

# BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2017 – 2018

ANNE HARRISON

<b>Registered Charity No.:</b>	1117197
<b>Registered office:</b>	19 Challenor Close, Wokingham, Berks, RG40 4UJ
<b>Trustees</b>	
<b>Chairman</b>	Mrs Ann Griffin
<b>Secretary</b>	Mrs Anne Harrison
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dr Andrew Hutt
<b>Tour Organiser</b>	Vacant
<b>Other Charity trustees</b>	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
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds TSB Bank Skipton Building Society Barclays Bank
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Mr John Butler

This report covers the period from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.

## MANAGING THE SOCIETY

The Society became a registered charity in December 2006. The Society is governed by Berkshire Archaeological Society Constitution issued 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and Berkshire Archaeological Society Rules issued on 6<sup>th</sup> 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, 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 2018, the Society had 146 individual members living at 121 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.

## POLICY

The Council approved the BAS Safeguarding policy statement in June 2017.

## ACTIVITIES

The activities in this period were:

**Four issues of the quarterly newsletter** sent to all members. The Society thanks Andrew Hutt and Gail Eaton for editing these newsletters.

**Monthly issues of the News Sheet**, distributed to members, by email containing up to date news and information. The Society thanks Tim Lloyd for editing these news sheets.

**A programme of monthly lectures running from September 2017 to April 2018** (see Figure 1). The Society thanks Trevor Coombs for organising this programme.

Date	Speaker	Subject
16 September 2017	Adam McBride	Long Wittenham and the context of power
21 October 2017	Julian Bowsher	Shakespeare's London theatre land
18 November 2016	Martin Bridge	My work as a dendrochronologist
9 December 2017	BAS members	Matthew Fittock on 'Venus figurines in Roman Britain; Andrew Hutt on 'A Roman factory in Provence'; Tim Lloyd on 'European cave Art - non- destructive visiting'
20 January 2018	Hella Eckhardt	Roman Literacy
17 February 2018	Alistair Barclay	Update from Horton Quarry
17 March 2018	Stuart Brookes	Travel and communications in Anglo-Saxon Britain
21 April 2018	David Kennedy	Roman military activity in the Middle East

Figure 1: The 2017-18 Lecture programme

**A Spring Tour: Norfolk: 21st to 24th April 2017.** 36 people participated in this tour centred on Cromer, Norfolk. The sites visited on the tour were:

Friday 21st April 2017: St. Andrews Church, Greenstead; Audley End House; Grimes Graves  
Saturday 22nd April 2017: Kings Lynn; Norwich Castle & Cathedral  
Sunday 23rd April 2017: Flag Fen; Castle Acre Priory; Castle Rising  
Monday 24th April 2017: Bury St. Edmunds; Priors Hall Barn

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 2017 were:

Wednesday 5th July 2017: A visit to **Stonor Park, near Henley** organised by Nigel Spencer.  
Thursday 13th July 2017: A visit to **Marden Henge**, preceded by a visit to Wessex Archaeology at Old Sarum, organised by Trevor Coombs.  
Saturday 2nd September 2017: A visit to **Silchester** to see the Roman temples excavation and the Roman tiler at Little London, 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.

**The Berkshire Historic Environment Day School (formerly the Berkshire Historic Environment Forum)** this year was replaced by a wine reception at the Iron Age Exhibition at Brock Keep mentioned above. Guests from the Unitary Authorities, the town councils of Berkshire and local history groups and societies were invited.

**The Archaeology in Berkshire Day School** was held in April 2018 and will be reported in next year's Trustee report.

#### **Berkshire Historic Environment Forum.**

The 2017 the usual format of the forum was replaced by an exhibition: *Living in the Berkshire Iron Age* held at Brock Keep, Reading for two weeks in early October 2017. The exhibition presented the 20 panels developed in 2008 when *Living in the Iron Age in and around Berkshire* (Berkshire Archaeological Journal volume 78) was published, plus finds from Reading Museum and activities for children: building round houses and hillfort ramparts using sand, sticks and card. It attracted some 100 visitors and That's Thames Valley TV interviewed Andrew Hutt for its evening news. Two evening lectures were given by Andrew Hutt to good audiences. The Society thanks

Andrew Hutt and John Chapman for their initiative, planning and hard work in organising the exhibition, and the many Society members who volunteered to act as stewards during opening times. The Society thanks Andrew Hutt for leading the project

**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:** Work continued on Volume 83, a single theme volume on Roman Berkshire written by BAS members and edited by Trevor Coombs, and publication is expected in June 2018. The Society thanks Catherine Petts and especially Andrew Hutt for his dedicated work in copy editing this journal.

Work is in progress with the production of volume 84, a multi article volume.

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

## FIELDWORK

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

**Blounts Court 2017.** In three weeks from 3 to 20 April five trenches were excavated at Blounts Court. The objective was to gain dating evidence for building R8 with its chalk floor and chalk block foundation, and for the contexts above the mortared flint wall with its radio carbon dates of 40 BC to AD 27, AD 125, AD 305 to 406, and AD 887 to 1013. The project found metalwork which confirmed that the features were medieval.

In July 2017, Johnson Matthey celebrated their 200th anniversary; they were founded in 1817. As part of their celebrations Nigel Spencer and Andrew Hutt gave a presentation on Blounts Court house and the archaeology of its grounds.

**La Hyde 2017.** In June 2017, Martin Labram led a small team carrying out a resistivity survey at La Hyde using the Society's new Frobisher TAR-3 meter.

**West Field Farm, Cholsey 2017** In late June - early July 2017, five trenches were excavated in the garden to the east of West Field Farmhouse in Cholsey. The trenches revealed the remains of a garden wall, a building with a fine brick floor which was probably a greenhouse or a dairy and garden paths and borders.

## THE STUDY GROUP

In April, May, June, September, November, and December 2017 the group met and discussed aspects of Anglo-Saxon Berkshire. In January, they moved their meetings to Brock Keep and broadened the scope of the meeting to discuss geophysics technology and how to write up field work. The Society thanks all those who worked in the study group and its organiser: Andrew Hutt.

## THIS REPORT

This report was approved by the Trustees on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Signed:..... Chairman

Date:.....