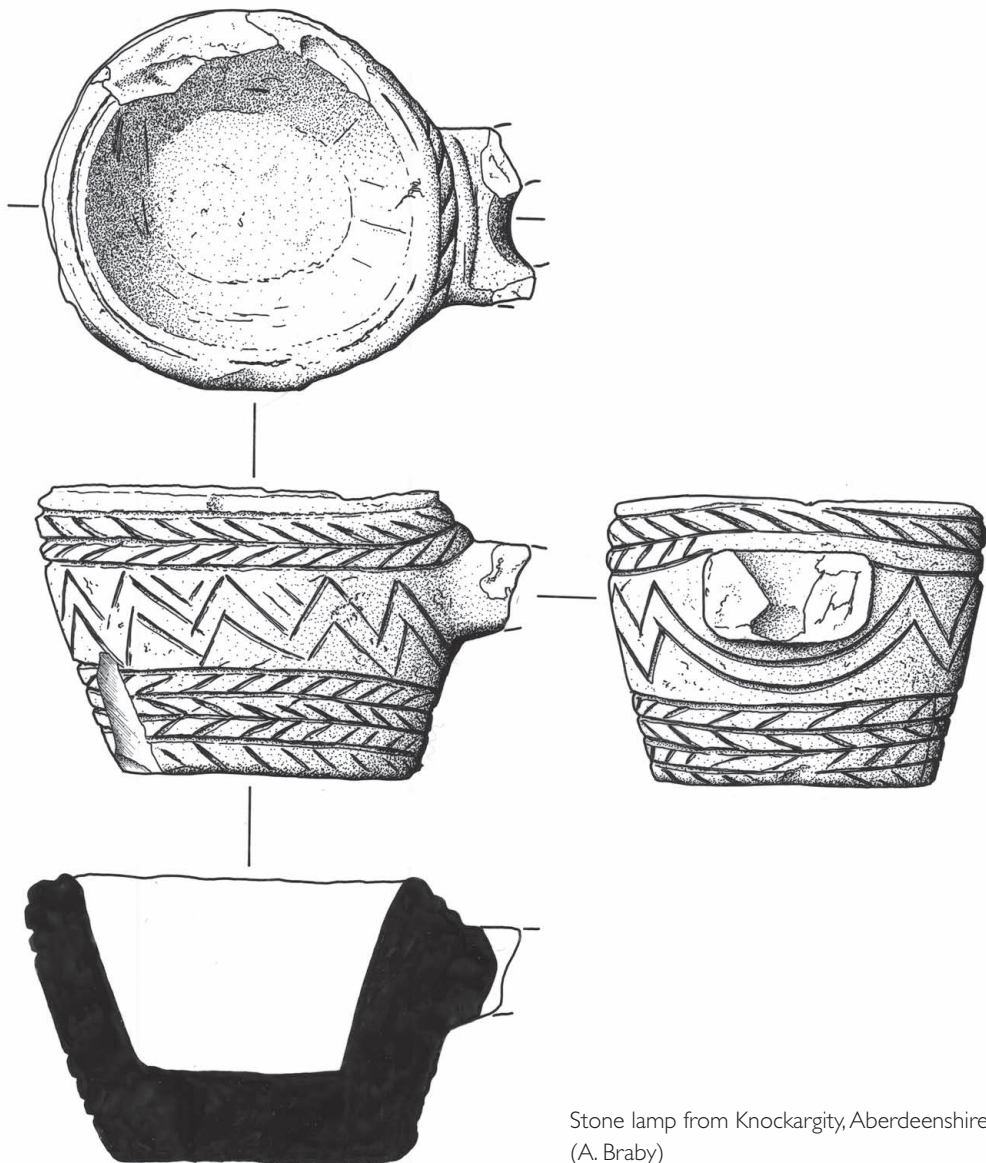
## RAI Research Grant Reports

### A post-Roman sequence at Carlisle Cathedral

Michael McCarthy received a grant for the preparation of illustrations for this article, to be published later in 2014 in Volume 171 of the *Archaeological Journal*.

**Strathdon material culture review: Year 2, Aberdeenshire** Gemma Cruickshanks, Fraser Hunter and Murray Cook

In year one of the project a database of all known later prehistoric artefacts from Aberdeenshire was



Stone lamp from Knockargity, Aberdeenshire  
(A. Braby)

compiled from an extensive literature review. In year two, relevant artefacts in the stores of National Museums Scotland, the University of Aberdeen Museum, and Aberdeenshire Heritage (Mintlaw) were examined in person.

This has significantly improved and expanded our knowledge of the area's material culture in three main ways. Firstly, the identification of the artefacts on our original list (mostly antiquarian finds), has been checked and updated. For example, an item catalogued as a fishing net weight is actually a rare Iron Age miniature rotary quern,

while archival research has provided a find-spot for an unprovenanced late Bronze Age bangle. Secondly, browsing in stores has revealed a significant number of relevant artefacts which had not previously been catalogued or published. Thirdly, key groups of material have been identified which will be major foci of the final report. An excellent example are handled stone lamps.

Such lamps are typical of the area, but have not seen published synthesis since the late 1950s. Fifty-nine such lamps have now been examined and catalogued, with a selection of eleven illustrated for



publication. The group contains a complex variety of shapes, sizes, decoration and stone-types, and will be subjected to detailed analysis in Year 3 of this project. Use-analysis indicates a prevalence of sooting around the rim, opposite the handle. This finds analogies with 'crusie' lamps in the Scottish vernacular tradition, the wick resting on the edge opposite the handle to stop hands being burnt. Decorated objects are rare in Iron Age Scotland, and the intricate decoration on many lamps suggests considerable significance.

These results mark a significant step forward in our understanding of the area's material culture.

### **Excavation and Survey at Rendlesham, Suffolk** Jude Plouviez and Christopher Scull

Targeted excavation in autumn 2013 aimed to characterise and date archaeological features revealed by magnetometer and metal detecting survey on an elite settlement complex which can be identified with the Anglo-Saxon royal establishment at Rendlesham noted by Bede. Two fields, Suffolk HER references RLM 054 and RLM 055, were tested with 5 m by 10 m trenches. Comments on dates are provisional, based on field observation only.

In RLM 055: Trench 1 sampled a rectilinear system and revealed a substantial ditch, probably a medieval enclosure. Trench 2 examined a sub-rectangular feature which proved to be a two-post Grubenhaus, the fill dateable to the late fifth or earlier sixth century on the basis of hand-made pottery and a small-long brooch. Trench 3 was located in an area where concentrations of metal-work and decorated Anglo-Saxon pottery in the ploughsoil suggested burials; also to examine a small sub-rectangular double-ditched enclosure on the magnetometry plot. Excavation revealed damaged cremations at the base of the plough-soil. No dating evidence was recovered from the possibly prehistoric enclosure ditches. Trench 4 examined a cluster of negative features. These proved to include a two-post Grubenhaus and a substantial rubbish pit, possibly dating to the later sixth or seventh century. These results confirm provisional interpretation of field RLM 055 as part of an extensive Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon settlement with an adjacent cemetery.

In field RLM 054: Trench 5 sampled a D-shaped enclosure. The ditch contained large pieces of wheel-thrown pottery dating to the first half of the first century AD. Trench 6 examined a major linear



Rendlesham: ditches in Tr 6, with dark soil midden deposits, foreground (SCCAS)

feature that proved to be a two-phase ditch. This was filled with, and adjacent to, midden dumps containing large amounts of animal bone, probably Middle Anglo-Saxon and overlying a late Roman feature. This supports the evidence of surface finds that field RLM 054 is close to the high-status settlement core of the Anglo-Saxon settlement complex.

