

ARCHAEOLOGY

The Newsletter of the Berkshire Archaeological Society

Autumn 2009

Vol.11, No.3

A.G.M. - Reminder

The Annual General Meeting will take place before the meeting on Saturday 19th September. Please come along at 14:00 for refreshments; proceedings will start at 14:30.

Nominations for Council, duly seconded, must be received by the Secretary, Trevor Coombs, 12, Milldown Road, Goring RG8 0BA, at least 14 days before the AGM.

Nomination papers are included with this newsletter.

The A.G.M. will be followed by a talk on Roman Silchester by Anne Griffin.

Berkshire Historic Environment Forum 2009 Saturday 10th October 2009 St. Nicholas Church Hall, Newbury

The objectives of the Berkshire Historic Environment Forum are:

- (i) To share knowledge and concerns about Berkshire's Historic Environment
- (ii) To encourage cooperation between individuals and organisations
- (iii) To promote care for Berkshire's Historic Environment amongst the general public
- (iv) To support local societies in pursuance of similar objectives

As part of its activities the Forum runs an annual meeting – which this year will take place on Saturday 10th October in St. Nicholas Church Hall, Newbury starting at 10:00 and ending about 16:00.

The agenda for the meeting is:

Part 1: Having a vision and strategy to develop your historic environment: which includes presentations by Councillor Ian McCracken on the Bracknell Forest Heritage Strategy and on the Thatcham Vision project

Part 2: Presenting your historic environment to the public: which includes presentations on various heritage centres and museum shops being run by voluntary organisations

Part 3: Developing an electronic archive to support your historic environment: which includes presentations on the Purley Electronic Archive and other work being undertaken by local societies to capture information about their historic environment and make it available on the Internet

If you represent a local society with an interest in the historic environment then please consider coming to this meeting. It's free but you do need to register.

To register or for more information please contact Andrew Hutt by email: andrew_hutt@talktalk.net or by phone 0118 973 2882

Andrew Hutt

Spring Tour 2010

Next year's Spring Tour will be to The Northern Borders from Friday 7th to Monday 10th May inclusive. The tour will be based at the Gretna Green Hall Hotel, Gretna Green.

As usual Barrie Randall has selected a mixture of sites from all archaeological periods. Full details are on the information sheet enclosed. There are a limited number of single rooms available which will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

The Editor with thanks to Barrie Randall

With this newsletter

You should also have received the following documents: BAS Council Nomination Paper; BAS programme 2009-10; Spring Tour 2010 details; and information on "Digging Up the Past", a book written by Janet Firth of BARG. Please contact Julie Worsfold (0118 926 2270) or Andrew Hutt (0118 973 2882) if any of these documents are missing.

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Spring Tour 2009

We left Reading Station on Friday 15th May, a grey morning and headed across country to Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings where some members took a guided tour. Our next destination was Wroxeter Roman City, where we narrowly missed a downpour. Then, due to a road accident, we made a considerable detour to get to our hotel in Llandudno.

The next morning as we were exploring the medieval Beaumaris castle in Anglesey, Paul tripped and fell inside a turret, sustaining 2 broken ribs and a punctured lung. Ilke and Annette accompanied him to Bangor Hospital whilst the rest of the group continued to Penmon Priory, the site of an early Celtic monastery on the coast. We then went on to Plas Newydd where some members were left to enjoy the elegant house, redesigned in the 18th century by James Wyatt, and the gardens in the sunshine between the showers. Other members of the group visited the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age Din Lligwy hut group and burial chamber, and the Bryn Celli Ddu passage grave with entrance aligned to the mid-summer solstice sunrise. We all met up at Plas Newydd before returning to the hotel via Bangor hospital where we picked up Annette and Ilke.

Grey skies greeted us on Sunday morning for a revised programme to permit us to take Ilke and Edna to and from

Bangor Hospital to see Paul. We started with a visit to Caernarfon castle, which we found beset by a power cut. Some of the group nonetheless proceeded to tour the castle whilst others had a tour of the town in the rain led by Andrew Hutt. Our next visit was to the National Slate Museum, where we also took a ride on the Llanberis Lake Railway. Back in Llandudno some members of the group had a guided tour of the Bronze Age copper mines on the Great Orme, and had the opportunity to ride on the Great Orme Tramway, Britain's only remaining cable operated street tramway. Other members of the group visited the town and the museum.

The fourth and final day commenced with a visit to Ruthin Gaol. Our concluding visit was to Worcester Cathedral where the Cathedral Archaeologist showed us the excavations which had taken place earlier this year and gave us an interesting talk about the archaeological aspects of his work, with some refreshing tea and biscuits.

