



# ARCHAEOLOGY

The Newsletter of the Berkshire Archaeological Society

Spring 2010

Vol.12, No.1

IN  
BERKSHIRE

## DAY SCHOOL REMINDER!

Our annual day school will take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March starting at 10.00 a.m. This time the venue is St Nicolas Church Hall, Newbury RG14 5HG. Admission is £10 per person (no concessions) and you pay at the door!

## Other Forthcoming Events:

### Ashmolean Museum Visit - Sunday 18 April 2010

Members of the Society are invited to join the BARG visit to Britain's first museum which was founded in 1638 and reopened recently by the Queen following a £61 million development. The new display approach 'Crossing Cultures Crossing Time' reveals how cultures have developed as part of an 'integrated world culture'. Interesting!

We will meet in the entrance hall at 11am to collect the Floor Plans and wander freely through out the five floors. If you wish to buy a snack lunch an early visit to the Cafe in the Crypt is advised.

All are welcome. Please email Ann Griffin, [griffinshiresteps@hotmail.com](mailto:griffinshiresteps@hotmail.com), to enable approximate numbers to be communicated to the Ashmolean.

Ann Griffin

### Archaeological Walk - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010: Ruscombe

Meet at 19:00 at the entrance to Ruscombe church (Grid Ref: SU 7980 7625), to visit the church which Charles I visited on his way to his execution, and the site of an ancient paleo-lake on the shores of which flint scatters found by Steve Ford's East Berkshire Survey show evidence of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age activity.

To join this walk please contact Andrew Hutt by email [andrew\\_hutt@talktalk.net](mailto:andrew_hutt@talktalk.net) or by phoning: 0118 973 2882.

Andrew Hutt

## Helping the Society

Until recently the Society has been run by a team of seven people who: organise meetings, tours, day schools and walks; edit the newsletter and the journal; and manage two libraries on behalf of the Society's members.

In the last newsletter, Sylvia Chumbley invited volunteers to take over as editor of the Society's website. Further to that Julie Worsfold has decided that the autumn newsletter will be the last that she edits.

Given this situation, I would be pleased if members of the Society could volunteer to help run the services provided by the Society. The services with which we require help, and the skills you need, are:

- **Editor of the Society's website:** to do this you should enjoy writing and be able to use a web site editor and word processor preferably Microsoft Word
- **Editor of the Society's newsletter:** to do this you should enjoy writing and be able to use Microsoft Word
- **Manage the Berkshire Archaeology Research Library:** to do this you need to meet, on a one to one basis, other Society members who hold library boxes by visiting their homes and use Microsoft Excel to maintain the library catalogue
- **Manage the Berkshire Record Office Library:** to do this you need to make occasional visits to the Berkshire Record Office and use Microsoft Excel to maintain the library catalogue

If any of this looks difficult, don't worry, you will be joining a team who are all friends and help each other with advice and support.

If you would like to help please contact me by email [andrew\\_hutt@talktalk.net](mailto:andrew_hutt@talktalk.net) or by phoning: 0118 973 2882 or write details of how you would like to help the Society on the back of your membership renewal form.

Andrew Hutt

## Spring Tour

This year's Spring Tour is now fully booked, but for those of you who book your diaries early Barrie already has arrangements underway for the 2011 Spring Tour based on Durham from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> to Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

## Meetings

### **Roman Surrey, by David Bird – an account of the November 2009 meeting**

David Bird was for many years the County Archaeologist for Surrey and his presentation gave us insights into the many Roman sites and artefacts found in the county. He started his talk with a review of Roman roads and river side town of Pontes (Staines) followed by a discussion of various settlements, such as Hengrove farm, Staines, and villas found across the county. He then touched upon the Farnham pottery industry and tile manufacturing sites; these were the main Surrey manufacturing industries in Roman times. He ended his talk with an overview of ritual objects and temple sites. All in all this was a most interesting talk, of particular relevance to those involved in the Society's Roman Berkshire project.