Numerous volunteers assisted on the excavation, which would have been impossible without the kind co-operation of Naunton Hall Farms and of the landowners, Sir Michael and Lady Bunbury.

### The archaeology of Bidford-on-Avon project Sue Hirst and Tania Dickinson

Bidford-on-Avon in south-west Warwickshire, where the Roman Ryknild Street crosses the river, has long been an important hub for the communications system in the lower Avon valley. The aim of this project is to publish rescue excavations carried out in Bidford-on-Avon between 1971 and 1994 by W. J. Ford, Sue Hirst and *Archaeology Warwickshire*. These revealed a sequence of activity that can chronicle Bidford's long-term evolution. Excavated prehistoric features include a pit with Bronze Age pottery and flints. An organic bed identified in a riverbank exposure and dated by radiocarbon to the Iron Age provides environmental data (flora and fauna) rarely found on sites of this period at this date. In the Roman period Bidford was a minor nucleated settlement, south of the Roman town of Alcester, at the river crossing. Investigation of a Roman ford with iron-tipped wooden piles suggests a new line for the Roman road, with a ?associated excavated gravel quarry and ?roadside ditches to the north. A second-century Roman mortuary enclosure with cremation burials may have been a roadside feature and adds to the scant evidence for earlier Roman burials in Warwickshire. Settlement evidence for Roman buildings of second- to fourth-century date came from within the modern village.

For the Anglo-Saxon period, professional excavation of thirty-seven burials, added to the c.370 recovered in the 1920s, presents the opportunity to assess by far the largest early Anglo-Saxon cemetery in the Avon valley. Excavated settlement features including a remarkable later Saxon ironwork hoard, and discovery of a Middle Saxon 'productive site' to the east of the village,

provide a means to review Bidford's subsequent development as a Mercian royal estate-centre, possibly linked to the trade in salt and/or wool.

Bidford has been recognized as a key unpublished site for the West Midlands. We have been able to update and complete most of the publication drawings for the multi-period site. In 2014–15, a similar programme will enable us to complete the drawing and updating of specialist reports for the multi-period site, and the drawings for the Anglo-Saxon cemetery features and finds.

### Submerged archaeological landscape investigation, Greencastle, Co. Donegal Kieran Westley

The study area covers two small bays near Greencastle, Co. Donegal which together have produced a collection of 1500 Early Mesolithic flints, apparently washed ashore from a submerged site. Research undertaken in 2011–12 located a small lithic concentration underwater in one bay and a submerged peat layer (dated to c.8700–9300 cal



Diver at Greencastle with flint blade from c.2 m water (WF)





Teffont: uncovering the building outside the shrine enclosure (MH)

BP) in the other. In the summer of 2013, we undertook two weeks of fieldwork and additional post-excavation analysis. The fieldwork aimed systematically to investigate these areas of high potential. In the western bay, a grid of  $0.5 \times 0.5$  m test pits was dug either by hand or by induction dredge. Pits were spaced initially at 5 m and then 2.5 m over the areas of highest potential. The area outside the grid was systematically sampled by hand cores. Ten pits in total were dug, recovering 75 lithics, including relatively fresh examples. The artefacts clearly clustered within an area of less than  $5 \times 5$  m; however, they were found spread throughout a layer of silty gravel which also had modern glass mixed in down to 10–15 cm burial depth. Therefore, notwithstanding the fresh nature of many of the finds, the assemblage is most likely reworked. The peat layer in the eastern bay was also test pitted (3 pit transect, 5 m spacing) to characterise the peat stratigraphy. This indicated that its offshore margin is eroded down, but inshore, a thicker sequence of peat and organic clay is buried under seabed sand. Four additional  $0.5 \times 0.5$  m samples were block-lifted and excavated on dry land. No artefacts were found, although small quantities of charcoal were noted in a sandy layer towards the base of the peat. Identification of wood remains

shows a range of species including *Salix*, *Alnus* and *Prunus*. Pollen analysis of samples from the peat is ongoing and additional samples have been submitted for radiocarbon dating.

### **Teffont Archaeology Project (Bunnell Lewis and Tony Clark Memorial Funds)** David Roberts

The Teffont project, in partnership with local residents and volunteers, has been investigating the Roman landscapes of Teffont Evias and Teffont Magna, Wiltshire since 2008, revealing a number of closely linked sites. In 2013 fieldwork focused on characterising two particular areas. The first, Upper Holt Wood, occupies a sharp greensand ridge in the west of the parish and has long been believed to be the site of a Roman shrine. The second site of interest lies immediately north-east of the wood, and is comprised of a range of features identified through geophysical survey, including several Roman buildings and a possible cemetery.

Excavations in Upper Holt Wood continued our work from 2012, being two evaluation trenches through the shrine enclosure wall, and a small trench across one of the interior buildings. The shrine wall on the enclosure's northern side

partially acts as a retaining wall for the levelled interior enclosure surface, but is also faced in high quality local limestone, providing an impressive white frontage. During this year's excavations, human remains were found associated with the enclosure wall; these individuals are being studied. The interior trench revealed a complex sequence of rebuilding, with wooden structures replaced by stone buildings, and evidence for high-status consumption and ritual behaviour.

2013 also saw the first excavation of part of the most substantial building to the north-east of the

shrine enclosure. This very large building has walls constructed in two courses of large masonry blocks, as well as internal drains and partitions, and may be an elaborate aisled barn. The building is, however, in very close proximity to the cemetery, and there is a complex sequence of activity in this area of the field. It is possible that the building succeeds the cemetery, perhaps denoting a change in activity at the shrine, with which it is surely associated. Further fieldwork on the shrine itself is planned for 2014; contact [david.roberts@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:david.roberts@english-heritage.org.uk) for details.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

---

### 2014

**Spring Meeting** 16–18 May based at Bury St Edmunds, 'Post-Reformation Mausolea in Suffolk', led by Julian Litten (details with this mailing)

**Summer Meeting** 5–13 July based at Eddleston, Peebles, 'The Borders', led by Hedley Swain (details with this mailing)

**Autumn Day Meeting** 11 October at Greenwich led by Anthony Quiney and Hedley Swain. The walks will include houses of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, including Gloucester Circus and an early semi-detached pair; Hawksmoor's

parish church and the Puginian RC Our Lady Star of the Sea; the former Royal Naval Hospital, including parts not usually open to visitors, with a few remains of the former palace and a reservoir belonging to its waterworks; some of the borough's civic buildings and its old town centre; and lunch at The Plumes, right on the Meridian.

**Annual Conference** 17–20 October at the University of Bradford (see below)

### Forthcoming in 2015

Please check our website for news and early details, at <http://www.royalarchinst.org/> conferences

## ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

---

### Science In Archaeology

#### University of Bradford, 17–20 October

This non-residential conference is to be held in partnership with the University of Bradford at the Norcroft Centre. On Friday afternoon, 17 October, there will be a tour of Bradford Cathedral followed by a guided tour of Bradford City Hall where a reception will be held by Bradford's Lord Mayor. That evening, Professor Carl Heron, University of Bradford, will give the Keynote lecture, 'Archaeological Sciences — the last 40 years'.