Our thanks once again to Barrie Randall and all those who helped to make this another successful and enjoyable Spring Tour.

The Editor

John Kenneth Major

Ken Major, a member of the Society, died, aged 80, on 25th July after a short illness. His funeral took place on 6th August 2009 at Reading Crematorium. Ken was noted for his work with architecture and threatened listed buildings (which used to be a major concern and work of the Society), particularly in the field of molinology. In 1963 he conducted a survey of wind and water mills in Berkshire. Other counties followed. Later he was a founder member of The International Molinological Society.

Further information on Ken's life and work is available at:

<http://www.sal.org.uk/obituaries/johnkennethmajor> and at <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/obituaries/article6787679.ece>

and at

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken_Major

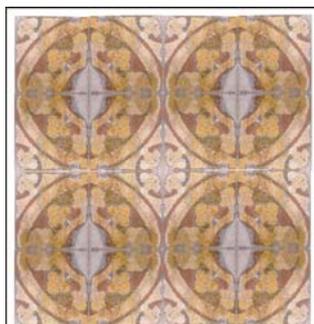
The Editor with thanks to Janet Firth and Andrew Hutt

Archaeological walks

Grimsbury Castle and Bucklebury Common, north of Thatcham

On the evening of Thursday 4th June 2009 which was warm and sunny, more than 10 members of the Society and the Berkshire Field Research Group met at the Grimsbury Folly in the middle of Grimsbury Castle hillfort. They walked across the hillfort interior to the ramparts which were dug in the Early/Middle Iron Age. They then walked into the surrounding woodlands and saw several areas of pollarded and coppiced trees showing that in the last 100 years these were areas of managed woodland. The group returned to the hillfort via Westrop Cottage which was formerly a pub with an adjacent pond. All in all a pleasant evening with lots to see and talk about.

Hurley Priory



Hurley Priory Church
One quarter tile, of many related tiles,
extrapolated into a 16-tile pattern

On Wednesday, 17th June 2009, members of the Society and the Berkshire Field Research Group met outside the tithe barn in Hurley for a visit to the remains of the priory and a walk round the village. They started by visiting Hurley church, which was created out of the knave of the original priory church. The walls and some of the windows are Norman; artefacts in the interior include the remains of a medieval cross and some tiles. The north wall of the church forms the south wall of a garden which was formerly the site of the priory cloister. On the east and north sites of this garden there are now picturesque houses. Archaeological investigations have shown that they were originally the priory chapter house, dormitory, refectory and kitchens (Rivers-Moore 1934 and 1938, Berkshire Archaeological Journal volumes 38 and 43). The return walk took them past the priory dovecote to the River Thames, past Hurley lock and back into the village to the Rising Sun for a drink.

Andrew Hutt

Photo with thanks to Sylvia Chumbley

From Monks to Tanks

Saturday 27th June, a dry warm day, saw a small group of BAS and BARG members meeting in the small Waverley Abbey car park. The Abbey is situated on a bend in the River Wey a couple of miles south of Farnham and accessed along a track through fields next to Waverley House and its attractive lake. The first challenge was to get Barrie's wheelchair through the wheelchair friendly gates - but no problem here. The Abbey is the first Cistercian foundation built in England and its standing remains are still quite extensive. The site of the Abbey church can be clearly seen - it was over 300' long, an immense size. We ate our picnics in the shelter of the monks' dormitory and then spent time wandering around the site, looking not only at 12th century stonework, but also at 20th century concrete in the form of 'dragon's teeth' tank defences along the river bank.

On our way back to the car park we turned our attention to the 20th century and the remains of tank ditches in the field and a well preserved gun emplacement in the car park itself. This commanded a wide view over the water meadows and we could see why it had been placed there. We then moved on a short way up the road before turning into the Moor Park Estate and a

path along the hillside above the river. Here was a greater challenge to get Barrie through a gate for which he had a key - which would not turn!

Having hoisted the chair over we proceeded about a mile through woods passing more gun emplacements and pill boxes sited to defend the river valley where it narrows to pass through a gap in the hills.

All these defences formed part of the GHQ Stop Line which was intended to stop, or at least delay, the advance of the expected German invasion. The line skirted the south on London, passing through Surrey and into Berkshire where numerous defence posts can be seen along the Kennet, for example.

Our walk ended with some of us climbing further up the hill to return through the woods. More information about Waverley Abbey (with pictures), the Moor Park Estate and WWII defences can be found on the web.