**Andrew Hutt**

### **Earliest Gold in Wessex by Andrew Fitzpatrick - an account of the December 2009 meeting**

Andrew Fitzpatrick's talk hinged on a pair of gold earrings found in a burial on Boscombe Down, near Amesbury. The man in the grave was aged between 35 and 45 and lived over 4000 years ago. Tests on the enamel on his teeth showed that he must have lived in the Alpine region as a child. Most probably in what is now Switzerland or Austria, the region which also provided the gold for his earrings.

He was obviously important as his grave contained more objects than in any other burial site from this time. As well as the earrings which are the earliest gold objects found in Britain, the grave included copper knives from France and Spain, a cushion stone for metal working, two sandstone wrist guards, flint arrowheads and Beaker pots.

The distinctive Beaker pottery and other artefacts found in the grave were first found in Europe. For many years it was thought that this new pottery had been brought to Britain by invaders, although more recently it has been linked to trade and cultural contacts.

But this man was more than a trader, he came with knowledge of metalworking which would have given him great status in the eyes of local people. He would have been one of the first people in Britain to have been able to work gold, hence the richness of his grave.

A second grave was found at the site containing the skeleton of a younger man, aged 20 to 25. As the skeleton was being cleaned in the laboratory a pair of gold hair tresses, similar in style to those found in the first grave, were discovered inside the man's jaw. Bone analysis showed he and the older man were related and it is likely they were father and son. Analysis of the younger man's teeth shows that he grew up in southern England but may have spent his late teens in the Midlands or north-east Scotland. The fact that a close relative of the man in the first burial grew up in Britain and was buried nearby suggests the older man was in Britain for a long time. His son inherited his trade and special skills and was buried close to him in possession of the same style of rare gold earrings which he had owned.

**Catherine Petts**

### **Investigating Land-use and Settlement on the Berkshire Downs in Late Prehistoric and Roman-British periods by Paula Levick – an account of the January 2010 meeting**

In this talk, Paula Levick presented the results of research she is conducting for her Doctorate at Oxford University, into the Iron Age and Romano-British remains on the Berkshire Downs south of Wantage in an area which includes Segsbury Camp, an Iron Age hillfort, and a number of banjo enclosures and field systems. The research involved the use of a number of techniques including: a documentation survey, the use of Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) images and a geographic information system, woodland surveying, geophysics and metal detecting. This work has produced a large number of images showing features and the distribution of different types of artefact on the Downs. This evidence is allowing Paula to reassess how Iron Age farmers managed their animals and the use of the landscape in Roman times.

**Andrew Hutt**

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## **New FLO for East Berkshire**

David Williams, presently part-time Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for Surrey has been appointed part-time FLO for East Berkshire based with Berkshire Archaeology, part of Reading Borough Council's Museums, Archives and Libraries Service, in Reading Central Library. As the two counties lie adjacent David will be covering both areas. David is well known to metal detectorists from his study of Late Saxon stirrup-strap mounts. Initially it is intended to provide regular Thursday afternoon attendance at Reading Museum and Berkshire Archaeology's Open House sessions, where finds can also be left for him. Later on it is hoped that surgeries can be arranged at venues across the five authorities covered – Reading, Bracknell Forest, Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead and Wokingham

David is very much hoping that metal detector users and other finders who live or operate in East Berkshire will take this opportunity to contact him so that their finds can be recorded for the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

David can be contacted at [info@berkshirearchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@berkshirearchaeology.org.uk), Tel: 0118 901 5976 or directly on 07968 832740.

## **The Society's Research Programme**

The Society is running an ever growing research programme. The work on the Iron Age, which the Society inherited from the Berkshire Archaeological Trust, has produced the book *Living in the Iron Age in and around Berkshire* (Berkshire Archaeological Journal 78), a course being run by the WEA, and an exhibition which will be launched at the Day School in March. Museums and Councils across Berkshire are being approached to display this exhibition over the coming years.

The work on Roman Berkshire is progressing with the intention of producing a companion volume to the Iron Age book. If you would like to join this project, it meets in Reading on the first Wednesday of most months.