This conference celebrates the fortieth anniversary of undergraduate teaching at the Department of Archaeological Sciences at the University

of Bradford. It will review the contributions that science has made to archaeological studies since 1974, and some of the directions in which it is now progressing. Keynote speakers will consider how it has changed their area of interest; shorter papers will explain current related research projects taking place at Bradford and what they hope to achieve.

On Monday 20 October, there will be an optional (£20 extra) guided two-mile walk across Ilkley Moor, led by Alex Gibson (University of Bradford). Sites visited will include the 12 Apostles

stone circle, the Backstone Beck enclosures and several rock art panels. The afternoon will be spent in Ilkley exploring the Roman Fort, Riverside and Manor House Museum or if the group wishes, the walk could continue across Ilkley Moor.

The conference fee is £98 to include abstracts, the reception, tea or coffee and, on Saturday and

Sunday, lunch. The full programme and booking form are in this mailing and available at <http://www.royalarchinst.org/conferences>. For further information, please contact [admin@royalarchinst.org](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org) or by post to Administrator, RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BE.

## MEETINGS NOTES

---

### Editing Meetings Reports

Members will find that they are receiving a supplement with this edition of the *Newsletter*; as a record of the very successful conference held in October 2013 at the University of Chester, the Institute decided to produce a publication that summarizes the lectures, with information on further sources. This is a new venture, one which helps to fulfil our constitutional role to encourage research; copies are being made available to the Society for Roman Studies, so that its members can also benefit from the scholarship of the conference participants.

The booklet has been edited by David Breeze, our immediate Past President, who also arranged the conference. He has also compiled two Summer Meeting Reports, for the Liverpool visit (held in 2012), and for the Frankfurt visit (held in 2013), which will come

to members together with the Autumn mailing and Volume 171. The Institute owes him a great debt of gratitude for all this work, as well as for his stewardship during his years as President.

Hedley Swain has kindly agreed to put together the Summer Meeting Report for 2014, for the visit to the Tweed valley. The Institute's Council has agreed that we try to find someone who will take on the compilation of the Summer Meeting Reports from 2015 onwards. The role will involve attending the annual meeting, with the RAI paying expenses and a small honorarium. If any member would like to consider taking on this role (or recommending someone for it), please contact the President ([David.Hinton@soton.ac.uk](mailto:David.Hinton@soton.ac.uk)), or at Archaeology, Avenue Campus, University of Southampton, SO17 1BF).

### 159th SUMMER MEETING at Frankfurt and environs, 6–13 July 2013: Germany — Places of Power WILLIAM HUSBAND

To most of us, mention of a Roman frontier recalls images of Walltown Crags or Housesteads. Otherwise our view of the Empire tends to be directed across Gaul towards Rome itself. School and university courses have traditionally been based on literature, and Germany has been considered only because it is mentioned by Caesar and Tacitus. Above all we remember Augustus repeating plaintively 'Quintilius Varus, give me back my three legions', following the disaster in AD 9. Lewis and Short's Latin Dictionary couples 'German' only with geographical terms and the words for

tribes, language, war, army, expedition, victory, and '*Germanica persona*: a clay figure of a German, used as a bugbear for Roman children'. The idea of the German frontier as a dynamic concept and of the German provinces as places of civilized settlement and stability had not occurred to many.

Professor David Breeze organized and led a tour which went a long way towards rectifying that view. There was a brief hors-d'oeuvres *Vorspeise* in the form of visits to pre-Roman sites, followed by a substantial main course of Roman civilian and military settlements, a naval museum, a theatre





The Celtic Prince (Keltenfürst) of Glauberg (AW)

and a temple. A second theme was 'Centres of Power', principally the Holy Roman Empire and the kingdoms and principalities of Germany as they existed before the proclamation of the German Empire in 1871. Included in the itinerary were several World Heritage Sites. Frankfurt was an excellent centre from which to start our visits, and journeys in all four directions were easy and comfortable.

The tour began at Glauberg, an Iron Age hillfort with various noble graves from the fifth century BC, whose contents are now displayed on site in the romantically named Decentralised Archaeological Museum. Its most spectacular object is a life-size stone statue, whose headdress recalled mistletoe to the erudite and Mickey Mouse to the irreverent. The new building, 'frankishly modern' to one member, presents its exhibits in a dim and sepulchral light, which is strong on atmosphere but unhelpful to avid seekers after information. Two cartoon characters, Melix the beekeeper and Glaubix the chieftain, seemingly created as counterparts to Astérix the Gaul, were used to illustrate and explain some of the reconstructions for visiting children (and maybe not just children). From the outside the museum resembles a giant fan heater. It looks upon sweeping and uncluttered green fields as far as the horizon, prompting a former member of BAOR to observe that this was good tank country which he had spent some years preparing to defend against the armies of the Warsaw Pact.

The only lethal hordes in evidence on that particular Sunday were the contestants in an 'Iron Man' competition, which had evidently reached the bicycle stage and made necessary frequent detours and outflanking manoeuvres. Our driver Hermann (there has to be a Herman somewhere in the story, but Arminius would have been better) displayed a coolness and resource which we came to appreciate as the week wore on. His company was called Turtle Tours and the coach bore a tortoise device, which did Herman little justice.

Dunsberg was next on the itinerary, an immense hill fort occupied from the eighth to the



Reconstructed entrance gate at Dunberg (AW)



Waldegrimes: reconstruction of statue of Octavian (MO'B)

first century B.C. Its present condition presents a contrast with some of the more sanitised and tidy sites. The hill is heavily wooded and it takes considerable imagination to form a picture of its layout, as well as good boots to explore.

The final visit of the day was to Waldegrimes, a Roman town some 60 miles east of the Rhine. Nothing survives above the level of the foundations, but it is clear that this was a substantial civilian settlement with the forum and basilica characteristic of Roman towns elsewhere in the empire. Fragments of gilt bronze statues, including a magnificent horse's head and a figure of the young Octavian, indicate that confidence was high in the years before the disaster of AD 9, when Quinctilius Varus and his three legions were massacred in the Teutoburger Forest. The settlement was later abandoned, not in the immediate aftermath of this defeat, but before AD 16.

The Saalberg on the following day gave us our first sight of the handiwork of Kaiser Wilhelm II, a keen amateur archaeologist who excavated large areas of Corfu, before excavating even larger areas

of Belgium and northern France! This auxiliary fort, built to guard a pass through the Taunus Mountains, was begun in turf under the emperor Domitian (81–96) and completed in stone by Hadrian (117–138). It may be heretical to say so, but the reconstruction is impressive in scale and ambition, if nothing else. The details of the present structure were probably shown to be inaccurate soon after it was built, but most of the buildings typical of a Roman military establishment can be seen in their original places and it is possible to grasp their scale and their relationship to one another. Unfortunately, none of the party knew the German word for *Polygonum cuspidatum*, Japanese knotweed, which was staking a claim to one of the borders.

Passing on the way the only World Heritage public convenience, which should have been dedicated to the memory of Vespasian, the party was able to venture beyond the Roman *limes* into barbarian territory and back again. Notices warned of the dangers of sheep ticks, which apparently cause *limes* disease. The Mithraeum to the south



Reconstruction of the walls of Saalberg (MO'B)



Remains of the *porta decumana* at  
Feldberg (MO'B)



of the fort, charmingly situated in a leafy clearing close to water, but completely bogus, provided welcome shade on a hot day.