Anne Harrison

The Next BAS Annual Day School

The next Day School will be held on Saturday, 6th March 2009 at St Nicholas' Hall, Newbury. The programme is at an early stage of development but we shall have speakers talking on: Iron Age and Roman Silchester; Iron Age and Roman Beedon; Roman Dorchester-on-Thames; Medieval Wallingford; Lambourn; and a Review of Archaeology in West Berkshire. There will be a full programme prepared by the end of October. Details will appear in the next newsletter, and we shall publish the leaflet in January 2010.

Trevor Coombs

Bond Memorial Lecture

This year's Maurice and Shelagh Bond Memorial Lecture will be given by Professor Eamon Duffy (Cambridge University) on "The cult of Henry VI".

The lecture will take place on Wednesday 7th October 2008 at 7.00pm in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

Admission is free although guests are required to apply for a named ticket, and to bring a photo I.D. with them to the event. Applications for tickets to:

The Chapter Office, The Cloisters, Windsor Castle, Berkshire SL4 1NJ

With s.a.e. by Wednesday 30th September.

Romans in Berkshire

Work on this project has reached the point where draft reports have been produced on Roman villas, Roman roads, and the Cogidubnus client kingdom. The team is currently working on reports on Roman technologies (e.g. iron working, potteries and glass making), Living in Roman Berkshire, and the Roman provinces in Southern Britain after AD 285. The project meets at RISC on 1st Wednesday of the month at 19:30. The next meeting dates are: 2nd September 2009, 7th October 2009, 4th November 2009, and 9th December 2009. If you would like to join this group contact Andrew Hutt or Trevor Coombs.

Maidenhead Heritage Centre Exhibition

BURIED TREASURE - The Archaeology of the Maidenhead area (8th Sept to 31st Oct 09)

This exhibition covers local life from the Stone Age to medieval times, through archaeological finds made in the Maidenhead area, including finds from Cox Green Roman Villa.

"Villages Around Maidenhead"

BAS member, Luke Over, is about to have a book entitled, "Villages Around Maidenhead" published.

In this book Luke uses evidence from the Domesday Book, ancient documents, archaeological sources, place names and fieldwork to examine these villages firstly as manors and then as extended settlements. He also uses important or unusual events to illustrate the later history of some of these places.

Luke will be signing copies of his new book at Maidenhead Heritage Centre on Saturday 3rd October.

Berkshire Archaeology Research Group

The Autumn Quarterly Open Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 28th October 2009 in the de Vitre Room at The Cornerstone, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham RG40 1UE, from 19.30 to 21.30. The main speaker will be Jane Golding who is Outreach Officer, National Monuments Record, English Heritage, who will talk about the 'Beating the Bounds' programme, examining the landscape development of several adjoining parishes within the Vale of the White Horse. Visitors are warmly welcomed; the charge for non-BARG members is £2. Please advise Janet Firth in advance, 0118 978 7434 or firth@doctors.org.uk

Future QOM's will be held on Thursday 14th January 2010 and 31st March 2010, details to be finalised.

ADULT EDUCATION – PART-TIME COURSES AUTUMN TERM, 2009

OXFORD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Daytime Courses

Change and Diversity in Iron Age Britain
Conservation Management Plans and their Practical Use
Stones, Bones and People – Introduction to Archaeology
The English Village Through History

Evening Courses

Britons in the Roman World
Landscape Archaeology in Practice

Day and Weekend Schools

Animal Bones in Archaeology
Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments
Making the Most of Community Archaeology: Options and Case-Studies
Maps for Archaeologists
Researching Architectural Drawings and Historic Visual Sources
The European Landscape Convention and the Historic Environment
Tools for Appraising and Managing Conservation Areas
War in 20th Century Europe: Archaeological Insights into the Remains of Conflict

Online

Exploring Roman Britain
Origins of Human Behaviour
Pompeii and the Cities of the Roman World
Ritual and Religion in Prehistory
Vikings: Raiders, Traders and Settlers

OU DCE – Outside Oxford

Latin: Term 6 (Evenings, Maidenhead)
What Happened in Bronze Age Britain? (Evenings, Woodley)

Details from: OUDCE, 1, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA.
Tel: 01865 270360; Fax: 01865 270309 email: enquiries@conted.ox.ac.uk
Web site: www.conted.ox.ac.uk

WEA

Day School

An Introduction to Roman Samian Pottery
Details from: Carole Kingston, WEA Reading, 27 Derby Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 5HE
Tel: 0118 946 4137 or Email: WEAreading@googlemail.com
Online Information: Visit the Southern WEA web site at: <http://southern.wea.org.uk>
and select the local WEA Branch

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Patron: H.M. THE QUEEN
President: Professor
Michael Fulford FBA FSA

The Society was founded in 1871 and for over 100 years has encouraged and supported archaeological activities in Berkshire.