The Society has also authorised the start of a project into Early Saxon Berkshire (AD 350 to 600). This project team is just getting started.

If you would like to help organise the Iron Age exhibition or work on Roman or Early Saxon Berkshire please contact Andrew Hutt by email [andrew.hutt@talktalk.net](mailto:andrew.hutt@talktalk.net) or by phoning: 0118 973 2882.

**Andrew Hutt**

## Berkshire Archaeological Journals

Catherine Petts with help from Andrew Hutt and Anne Harrison is working on three issues of the Berkshire Archaeological Journal.

- Volume 78, a monograph entitled *Living in the Iron Age in and around Berkshire* is currently being printed and should be ready for distribution in March 2010
- Volume 79, a monograph entitled *Prehistoric settlement at Southlea farm, Datchet* is being proof read and should be ready for distribution in May 2010
- Volume 80, a journal with many papers is due out by the end of the year

Copies of these journals are free to members.

In order to keep postage costs to a minimum, copies of volume 78 should be available for members to collect at the March meeting; copies of volume 79 will be available at the September meeting. Members should come to these meetings to collect their copies.

In September/October, it is planned to deliver uncollected copies of Volumes 78 and 79 to members by hand using two long perambulations. One will go through Winnersh, Earley, Reading, Emmer Green, Caversham, Pangbourne, Tidmarsh and Theale while the other will go through Sandhurst, Crowthorne, Wokingham, Maidenhead, Marlow, Henley and Twyford. All other undelivered journals will be sent out in the post.

If anybody wants to find out when they are likely to receive their journals please contact Andrew Hutt by email [andrew\\_hutt@talktalk.net](mailto:andrew_hutt@talktalk.net) or by phoning: 0118 973 2882.

**Andrew Hutt**

## Kennet Valley Archaeological Resource Assessment

The West Berkshire Archaeology team working with Museum of London Archaeology has obtained funding from English Heritage to undertake an archaeological resource assessment for the lower Kennet Valley. The project is part of a national programme funded through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF).

The lower Kennet Valley has been the location of many significant archaeological discoveries made as a result of rescue excavation in advance of gravel and sand extraction. Many of these sites were investigated before full planning controls were established and it is thanks to the hard work and dedication of small numbers of professionals with the support of local volunteers and students that these sites were recorded at all. In more recent years archaeological investigations have been carried out as a formal part of the planning process. Despite the wide range of important discoveries there has been little opportunity to sit back and consider what all this evidence means and whether our current approaches to the evaluation and investigation of archaeological sites in the area is appropriate. The resource assessment project aims to address these issues producing information which will be used to guide the formation and implementation of new planning policy and guidance in the area to ensure that the archaeological resource is managed in a more sustainable manner.

**Duncan Coe**

## West Berkshire Heritage Service – Archaeology

The Archaeology team at West Berkshire Council have moved offices to -

West Berkshire Council  
West Street House  
West Street  
Newbury  
RG14 1BD.

Our email and phone numbers remain the same. We can still accommodate visitors who wish to come in to use our library and other Historic Environment Record resources, but should stress that this must be by appointment only.

**Duncan Coe**

## West Berkshire Museum – Archaeology Exhibition

As part of its temporary exhibition programme the West Berkshire Museum in Newbury will be holding an exhibition dedicated to Archaeology from April 1st to June 27<sup>th</sup> 2010.

The exhibition will focus on recent discoveries and how these have challenged assumptions and changed our way of thinking about the past. However, it will also use objects from the existing collections (much of which has been unavailable recently due to fire restrictions in the building) to help explain the context of the discoveries. The sites included in the exhibition will include:-

- The Crow Down Hoard
- The Bronze Age site at Hart's Hill Quarry
- The Roman roadside settlement at Thatcham
- The early Saxon settlement at Lambourn
- The medieval cemetery at Pound Street, Newbury
- Park Way, Newbury
- Shaw House, Shaw-Cum-Donnington.