The last ports of call were Feldberg, which housed a *numerus*, and Kastell Zugmantel which has one of the many watch towers reconstructed on that part of the *limes*. Both these sites are surrounded by the kind of thick coniferous forest

in which it is all too easy (but perhaps mistakenly) to imagine Varus disappearing in AD 9.

Tuesday was the day for Mainz, which was no doubt a disappointment to those archaeologists who like their attractions to be roofless, but a feast for everyone else. Roman Mogontiacum was a station of great importance to the Roman army, garrisoned by two legions, and a major staging



Oak replica of *navis lusoria* based on 4th-century remains, Mainz Ship Museum (AW)





The Jupiter column, Mainz (MO'B)

post for shipping on the Rhine and to the North Sea.

It was from here in AD 43 that the legion XIV Gemina Martia began its journey to the mustering point for the invasion of Britain. The Roman Ship Museum houses a number of ships reconstructed from the remains of vessels found in 1981 and 1982. Perhaps inevitably there was disagreement over their value. Some thought that the reconstructions were extravagant follies which were out of date as soon as they were made; others believed that the punters were entitled to have some idea of what they were paying for, and were unlikely to be morally corrupted by inaccurate designs. The Museum was one of the eye-openers of the week. Unless one has an unusually vivid and detailed imagination, images from Trajan's column cannot compare with full-scale, intricately executed

replicas. It is also easy to think of the Rhine only as a defensive feature and to ignore its use for transport. This evidence of sophisticated ship-building techniques and a developed riverine and even maritime trade showed how mistaken that view may be.

The theatre, the Drusus monument and the Jupiter column in Mainz are venerable rather than exciting, but the Temple of Isis and Cybele was a different matter. This structure, discovered during the construction of the shopping mall which now surrounds it, dates from the second century and is unusual in its dedication to two divinities. After the excavation in 1999–2001, the surviving fragments were moved to their present site beneath the mall. This seems entirely appropriate for the two mystery religions which the temple served: subdued lighting and a feeling of enclosure recall the temple of Sulis Minerva in Bath. The *defixiones* or curses written on lead strips are similar to those at Bath and contain many of the same sentiments. Unwanted relatives are wished away, 'I give you my stepmother and I give you Gratus', and rivals in love are damned, 'For Prima Aemilia, lover of Narcissus, everything she will try, may it happen badly for her. Her sense should be removed, she should pursue her affairs without sense . . . For the lover of Narcissus it should be that, just as this letter shall never bloom, she shall never bloom.' All of which sounds very much like the curse laid upon the unfortunate Vilbia.

The afternoon was devoted to the most extraordinary visit of the whole trip. Billed as a tour around a German champagne house, it was led by Herr Gillot, its proprietor and historian, who took the party around some catacombs which had served as a refuge for the inhabitants in war and as a wine cellar in times of peace. He was a fund of ghoulish stories, some involving cannibalism, and after showing us how to decapitate a champagne bottle with a sword, he invited the party back to his house. Our anxieties were justified. Herr Gillot played the piano. His music, like Wagner's, was surely better than it sounded.

A tour around St Katherine's church at Oppenheim brought out another characteristic. Our guides kindly agreed to show us buildings of which they had specialist knowledge, and they gave us the full benefit of that knowledge before letting us in. With a very tight schedule it was difficult without



St Katharine's Church Oppenheim (AW)



Capital, Crypt of Speyer Cathedral (Immanuel Giel)

appearing rude for us to make up for lost time by curtailing an introduction.

St Katherine's is a fine town church, begun in the thirteenth century and largely completed by the mid-fifteenth. Unfortunately, Oppenheim is where the US Third Army under General Patton crossed the Rhine in March 1945. American shelling spared the church but left it windowless. Sparks from houses burning nearby drifted in and set fire to the piles of furniture stored there by the townspeople. The church was almost entirely destroyed. This was the first seemingly perfect medieval building we encountered which turned out to have been reconstructed after the Second World War. It would not be the last.

The great cathedral at Speyer, which we visited on the Wednesday, dates from the eleventh century, but was rebuilt on a number of occasions after suffering damage, during the wars which seem to have been the usual condition of the Palatinate, interrupted only by brief periods of peace. The cathedral was the first of the buildings on the itinerary which played a significant part in the history of the Holy Roman Empire. It is probably as well at this stage to mention Voltaire's quip and get it over with: 'This agglomeration which

was called and still calls itself the Holy Roman Empire was neither Holy nor Roman nor an Empire.' It was nevertheless an institution which survived from the time of Charlemagne to that of Bonaparte, a longevity perhaps rivalled only by the Papacy.

The cathedral was the burial place of the Salian and Hohenstaufen Emperors, six of whom have a last resting place in the austere but dignified crypt.

Across the square from the cathedral is the splendid Rhineland-Palatinate museum. This houses a collection which spans every period from the Neolithic to the present. Spread over several floors, it enables visitors to follow their own interests, so that a selection of highlights is bound to be personal. Few, however, will forget the burial crowns from the imperial tombs or the fascinating montage of photographs recording their conservation. Among such riches it would be easy to miss the Speyer fragment of the *Codex Argenteus*, a sixth-century copy of Bishop Ulfilas' fourth-century translation of the Bible into Gothic.

On then to Frankfurt: here our guide was Gabbi Rausch of the Romisch-Germanischen Kommission, who looked after us for the rest of the day and with her colleagues, welcomed us in the even-

ing to a barbecue at the Kommission. She fielded our questions with humour and encyclopaedic knowledge. From the burial places of the Emperors we now moved to the scene of their election, a surprisingly small room at the side of the cathedral choir, not much larger than the vestry of an English parish church. The cathedral itself, dedicated to St Bartholomew, is in the form of a symmetrical cross, which makes the church seem all transept and very little nave. No satisfactory explanation for this design was on offer: the best guess was that it owed its shape to the requirements of court ceremonial. Inevitably, the building was badly damaged by bombing during the Second World War, but in the course of restoration in 1953, parts of a Roman settlement and the Carolingian Palace were found and excavated.

The former Carmelite convent in Munzgasse was also destroyed in the War, but has been restored as an Archaeological Museum. The collections of finds from the Neolithic period to the Middle Ages thus have the benefit of spacious and well lit accommodation which still preserves the atmosphere of its original function. Pride of place went to the Roman exhibits and the equipment of an Iron Age warrior. For those of us who were by now feeling a little monument fatigue, the Museum offered a cool oasis on a hot day. The cloister garden, planted with *Hostas*, *Hydrangeas*, *Aruncus* and an ancient fig, was particularly inviting, but the itinerary included a trip to the top of the Main tower, a modern structure with a 200 m-high viewing platform, for commanding views of the city. One member with no head for heights and sore feet retired to the church of St Arbuck's, a little known saint with a surprisingly large following in many countries.

The barbecue at the Kommission was a delight. The building, at the edge of the Palmengarten, was a welcoming refuge for tired travellers, and 'barbecue' is an inadequate description for the variety and excellence of the meal provided. After dinner we were given a tour of the library. With over 30,000 volumes, 900 corresponding societies and an annual book buying budget of 50,000 Euros, it is a breathtaking collection. The sight of the Somerset Levels Papers on the shelves was an uncomfortable reminder that Somerset County Library's book budget for the previous year was precisely nil.

