

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2016 – 2017

ANNE HARRISON

Registered Charity No.:	1117197
Registered office:	19 Challenor Close, Wokingham, Berks, RG40 4UJ
Trustees	
Chairman	Mrs Ann Griffin
Secretary	Mrs Anne Harrison
Treasurer	Dr Andrew Hutt
Tour Organiser	Mr Ron Knowles
Other Charity trustees	Mr. John Chapman, Mr. Trevor Coombs, Ms Gail Eaton, Mr Tim Lloyd, Mrs Alison McQuitty, Mrs. Catherine Petts, Mr. Barrie Randall, Mrs Griselda Truscott-Wicks
Bankers	Lloyds TSB Bank Skipton Building Society Barclays Bank
Independent examiner	Mr. John Butler

MANAGING THE SOCIETY

The Society became a registered charity in December 2006. The Society is governed by Berkshire Archaeological Society Constitution issued 15th February 2015 and Berkshire Archaeological Society Rules issued on 6th June 2005. The Society's objects are to advance the education of the public in the field of archaeology and history in the past and present county of Berkshire.

The Society meets these objects through a range of activities which include: a programme of lectures, a research programme, archaeological fieldwork, a day school on the archaeology of Berkshire, running a tour and visits to sites of archaeological and historical interest, publishing the Berkshire Archaeological Journal, managing an archaeological library and promoting its activities via a newsletter, a web site, on Twitter and through posters placed in public buildings.

The Society is governed by the Trustees.

By March 2017, the Society had 138 individual members living at 120 addresses and 13 corporate members. The Society continues to use the store room hired at Shurgard in Wokingham in April 2015 to consolidate and store its fieldwork equipment and the Berkshire Archaeology Research Library.

ACTIVITIES

The activities in this period were:

Four issues of the quarterly newsletter. The Society thanks Andrew Hutt and Gail Eaton for editing these newsletters.

A programme of monthly lectures running from September 2016 to April 2017 (see Figure 1). The Society thanks Trevor Coombs for organising this programme.

Date	Speaker	Subject
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17 September 2016	Henry Russell	Timber buildings: how earlier buildings may be concealed behind later remodelling
15 October 2016	Dr Diane Davies	The Ancient Maya: Fact and fantasy
19 November 2016	Ken Walsh	A Causeway Enclosure and later discoveries at Thame, Oxfordshire
10 December 2016	BAS members	Janet Ridout Sharpe and Anne Harrison: The Neolithic. John Sargent: Crusader Castles in Israel
21 January 2017	Dr Justine Bayley	How did they make those beautiful things: Archaeological evidence for metal working in roman Britain
18 February 2017	John Leighfield CBE	Putting Berkshire on the map: from Gough to Google
18 March 2017	David Williams	The Portable Antiquities Scheme and the Watlington Viking Hoard
8 April 2017	Robert Hartle	Beyond the City Walls: Recent excavations at the site of the Crossrail Broadgate Ticket Hall

Figure 1: The 2016-17 Lecture programme

A Spring Tour: Cornwall: 6th to 9th May 2016. 31 people participated in this tour centred on Newquay, Cornwall. The sites visited on the tour were:

Friday 6th May 2016: Glastonbury Abbey and Killerton House and Gardens

Saturday 7th May 2016: Pendennis Castle, Lost Gardens of Heligan and Haywood Cider Farm

Sunday 8th May 2016: Boleigh Fogou, Merry Maidens, Tregiffian Burial Chamber, Porthcurno Telegraph Museum, Chysauster Ancient Village, Geevor Tin Mine

Monday 9th May 2016: Merrivale settlement, Muchelney Abbey

Sincere thanks are due to Ron and Lavinia Knowles and the many people who guided members round these sites.

Archaeological walks and visits: these complement the lecture programme. The visits organised in 2016 were:

Tuesday 14th June 2016: **Visit to West Stow Anglo-Saxon village**, organised by Andrew Hutt.

Wednesday 8th July 2015: **A visit to the excavations in Insula III, Silchester**, organised by Trevor Coombs.

The Society thanks all those who organised and led these walks and visits.

Working Groups: In an attempt to involve more people in the organisation of and participation in the Society's affairs the Society has established a number of working groups. These include groups responsible for: Geophysics and Surveying, Excavations, Finds processing, Building recording, producing the Berkshire Archaeological Journal, and Communications. Thanks are due to Andrew Hutt, Ann Griffin, Anne Harrison and Catherine Petts for leading these efforts.

Berkshire Historic Environment Day School (formerly the Berkshire Historic Environment Forum): was held on Saturday 22nd October 2016 at The Barn, Goosecroft Lane, Purley on Thames. The theme of the meeting was: 'The Archaeology and History of Reading, Thatcham and Bracknell'.

The meeting was attended by some 27 people; see Figure 2 for the programme. The Society thanks John Chapman and Andrew Hutt for organising this event

10:00	Registration and refreshments
10:15:	Welcome and introduction: John Chapman
10:30:	The Viking occupations of Reading: Katie mehuex (UCL)
11:00:	Reading Abbey: John Painter (Reading Abbey Qusrter Project)
11:30:	Refreshments
12:00:	Roman Thatcham: Steve Ford (TVAS)
12:30:	The History of Thatcham: John Chapman (BAS)
13:00:	Lunch
14:00:	Iron Age and Roman Bracknell: Andrew Hutt (BAS)
14:30:	Ramslade - The Lost Hamlet of Bracknell: Andrew Radgick (Bracknell Forest Society)
15:00:	Refreshments
15:30:	Discussion on more historical /archaeological ventures in Berkshire
16:00:	Closing remarks: John Chapman

Figure 2: Programme of the Berkshire Historic Environment Forum October 2016

The Archaeology in Berkshire Day School was held on 4th March 2017 at The Cornerstone, Norrey's Avenue, Wokingham. See Figure 3 for the programme for the day. The Society thanks Trevor Coombs for organising this event.