Everybody with an interest in archaeology is welcome to attend our meetings and join the Society. It does not matter whether your interest in archaeology is new found or long standing, the Society offers activities from regular lectures and outings to to post-excavation research. All members receive a regular newsletter, full of news about events in Berkshire. The Berkshire Archaeological Journal is also free to members.

Officers of the Society:

Chairman: Andrew Hutt
0118 973 2882
andrew_hutt@talktalk.net

Secretary: Trevor Coombs
01491 873 166
t.coombs1@btopenworld.com

Treasurer: Catherine Petts
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catherine@petts.co.uk

Programme Organiser:
Andrew Hutt

Day School Organiser:
Trevor Coombs

Excursion Organiser:
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banda.burghfield@hotmail.co.uk

Newsletter Editor:
Julie Worsfold
0118 926 2270
jlw@imagesmad.co.uk

Librarian: Andrew Hutt

For more information about the Society and membership details contact the Chairman: Andrew Hutt on 0118 973 2882.

www.berksarch.co.uk

email info@berksarch.co.uk



BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Patron: H.M. THE QUEEN
President: Professor Michael Fulford FBA FSA

NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

We wish to nominate:

Name

Address

.....

.....

Post Code Telephone Number

Email address

For election to the Council of the Society as
(please tick the appropriate line)

Chairman.....

Secretary.....

Treasurer.....

Council Member.....

Signed: Nominator 1.....

Nominator 2.....

Statement by Nominee

I accept nomination to the Council of the Society and agree to attend Council meetings regularly.

Signed.....

Please return this form to the Secretary. It must reach him at least a fortnight before the AGM. Trevor Coombs, 12, Milldown Road, Goring RG8 0BA

Tel: 01491 873 166

Email: t.coombs1@btopenworld.com

Spring Tour 2010

*A Tour
of the Northern Borders
centred on Gretna Green,
Dumfriesshire*

Friday 7th to Monday 10th May

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE
Gladstone Pottery, Hadrian's Wall,
Caerlaverock Castle and Cannock Chase

*Further details from Barrie Randall
tel: 0118 983 2607*

Roman Berkshire Project

This research project meets on
the 1st Wednesday every month
September 2009 to June 2010.
Phone Andrew Hutt for details.

If you are interested in joining the
Society, you are very welcome to attend
one of our meetings before applying for
membership.

Current fees: £10 single
£15 joint
£15 corporate

OFFICERS

President
Professor M.G.Fulford

Chairman
Andrew Hutt

Secretary
Trevor Coombs

Treasurer
Catherine Petts

Programme Organiser
Andrew Hutt

Tour Organiser
Barrie Randall

Day School Organiser
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Journal Editor
Catherine Petts

Newsletter Editor
Julie Worsfold

Librarian
Andrew Hutt

web-site: www.berksarch.co.uk

*Berkshire
Archæological Society*



PROGRAMME

2009 – 2010

PATRON: H M THE QUEEN



BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Patron: H.M. THE QUEEN

President: Professor Michael Fulford FBA FSA

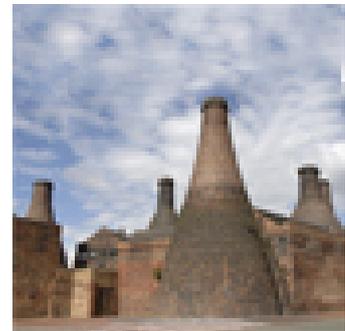
SPRING TOUR 2010

The Northern Borders: 7th to 10th May 2010

Hadrian's Wall, Brovacum Roman fort and Letocetum a Roman staging post on Watling Street, an abbey, only two castles, three industrial archaeology sites, a WW1 munitions camp and good company!



The Annual Spring Tour departs by Tappins coach from Reading Rail Station at 9.00am on Friday 7th May 2010 heading north towards the Scottish Borders. Our first visit is to the Gladstone Pottery Museum, where we can see a complete Victorian factory with workshops and a tea room on site and the 'Flushed with Pride' toilet exhibit.



fascinating bottle kiln, there is



We then travel all the way north to the outskirts of Penrith to visit Brougham castle and Roman fort, before travelling to our destination – the Gretna Hall Hotel at Gretna Green. We've arranged a visit to the blacksmith's shop but no runaway weddings please!



Day two will be spent visiting sites on Hadrian's Wall with Vindolanda, Corbridge, Birdoswald Roman fort and Banks East turret and then Larnercost Priory before returning to Gretna for a guided tour of the blacksmith's shop and museum with whisky tasting before dinner.