Thursday was another full day, but it was spent in the relaxing atmosphere of Coblenz. The city owes its name to its situation at the confluence of the Rhine and the Moselle (Drusus' *castrum apud confluentes*). With the towering height of the Ehrenbreitstein fortifications to one side, it has a position which few cities can rival. Budapest has the castle on the height and the river Danube, but no meeting of rivers, while Belgrade has the confluence of the Danube and the Save (but that is probably all that can be said about Belgrade).

Ehrenbreitstein was a revelation to most of us. It claims to be the largest fortified place in Europe, excepting only Gibraltar. Byron mentions the fortress in Canto iii of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* ('Here Ehrenbreitstein, with her shattered wall') but there is a comment in his notes: 'After having seen the fortifications of Gibraltar and Malta, it did not much strike by comparison'. He was, however, describing the ruins of an earlier fortress, dismantled by the retreating French in 1801. Apart from the rather later Palmerston forts, there is very little of comparable sophistication or scale in Great Britain. The English Channel and the overwhelming dominance of the Royal Navy at that date presumably made such expenditure unnecessary. Elsewhere, in the Crimea, in the United States and in France, the science of fortification was clearly very much a modern discipline, and Ehrenbreitstein is a spectacular example of its application.

The fortress could be defended by 1200 soldiers and has all the usual features of a scientifically constructed defence. Inside, there is a comprehensive collection of Prussian uniforms, weaponry and equipment. We were informed that the Prussians owed their victory over the French in 1870 to their breech-loading rifles, which (it was claimed) were superior to the French muzzle-loaders. This came as a surprise to members who had thought that the French army was equipped with the *mitrailleuse* (an early machine gun) and with the breech-loading Chassepot rifle, more modern in every respect than the Prussian von Dreyse needle gun. It was an odd thing to say, because it tended to downplay the extraordinary success of the Prussians.

Two things remain in the memory: the restrained and almost self-effacing memorial to German war dead, and the rooftop vegetable



garden, begun by refugees in 1945 and lovingly maintained. From the battlements there is a magnificent, panoramic view of the city, its two rivers and the 'Deutsches Eck', the corner or spit of land where they meet.

Coblenz is a pleasant town, thoroughly civilized with its churches, cafes and leafy streets. It is easy to see why it was so popular with Victorian and Edwardian travellers. Of the churches, we visited three. The basilica of St Castor dates from the ninth century, with most of the present structure from the twelfth and a vault of the late fifteenth. It was the scene of a number of important meetings, among them the election in 1138 of the first Hohenstaufen Emperor, Conrad III, and the conclusion of a treaty between Edward III of England and Ludwig the Bavarian in 1338. Pope John Paul II visited the church in 1991 and granted it the status of *basilica minor*, in recognition of which it boasts an *ombrellino* or *umbraculum*, the large parasol which stands to the right of the altar in a papal basilica. St Florin's, now a protestant church, was begun in 1100 and possesses some fragmentary mediaeval paintings. The Liebfrauenkirche is the latest building on a site which has been occupied since the reign of Valentinian I (364–75). It was begun in 1186 and enlarged and altered many times. Damaged by French troops in 1688, it escaped destruction from Allied air raids, but now has an interior liberally coated with GWR chocolate paint.

It was often difficult to decide whether a building belonged to the Roman Catholics or to one of the Protestant Churches. Whether this was because rebuilding after war damage was done without all the embellishments characteristic of the various denominations, or just because Germans are naturally more restrained and harmonious in their approach to the ordering of church interiors, it is impossible to say. The return to Frankfurt took us along the right bank of the Rhine, past places familiar from the labels of wine bottles – Boppard, Bingen, Rudesheim and the River Nahe – offering views of vineyards clinging to sheer slopes and of impossibly picturesque castles.

Thursday was also the day of our formal dinner. Hotel Mercure had looked after us well all week and they did not disappoint us this evening. Dr Gill Hey gave a witty and well-crafted speech, in which she regretted the absence of our Patron,

but found ample justification in the impending birth of a first great-grandchild. She thanked Dr Andrew Williams for stepping in as *veterinarius* to the party in the various medical emergencies which arose during the week. Professor Breeze was presented, appropriately, with a replica of one of the imperial crowns from Speyer Cathedral.

Friday, the last (and very hot) day, took us to Wurzburg, the seat of a prince-bishop. A tour of the eighteenth-century Residenz detained us for the morning. Since this is another World Heritage Site, it came as no surprise to find the buildings besieged by visitors and a system of staggered entry in operation.

Johann von Schonborn, bishop from 1719 to 1724, began construction in 1720 and work proceeded through the episcopate of several successors until the completion of the exterior in 1744. The interior was the work of many artists. Most impressive is the staircase with a vast ceiling by Giambattista Tiepolo depicting 'God in heaven ruling the continents'. With a painted surface of 540 square metres, it has a claim to be the largest fresco in existence. Rooms followed embellished with stucco mouldings of astounding complexity and painted *trompe l'oeil* projections. Not to everyone's taste, but undeniably spectacular was the Mirror Cabinet. This is entirely covered with silvered and painted mirrors framed in gilded wood, arranged in intricate patterns. Admirers were reminded of Versailles or the vanished Amber Room of Frederick the Great. Detractors thought only of fairground machinery.

If the impact of warfare, and of the Second World War in particular, had been in the background for much of the tour, quietly acknowledged but not much discussed, it was brought unavoidably to our attention in Wurzburg. On the night of 16–17 March 1945, eleven Mosquitoes and 225 Lancaster bombers of the RAF dropped 1127 tons of bombs (including 300,000 incendiaries) on Wurzburg in the space of twenty minutes, killing 5000 people and destroying 89% of the buildings. This last figure is apparently some sort of record. A recent pamphlet produced by Wurzburg Archives and introduced by the Oberburgermeister, gives a very full and impartial account of Wurzburg before and during the War, with a particular emphasis on the bombing and subsequent reconstruction. Two aircraft were shot

down during the raid and one of the crew was killed by civilians on the ground. The pamphlet uses the word 'murdered', a brutally honest and unexpected word. In 2001 Wurzburg joined the 'Cross of Nails' initiative founded by the city of Coventry, itself destroyed in a German bombing raid in 1940.

Surprisingly, the ceilings of the Residenz, constructed largely in stone, proved to be strong enough to withstand the blast and fire, though little else did. The Mirror Cabinet and the remainder of the Residenz as we now see it are the products of long and painstaking restoration. Only a single piece of mirror survived to provide a model for the remainder.

The final visit of the whole week was to the Pompeianum at Aschaffenburg, an imaginative reconstruction by Ludwig I of Bavaria, of the

House of the Dioscuri at Pompeii, so called because of the frescoes of Castor and Pollux in the entrance. The Pompeianum occupies a commanding position over the River Main and, apart from its rural setting and the upper floor, it probably does reproduce the atmosphere and appearance of an opulent *villa urbana* of the first century AD, at any rate as understood at the period of its reconstruction. Its interior is enhanced with original sculptures from the state collection in Munich and, in a concession to the northern latitude, the atrium is glazed.