The Society's web site: The website has continued to provide the Society with an online presence. The Society thanks Tim Lloyd for maintaining it .

The Twitter account: The society thanks Julie Worsfold for tweeting on behalf of the Society starting in January 2016.

The Society's libraries: these include the Berkshire Archaeological Society library at the Berkshire Record Office and the Berkshire Archaeology Research Library. The latter occupies 39 plastic crates which are held in the Society's store. The Society thanks Andrew Hutt for managing these libraries.

The Berkshire Archaeological Journal: Volume 82, a multi-article volume containing 11 articles, was published and distributed to members at the end of 2016. Work has been progressing with the production of volume 83, a single theme volume. The Society thanks Catherine Petts and Andrew Hutt for editing the journal

The Society's online journals are available on websites at the Archaeology Data Service and the Council of British Archaeology Archlib service.

This overview of the events organised by the Society shows that it is meeting its obligations as a registered charity.

10.00	Welcome: Ann Griffin, Chairman, Berkshire Archaeological Society
10.05	Recent work in West Berkshire: Sarah Orr, West Berkshire Historic Environment Officer
10.20	Recent discoveries in East Berkshire: Roland Smith, East Berkshire Archaeological Officer
10.40	COFFEE
11.00	The lady in a log boat: Jessica Barnsley, University of Reading PhD student
11.20	New ventures in the Society: Dr. Andrew Hutt, Berkshire Archaeological Society
11.40	Silchester: Insula III and the Environs Project, Professor M. Fulford, University of Reading
12.00	LUNCH
13.15	Iron Age and Roman discoveries at Hatch Farm, Mathews Green Farm and Amen Corner, Berkshire: Dr Steve Ford (TVAS)
13.45	Excavation of Maidenhead Congregational Church, 18 th century burial ground: Dr Helen Vernon, (MOLA)
14.15	TEA
14.45	The Round Mounds project in South Oxfordshire and East Berkshire: Dr Jim Leary, University of Reading
15.15	Managing archaeological assets in mineral extraction areas: The East Berkshire Terrestrial Minerals Resource Assessment: Janette Platt: (MOLA)
15.45	Questions and Conclusions: Ann Griffin, Chairman, Berkshire Archaeological Society

Figure 3: Programme of the Berkshire Archaeological Society Day School, March 2017

FIELDWORK

During this period the Society undertook five fieldwork projects. These were:

Old Pump House, Bath Road Reading: was the site of a World War II American army camp which was later used to house Italian prisoners of war. In 2016, all that remained of the camp was a disused sewage treatment plant. On 23rd and 24th April 2016, the Society carried out a gradiometer survey of an area surrounding this plant and identified rows of pits, spreads of debris and large isolated pits arising from its operation and decommissioning.

La Hyde 2016: La Hyde was a medieval estate with a manor house, a mill and an adjacent hamlet on the western edge of the parish of Purley on Thames. In the late 18th century the owners remodelled the landscape destroying the old manor house and much of the hamlet. This geophysics survey of the site, undertaken in June 2016, extended the gradiometer survey undertaken in 2015 but found little of interest.

Island of Odney, Cookham: is the possible site of the Saxon burgh of Scaftessige which has been worked on by Colin Berks and the Marlow Archaeological Society. In October 2016, Andrew Hutt used the Society's new resistivity meter (see below) to survey an area where Marlow Archaeological Society was working.

Blounts Court 2016: the fourth fieldwork session in the gardens of Blounts Court took place from 16th to 30th September 2016 and involved 12 members of the society. During this period, two trenches were excavated, one to investigate a mortared flint wall revealed in 2015 and the other to investigate an anomaly in the 2013 and 2015 resistivity surveys. The first trench gave us more detail about the mortared flint wall and a set of mortar samples

which were radio-carbon dated to show that the wall was built in the Late iron Age/Early Roman period and demolished in the Late early Medieval period. The other trench contained discarded building materials.

West Field Farm, Cholsey 2016: West Field Farm House has a Georgian facade but is probably much older. This was a survey, in December 2016, was of a 10m x10m grid in the garden to the south east of the house in an area where the owner, Mr David Gibbons, had excavated a number of trenches and found wall foundations made from Victorian bricks. The survey found seven anomalies which may represent further foundations or pits of rubble.

EQUIPMENT

In July 2016, the Society took delivery of a TAR-3 resistivity meter developed by R. M. Frobisher. Trials at Streatley Meadows showed that this was really only a prototype but as nobody else in Britain was producing a cheap resistivity meter Andrew Hutt, with the backing of the Society's Council, decided to work with its developer, Terence Andrews, to improve it. In December 2016, the two redesigned the user interface and a modified version was delivered to the Society in April 2017. As a result, the Society has a working resistivity meter.

THE STUDY GROUP

Throughout this year, the study group has been working on Anglo-Saxon Berkshire. In addition to studying the archaeology, Martin Labram and Andrew Hutt have developed an information system to hold details of archaeological sites across the Berkshire Region. This system complies with the Midas Data Standards laid down by Historic England and to date holds data recording Anglo-Saxon sites and findspots taken from the local Historic Environment Records and the University College London, Beyond Tribal Hidage project.

THIS REPORT

This report was approved by the Trustees on 16th September 2017 and signed on their behalf by Mrs. Ann Griffin (Chairman)

Signed:..... Chairman

Date:.....