There will be a number of events associated with the exhibition details of which will be available on our website <http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=13155>

**Duncan Coe**

## Membership Renewal

If you do not receive your membership renewal form with this newsletter please contact Andrew Hutt.

## BARG Spring QOM

The above will take place on Wednesday, March 31st at 7.30pm in the de Vitre Room at the Cornerstone, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham RG40 1UE. The speaker will be Alan Povall, a former member of BARG and one of the first to take the University of Reading Certificate in Archaeology. He is very involved with the Wokingham Branch of the Third Age. The title is Origin of the British.

We hope you would like to join us; if so please phone Janet Firth 0118 978 7434.

**Janet Firth**

## ADULT EDUCATION – PART-TIME COURSES SUMMER TERM, 2010

### NEWBURY COLLEGE

#### Evening Course:

Language & Literature of Ancient Egypt

Details from: Newbury College, Monks Lane, Newbury, RG14 7TD

Tel: 01635 845000; Fax: 01635 845312; email: [info@newbury-college.ac.uk](mailto:info@newbury-college.ac.uk)

Web site: <http://www.newbury-college.ac.uk>

### OXFORD UNIVERSITY

#### DEPARTMENT FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

##### Daytime Courses

Great Egyptologists

##### Evening Courses

Barrows and Burials: the Prehistoric Way of Death

The East Mediterranean in the Second Millennium BC

##### Day, Weekend and Week Schools

An Introduction to the Minoan Civilisation

Archaeology Survey Week

Building Survey Week

Community and Public Archaeology: Exploring the Present, Defining the Future

Designed Landscapes at Risk and their Conservation

Exploring Early Farming: Rural Life in Anglo-Saxon Times

Grave Concerns: Forensic Archaeology

Hands On: Archaeology in Action

Impact of Empire in the Ancient Near East, 1550-330BC

OxEx10 Wk1:1A - The Archaeology of English Cathedrals

OxEx10 Wk1:1D - Castles in Britain

OxEx10 Wk2:2A - Ancient Crete at the Ashmolean Museum

Planning and the Historic Environment

Understanding Place: Historic Area Assessments

##### 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

Humps and Bumps (Class sessions and field visits (Woodley))

Details from: OUDCE, 1, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA.

Tel: 01865 270360; Fax: 01865 270309 email: [enquiries@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@conted.ox.ac.uk)

Web site: [www.conted.ox.ac.uk](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk)

### THAMES VALLEY ANCIENT EGYPT SOCIETY

#### Evening Course:

Great Egyptologists (RISC, Reading)

#### Day School

An Invitation to an ancient Egyptian Celebration (University of Reading)

Web site: [www.tvaes.org.uk](http://www.tvaes.org.uk)

### WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COURSES

#### Evening Course:

An Introduction to Ancient Egypt (C3728056) (Reading School)

Web site: <http://courses.wea.org.uk/courses>

## Conferences

There are two conferences which parallel the Society's current research interests. They are:

### Iron Age Research Students Seminar (IARSS)

This year's conference takes place at Bradford University on Thursday 3rd to Friday 4th June 2010. This is an informal conference for post-graduate students studying any aspect of Iron Age Archaeology in Britain, Europe or the wider world. Over the last few years this has been a very enjoyable conference with lots of opportunity to learn about current Iron Age research. I am taking the Society's Iron Age exhibition to the conference so the Society will have a presence. The cost is £30 which includes the registration fee, dinner and a field trip. If this interests you come along. For more details look on the conference website at: <http://www.bradford.ac.uk/archenvi/events/IARSS/index.php>

### Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference (TRAC)

Under the aegis of the Roman Society, the 9th Roman Archaeology Conference and the 20th Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference will be held at the University of Oxford from Thursday 25 March to Sunday 28 March 2010. The conference also marks the Roman Society's Centenary. For more details look on the conference website at:

<http://rac2010.classics.ox.ac.uk/>

Andrew Hutt

## 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 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:

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

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