The day of departure left time only for a little last minute shopping or for a walk in the neighbourhood of the hotel. Frankfurt had been good to us. The hotel was comfortable and the friendly and helpful staff had done their best to meet all our requests. The hotel had provided us with breakfasts



Roman kitchen equipment at the Pompeianum (M O'B)

to remember all year, sustaining packed lunches and excellent dinners to welcome us after our travels. Frankfurt has a long history of good living: soldiers of the local regiment returned from service abroad with musket barrels and powder flasks filled with coffee and cinnamon in an effort to evade Bonaparte's Berlin Decrees. Other habits apparently persist. There was an ingeniously constructed *glacis* and a well concealed *fausse braie* in the dining room, whose design would have done credit to the engineers at Ehrenbreitstein and over which more than one of us came to grief, but you cannot have everything.

Thanks in abundance are due to David Breeze for planning and leading a trip of such varied and unsuspected richness. It was a personal choice but

there was surely enough here to appeal to all interests. This was a journey which it will be pleasant to recall in the months and years ahead.

As ever, we owe a debt of gratitude to Caroline Raison, who was responsible for the administration and logistics of a Meeting which, it must be remembered involved forty-three individual members. Some of us are morning people and some are not. Some appreciate full descriptions from guides and some prefer to find out for themselves. Some are fleet of foot and never get lost, while others are ... otherwise. Caroline copes with all of us and with the inevitable accidents and emergencies, not always minor, which occur during a week abroad, and she never, ever, well, hardly ever, uses a big, big D.

## ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE CONFERENCE, 11–13 October 2013

The Impact of Rome on the British Countryside PHILIP SMITHER  
(CHEYNEY BURSARY)

This conference was held in the historic city of Chester at the university's Riverside Campus. While surrounded by the busyness of city life and battling to get through the traffic, delegates to the conference had our attention shifted to the often-overlooked Roman countryside. Coming from the University of Reading where the Rural Settlement of Roman Britain is ongoing, I found it was the perfect time for such a shift, so my anticipation was high for my first archaeology conference.

As a whole, the conference was lively, especially Dominic Powlesland's energetic presentation on 'Survey and excavations in the Vale of Pickering, East Yorkshire', and provided food for thought on how we define the Roman countryside. The studies from Yorkshire showed a rich vein of Roman archaeology far outside the towns, whereas developer-funded archaeology revealed activity on the periphery of traditional Roman town boundaries. Did the countryside begin and end at the edge of towns or do we have to look further afield to find the countryside?

Given that in Britain, archaeological study of the countryside is overlooked, it was great to hear from Nico Roymans on the approaches in continental Europe and his work in Batavia over the past thirty years. This period of work was mirrored in the first presentation, on the Wroxter Environs Project, which demonstrated that we could only develop our understanding of the Romano-British countryside through longstanding investigations. Other projects showed that little investment or work in the countryside has limited the number of sites from which to draw a wider synthesis.

What was of note from the regions covered in the papers is another geographical divide in Roman archaeology. While for many years the south has been dominated by the investigation on Romano-British towns, the conference highlighted that more work on the countryside has taken place north of the midlands or to the south west. While there still needs to be more study of northern towns, the same can be said for the countryside in the south.





L–R: Professor D. Hinton (RAI President), Councillor Jill Houlbrook (Lord Mayor of Chester), Professor N. Roymans, Canon Professor T. Wheeler (Vice-Chancellor, University of Chester)

Overall the conference provided a deeper look into what went on outside Roman towns. The weekend was packed, at a great venue and in a town rich in archaeology.

An illustrated publication containing expanded versions of the speakers' abstracts is included in this mailing.

## AUTUMN DAY MEETING

In the Shadow of the Shard: Archaeology, Architecture and History of North Southwark, 25 October 2013 LARA O'BRIEN

This second river Thames walk was lead by Hedley Swain and focused on the South Bank of the river. The walk formed a figure of eight, beginning at London Bridge, turning westwards through Southwark and Bankside as far as the Globe theatre; back to the George Inn at London Bridge for lunch, through the grounds of Guy's hospital eastwards into Bermondsey and ending at City Hall on the riverside. The archaeological periods included Roman and Medieval, early post

Medieval, and the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. There is hardly any evidence of pre-history or indeed Saxon occupation, although the assumption is that the area's name in Saxon was South Work.

We met at the entrance to London Bridge station on Tooley Street in typical walking weather, lowering grey skies with bursts of sunshine and showers. You could not move for tourists and 20-somethings in gothic garb and bad stage make up

handing out leaflets for the 'London Bridge Experience', a fitting reminder of the area's less than salubrious past. We began our tour on the station platform two layers above the original land level in the shadow of the Shard. The platform was part of a nineteenth-century brick creation that destroyed the area historically. The railway viaduct was at one time the largest brick structure in the world and brought the railway from Greenwich to Charing Cross, London Bridge being originally a hub for three different railways. A vast hotel was built on the site in the nineteenth century; its ludicrous size led to its failure and conversion to offices which were damaged in World War II. The station itself was rebuilt in the 1960s to kindly reviews by Pevsner. The latest addition to the site, 'The Shard', so nicknamed after the design was dismissed by English Heritage as a 'shard of glass', was begun in 2009 and finally opened in February 2013. With 79 floors it is currently the tallest building in the European Union. As so often the upper floors were shrouded in mist.

We left the plate glass and open spaces of the twenty-first century to descend one level to Borough High Street, an area in the approach to London Bridge raised to bring it level with the City. It is only further west at Southwark Cathedral that you reach the natural level of the area. Southwark is 0.1 m above sea level and this is the key to understanding the area archaeologically. The natural topography here meant that most of it flooded. When the Romans invaded and crossed the Thames at Westminster they wanted to establish a trading post and identified the north bank as being the most suitable site. A pragmatic engineering solution resulted in jumping the islands and linking Watling Street to the bridge; Borough High Street being built over this old Roman Road. The Thames was twice as wide at high tide as it is today and three to four times as wide at low tide. It is now almost impossible to envisage the Roman topography here. The exact relationship between Londinium and Southwark is uncertain: was it a suburb or part of the city? The Roman Governor's palace was just across the river at Cannon Street. London Bridge Station and Southwark Cathedral cover the core of the Roman settlement. The most important excavations were carried out at the time of the Jubilee Line extension in the early 90s. Glimpses of mosaic were seen in trenches and

under the Cathedral, a Roman well, with a hunter-god figure and a Romano-Celtic figure with a Phrygian Cap, raised the question of whether there was once a Roman religious complex on the site.

We crossed the High Street and walked down the steps to Southwark Cathedral. Started as a convent in the sixth century, it became an Augustinian Priory in the early thirteenth century. At the dissolution it became the parish church and by the nineteenth century was more or less in ruins. Almost everything externally visible today is Victorian, but at its heart it is medieval. From here St Thomas' Hospital was founded in the early twelfth century. The area was one of religious foundations and big town houses in the late medieval period. We skirted the Cathedral to St Mary Ovary dock and a first feeling of docklands and the area's important trading past. Just beyond the dock on Winchester Square stands all that remains of the Bishop of Winchester's palace, the



The west wall of the Great Hall of the Bishop of Winchester's palace (MO'B)

West wall of the Great Hall. Late Roman remains were found here, an impressive complex of buildings, mosaic floors and wall plaster. An inscription of a list of soldiers provides a clue to its purpose, a military club possibly, certainly evidence that there were important Roman buildings on this side of the river and that we should think of Roman Southwark as more than just a suburb.