(tear off slip-please complete deleting where appropriate and return as shown below)

Please reserve place/s for the 2010 Spring Tour at a cost of £231 per person.

I / We require a Double / Twin / Single room Single rooms available on a first come basis for a £18 supplement

I / We enclose a non-refundable deposit of £35 per person, cheques made payable to 'Berkshire Archaeological Society'. The balance is required by 14th February 2010.

Name / s:.....

Full address:.....

Postcode:..... Telephone:.....

I / We are members of: English Heritage [] National Trust [] *please tick if appropriate*

I / We understand that I / We are responsible for arranging our own travel insurance to cover unforeseen events such as cancellation, illness, personal injury, loss of personal effects etc.

Signed:

This form together with deposit should be returned to:
Barrie Randall, 43 Birch Road, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berks. RG7 3LU.

Berks Arch Soc Spring Tour 2010

Day three sees us travelling west towards Dumfries to visit Sweetheart Abbey and a restored corn mill at New Abbey. The spectacular Caerlaverock Castle is next on the itinerary, where although the access across the site for the less mobile has been improved, the trek to the old castle is difficult but there is a good audio visual display and café!.

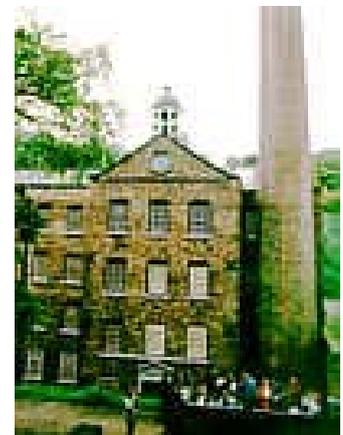


Returning past Brows Well where Robert Burns was advised by his doctor to bathe daily in the waters of the Solway we visit the 'Devil's Porridge' exhibition and museum recording the WW1 munitions factory stretching 9 miles from Longtown to Annan, the towns of Gretna and Eastriggs were created to house the 30,000 workers, and secret at the time but made famous by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's description of the explosive paste mixed by hand to produce cordite.

Day four sees us heading home with the first visit of the day to Quarry Bank Mill established in 1784 alongside the fast flowing River Bollin where we take a guided tour of the mill, its hospital and the Apprentice's House. As usual with a National Trust property there is a good café on site.



After a lunch break we head south to Cannock Chase where our first stop is at the German Military War Cemetery with 5,000 graves in a very peaceful and beautiful glen.



Next we drive across the Chase to the Visitor Centre on the site of RAF Hednesford with information and displays about the history of the Chase and we take a look at the preserved RAF hut. Our final visit is hopefully to the Wall Roman site [Letocetum] where we have requested a special opening of the site and small museum. We then head off homeward, stopping only for a convenience break at the M40 services. Finally arriving home about 19.00.



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Please provide full details of any special needs that need to be taken account of such as medical conditions, restricted mobility, hotel provision or special diet requirements.

*(This information will be held in total confidence by the tour organiser and only essential elements passed on as necessary to achieve the necessary action)*

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Although special requests are not guaranteed, the hotel undertake to do their best to try and meet such requests. Tappins Coaches also need to be aware in advance of any mobility aids (size and weight) or medical equipment to be carried on the coach.

Note: The itinerary is suitable for those with limited mobility but may be subject to change due to traffic conditions, late changes to opening times and other unforeseen circumstances.

## Digging up the past

a history of the  
Berkshire Archaeology Research  
Group

formerly the Berkshire Field Research  
Group,

to celebrate 50 years of voluntary  
archaeology



This book was written by Janet Firth, Chairman of the Berkshire Archaeology Research Group and former Field Research Co-ordinator, with a contribution by Steve Clark, Newsletter Editor and joint leader of the Peasemore Landscape Archaeology Project.

Now independent, BARG began life as the Berkshire Archaeological Society's Field Research Group in 1958. Its members were involved with some of the most important excavations in the old Royal County. Despite boundary changes, reorganisations and the rise of professional units, the Group is still flourishing and continues to carry out active archaeological research.

*Published July 2009 A4 pbk, 90 gsm paper, 121 p text,  
2 maps, 43 colour & 29 bl/wh photos, list of 105 projects  
with which members have been involved.*

Order from Janet Firth, The Bailiff's Cottage, Barkham  
Road, Barkham, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 4TG.

Price £8 p & p £3.95 for one copy £5.95 for two.

Crossed cheques only please.

PLEASE PRINT

Name

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Email address

I enclose a cheque for    copy(ies)

made payable to Mrs. J. M. Firth