The ruins of the fourteenth-century wall and window above are almost lost amongst warehouses today and it is hard to imagine the area when the Bishops of Winchester had a Liberty. The Bishop of Winchester's 'geese' was a euphemism for the prostitutes who worked in the brothels he owned. The streets were once teeming with pubs, brothels, bear baiting dens, theatres and prisons. Everything the great and the good did not want in the city could conveniently be placed out of the way on the south bank and easily reached by boat. Standing in this regenerated area of smart restaurants, coffee shops and apartments, where even the Clink prison has become a sanitised tourist attraction, it is easy to forget that Southwark has been extremely poor for much of its history.

We walked on past the seventeenth-century Anchor pub to Bankside. We had now left the Roman settlement for the medieval period when the bank was built up to reclaim land for development. Where Tate Modern now stands were once the Palace pleasure gardens, a wooded area famous as a meeting place for spies. Just before the Palace Gardens were Pike Ponds, the fisheries for the City where a Tudor wheelbarrow has been unearthed. This small area is famous for its four Tudor theatres: the Rose, built at the end of the sixteenth century, the Swan on the other side of Palace Gardens, the Globe, and the Hope. Alongside the modern Globe Theatre stands Bankside Power Station, now Tate Modern. It was designed by Giles Gilbert Scott in the 1930s and in use for only a short period. The Millennium bridge, heaving with tourists, is another reminder of how this area has been transformed since the 1980s, when it was deserted and full of derelict warehouses.

We turned away from the river down the side of Tate Modern and into Park Street to the Rose Theatre, or rather a door in a wall that marks the site of the Rose Theatre, just before the road passes under Southwark Bridge Road. The theatre's remains are preserved in sand beneath a modern

building. We passed the original site of the Globe, marked by a plaque; the majority of the theatre is now under Georgian buildings. We had now entered Victorian Southwark and were also just back into the Roman settlement. We walked through the huge modern complex that was the Courage brewery on Park Street. A wooden floor of a Roman warehouse was found three metres beneath the current pavement level. Just before crossing Southwark Street we passed Cromwell Buildings, a thin sliver of four storeys with elegant wrought iron balconies painted red. Sandwiched between its Georgian neighbours, it survives as one of the first attempts in the area at social housing. The intermittent drizzle became more persistent as we crossed Southwark Street to Redcross Way and to a stark reminder of the area's past. Just as the city sited its less than respectable trades in Southwark, the Cross Bones graveyard held the bodies of the disposable population of some of those trades. Founded in medieval times as an unconsecrated burial ground for the 'Winchester geese' and other prostitutes, by the eighteenth century it had become a pauper's burial ground until it closed in 1853. After the reinvention and sanitisation of old Southwark that prevails along the riverside, it is a sad reminder of the harsh living conditions and short life expectancy of most of the population. When the site was excavated in the 1980s, 148 bodies were exhumed, and 60% of them were children. The site has now become a shrine, its railings bedecked with ribbons, flowers and a small plaque commemorating the 'outcast dead'.

Back to Southwark Street, the nineteenth century and the grand eggshell blue and white facade of the Hop Exchange (1866) of the industry most associated with Southwark. Now an impressive three-storey landmark it once boasted another two storeys which were destroyed by fire in 1920. We were back on Borough High Street and Hedley battled with the traffic noise to point out a narrow red brick building across the road between a Subway and a Lloyds bank. It would be easy to miss on a grey day, but the gold lettering survives, spelling out 'WH & H Le May, Hop Factors'. The industry thrived up until the late 1950s and at times the air once reeked of hops. We crossed the High Street to the George Inn for lunch. Coaching Inns would once have lined this road before their function died with the coming of the railways.



Rebuilt after a fire in 1676, The George is the last remaining galleried pub in London and is mentioned in Dickens' *Little Dorrit*. The sun, making its first appearance of the day, streamed through the small paned windows as we enjoyed an excellent lunch. Suitably warmed, dried out and refreshed we left the comfort of the inn, back to Borough High Street and a not so light drizzle.

Led now by Michael O'Brien, we turned into St Thomas Street and medical history, at the site of the old St Thomas' hospital, until dereliction and the railway forced its move in 1862 to its present Lambeth location. A blue plaque on No. 3 marks where John Keats lodged during his time (1815–1817) at nearby Guy's Hospital. We paused briefly under our umbrellas to look at Southwark Cathedral Chapter House which houses the old operating theatre of St Thomas' and herb garrett museum in its roof. We entered the forecourt of Guys Hospital, founded by Thomas Guy and opened two weeks after his death on 6 January, 1725. We admired the statue of Thomas Guy in his livery gown by Scheemakers (1734) and visited the chapel

in the West Wing to see the monument to Thomas Guy by John Bacon (1779). We walked through the colonnade. In the West quadrangle stands a statue to Lord Nuffield and in the East quadrangle a Portland stone alcove from the London Bridge bought by the hospital in 1861. Within the alcove is a seated bronze statue of John Keats unveiled in 2005 by Poet Laureate Andrew Motion. Michael also pointed out the plaque on one of the pillars commemorating the philosopher Wittgenstein who worked as a pharmacy porter at Guys during the Second World War.

We walked through the hospital and on to Weston Street. This was the final part of the walk, through Bermondsey and the area's industrial past. The other major industry here was leather tanning. The area was perfect for this because it provided fresh, running water, easy access for livestock and was down wind of the city, and a small tanning industry continued here as late as the 1960s. The last tannery, which specialised in exotic skins such as ostrich and snake, closed in 1986. We passed the impressive nineteenth-century London Leather



Memorial to Thomas Guy by John Bacon (1779) in the hospital chapel (MO'B)



Leather-working, on the facade of the former London Leather Exchange (MO'B)

Exchange. The facade is decorated with elegant roundels filled with relief sculpture showing scenes of leather working. Like so many former industrial sites, the building has been converted to offices, studios and flats.

We crossed Bermondsey Street and on to Tower Bridge Road, looking south to Abbey Street, the site of Bermondsey Abbey, a Cluniac House, which was destroyed at the reformation. This marks the boundary of the tanning quarter. We turned North along Tower Bridge Road, a very poor area until recently. This was once known as the 'larder of London', housing much of the food industry, including the Sarsons Vinegar Factory (also now converted) which had its own artesian well.

We turned left onto Druid Street. In the early twentieth century this area saw the first efforts to clear the slums and build social housing. We walked through the churchyard of St Johns Horsleydown. This eighteenth-century church, designed by Hawksmoor was one of only two churches in London with an obelisk as a spire, the other being St Luke's in the City. St John's was badly bombed in the second world war; the foundations were used for the current building, built by the London City Mission, and is sympathetic to the original proportions.

We crossed Tooley Street and through the Potters Field, named after the seventeenth- and

eighteenth-century Delftware industry and pottery kilns. Two major houses from the post-medieval period stood on this site, the Rosary and Falstaff House. We emerged onto the riverside with City Hall behind us. Across the river one can see Customs House and Old Billingsgate Market, reminders of the importance of the docks to nineteenth-century London. To the east stands the White Tower, which no longer dominates the skyline as it once did.

We ended the walk a few hundred yards from our start, still outside the original Roman town, at a final symbol of the area's regeneration. The Hays Galleria was the first attempt in the 1980s to redesign warehouses as living and recreational spaces. The warehouses were built in the 1850s, designed by Cubbitt, and beneath the building lies the original dock where tea clippers once berthed. The walk had been about change and reinvention and it will be interesting to see how this space like so many others in Southwark changes in the coming years.

On our behalf, the President, David Hinton thanked Hedley Swain and Caroline Raison for organising a most interesting walk.

A film crew from the University of Portsmouth attended to record the meeting. A short documentary, to be available via the Institute's web site, may result.

## MISCELLANY

---

### Castle Studies Trust Awards First Four Grants

The Castle Studies Trust is a UK based charity, founded in July 2012 with the aim of increasing the understanding of castles both in the UK and abroad. The Trust, which makes grants of up to £5,000 to fund new pieces of research, has recently awarded its first grants for four projects, which share between them a total of £15,000. The projects are:

3D modelling to reconstruct Holt Castle, Denbighshire (Rick Turner and Chris Jones Jenkins);

an architectural and topographical survey of the standing remains of Ballintober Castle, County Roscommon (Niall Brady);

a topological survey of the gardens and landscape of Wressle Castle, east Yorkshire (Ed Dennison); and a geophysical survey of Tibbers Castle, Dumfriesshire (Piers Dixon).

Trust Chairman Jeremy Cunnington says that 'work on these projects will be carried out in the next few months, with the results being known by early 2015. The Trust will be overseeing this work and preparing for the next round of grant giving, applications for which open in September 2014. At the same time we are raising funds for the next round of grants. The Castle Studies Trust is entirely funded by donations and thus any support you can give would be greatly appreciated and help



Ballintober Castle, Northwest tower

the Trust continue to advance our understanding of castles. The high calibre of the projects that the Trust supports (and the number of good projects that we had to turn down) shows there is much work still to do in the area of castle studies, and this is even more difficult with the continued financial restraints on traditional funding bodies.'

For further information, or to make a donation, please contact Jeremy Cunningham, Flat 3, Ferme Park Road, London N4 4ED or [admin@castlestudiestrust.org](mailto:admin@castlestudiestrust.org) or visit their website [www.castlestudiestrust.org](http://www.castlestudiestrust.org)

### Contact information for Members

The vile weather in February nearly forced us to cancel the monthly meeting, which reminded us that it would have been very difficult to let members know were this to happen in future. We could at least contact those whose email addresses we hold; if you have email, but have not told our

Administrator your address, please let her know it ([admin@royalarchinst.org](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org)).

### Online access to RAI journals and lectures

Volumes of the *Archaeological Journal* from 161 onwards are available online for ordinary members to download freely through our website. For associate members and others, these same volumes are available on a pay-per-view basis through the CBA's ArchLib website, <http://archlib.britarch.net>. Each article is available as a PDF, as well as shorter contributions and reviews. Volumes 1 to 120 (for 1844–1963) of the journal are freely available to all to search, download and read on the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) website at <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk>. Volumes 121–160 will be digitized and, we hope within the next year, made available through our new publishing partner.

The video recording of the Institute's lectures to link them to our website is continuing, at a much-improved quality since the Society of Antiquaries' technological services upgraded their equipment. Ordinary members may view them all, using the same process as for reading our journal online, by logging in to the members' area of our website [www.royalarchinst.org](http://www.royalarchinst.org). From the website, under Events, then Lectures, the RAI Debates (recorded in February 2013 and January 2014) are available now for everyone to watch. Some of the Society of Antiquaries' own lectures are also available to all and can be viewed at [www.sal.org.uk](http://www.sal.org.uk), under News and Events.

If you would like online access to lectures or to the journals, please contact the administrator with your e-mail address. You will be sent a username and password, which you can use to login to our website using the boxes at the top of its first page. Once logged in, you will be able to change your password to something more memorable, and to access the journals.

### Subscriptions

The current rates are: Ordinary member, £40 and Associate or Student, £20, with discounts when paid by direct debit; Life member, £750 or £525 if aged over 60. Payment for subscriptions may now be made by direct debit or cheque only. For a membership form or direct debit instructions, please see <http://www.royalarchinst.org/membership> or contact the Administrator.



### Gift Aid

Members who pay the standard rate of tax and have filled in the gift aid form have gained for the Institute a substantial sum. Despite previous notices of encouragement, it is still the case that less than a third of members have yet arranged for the Institute to receive gift aid. Under this scheme, if you are a taxpayer, the government will refund to the Institute, 25p in the pound of the value of your subscription. If you would like to help, please ask the Administrator for a form.

### The RAI office

The Institute's Administrator will usually be at the Society of Antiquaries on the second Wednesday of each month from October to May, between 11 am and 3 pm. The direct telephone number is 07847 600756, the email is [admin@royalarchinst.org](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org) and the postal address is RAI, c/o Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE.

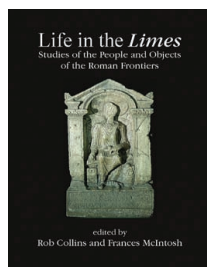
## Caption Competition 2014



Please suggest a caption for this photograph. It was taken by Michael O'Brien when we visited the Iron Age site and museum at Glauberg during the Institute's 2013 Summer Meeting to Frankfurt and environs (for the meeting report, see pages 12–19). Taken by the entrance to the museum, the picture shows our esteemed secretary, Gill Hey, or Glaubix the chieftain, and our tour leader and former Presi-

dent (2009/10–11/12) David Breeze, aka Melix the beekeeper, who gamely agreed to impersonate the two cartoon characters used inside the museum to illustrate and explain some of their reconstructions within. Send your suggestions to the Newsletter Editor at the address on the last page, as soon as possible please, so that the winning entry might be published in the next *Newsletter*.

## Book Special Offer



*Life in the Limes: Studies of the people and objects of the Roman frontiers* edited by Rob Collins and Frances McIntosh, Oxbow Books, 2014. Hardback, 264 pp.

ISBN: 9781782972532

Regular Price: £45.00,

**Special Price** for early orders: £34.00 until 16 May. Just published – see the Table of Contents and place orders at <http://www.oxbowbooks.com/oxbow/catalogsearch/result/?q=Life+in+the+Limes>

Our former President (2003/4–5/6), Lindsay Allason-Jones, was awarded the OBE at New Year 2014 for services to archaeology. Lindsay has been at the forefront of small finds and Roman frontier research for forty years, in a career focused on, but not exclusive to, the north of Britain, encompassing an enormous range of object types and subject areas. Her colleagues have joined together to publish this volume of collected essays in her honour, and our Institute was able to make a small grant to support the publication. Divided into thematic sections the contributions presented to celebrate her many achievements all represent at least one aspect of Lindsay's research interests. These encompass social and industrial aspects of northern frontier forts; new insights into inscribed and sculptural stones specific to military communities; religious, cultural and economic connotations of



Lindsay Allason-Jones, OBE

Roman armour finds; the economic and ideological penetration of romanitas in the frontiers as reflected by individual objects and classes of finds; evidence of trans-frontier interactions and invisible people; the role of John Clayton in the exploration and preservation of Hadrian's Wall and its material culture; the detailed consideration of individual objects of significant interest; and a discussion of the widespread occurrence of mice in Roman art.

---

## ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

**EDITOR** Katherine Barclay, Williamsgate, Governor's Green, Pembroke Road, Portsmouth, Hants. PO1 2NS. Email: [newsletter@royalarchinst.org](mailto:newsletter@royalarchinst.org)

**NEXT ISSUE** Copy for the next issue must reach the editor by the end of June 2014 for publication in August 2014.

**THIS ISSUE'S COVER PICTURE:** West front of the Basilica of St Castor, Coblenz (MO'B)

---

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT** [www.royalarchinst.org](http://www.royalarchinst.org)

---