



Berkshire Archaeological Society - February 2026

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News



Catacomb of St. Valentine

This is a repeat from 2024 as we are pleased to welcome so many new members.

The catacomb is located along Viale Maresciallo Pilsudski, at the foot of the Parioli hill, near a vast pagan funerary area, with tombs and mausoleums dating back to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

It originates in the 3rd century with the construction of a series of perpendicular galleries, dug with a "trellis" pattern, with flat access. During the 4th century, by the will of Pope Julius I, a three-nave basilica, with a crypt and an apse carved into the side of the hill, was erected probably in the place where the tomb of St. Valentine was located.

The cult of Valentine seems to date back to the Constantinian period, although this name identifies two martyrs associated to Via Flaminia, Rome and Terni. It is likely that it is the same person, a native of the Umbrian city and also venerated in Rome

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catacombs\\_of\\_San\\_Valentino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catacombs_of_San_Valentino)

Upcoming Events



Tuesday 3rd February 2026
**Finds Group**
This meeting will discuss writing the project and pottery reports on Blounts Court.
All welcome.
7:30pm at Woosehill Community Hall, RG41 3DA.

See website



Wednesday 4th February 2026
**Study Group**
Agenda:
Wickham House post excavation activities
All welcome.
2:30pm at Woosehill Community Hall, RG41 3DA.

See website



Wednesday 11th February 2026
**Pub Lunch**
All welcome for an informal chat.
If you want to join us please notify Tim Lloyd at [tim.lloyd@berksarch.co.uk](mailto:tim.lloyd@berksarch.co.uk) by the Saturday before the lunch.
12:00pm at The Wheelwright's Arms, Davis Way, Hurst, Reading, RG10 0TR.



Saturday 21st February 2026
**BAS Lecture: (topic TBA)**
by Prof. Steven Mithen UoR
(check back for details)
2:00 for 2:30pm at RISC (2:15 on zoom)

See website

Past Events



Saturday 17th January 2026
**BAS Lecture: Archaeological Finds on the Berkshire Downs. Investigating an Iron-Age and Roman Landscape**
by Dr John Naylor

Read the report

Other News



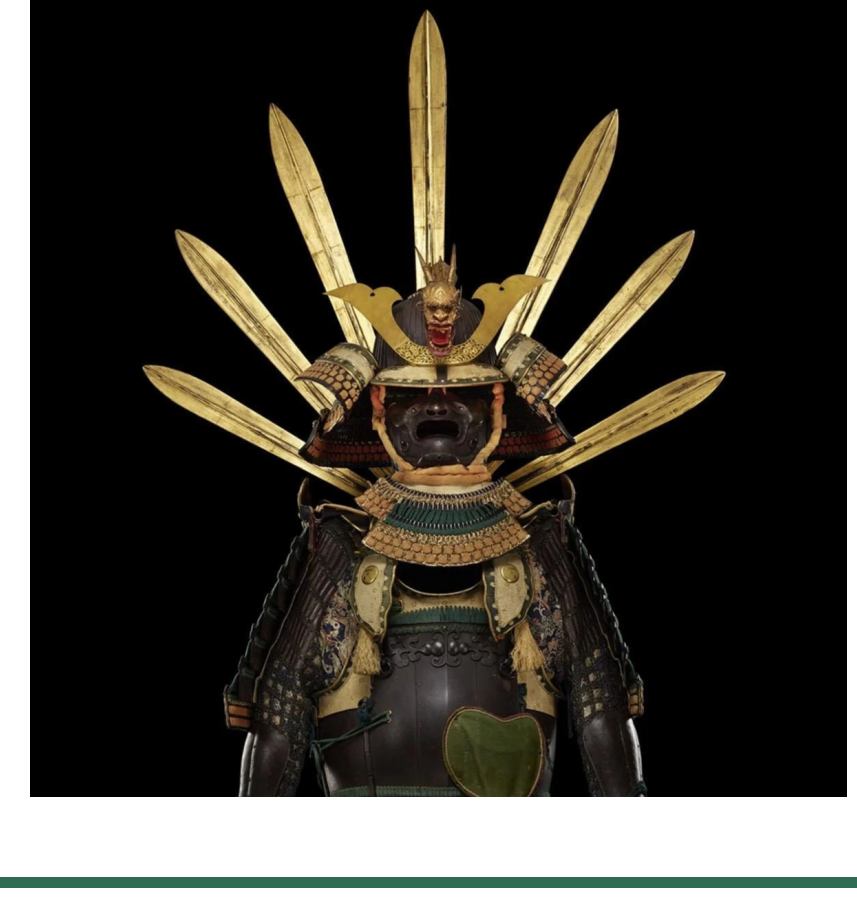
**Cookham Abbey wins Grant**
Friends of Cookham Abbey (FCA) are thrilled to announce that The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded a grant of £249,755 to a partnership of the University of Reading and FCA. The grant will support a major project over three years to use the results from the Cookham Abbey investigations for an exciting programme of community engagement – "Cookham Abbey Connects".

See website



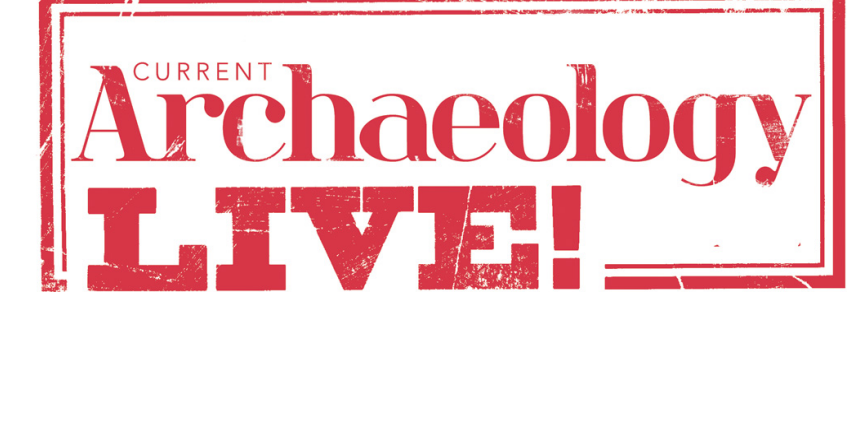
Until 25th May 2026: **British Museum Hawai'i - a kingdom crossing oceans**
The exhibition brings together remarkable objects – from feathered cloaks worn by chiefs and finely carved deities, to powerful shark-toothed weapons and bold contemporary works by Kānaka 'Ōiwi (Native Hawaiian) artists.

See website



Opens 3rd February 2026: **British Museum Samurai**
Discover the reality behind a millennium of myth at this sweeping exhibition on the legendary Japanese warriors.

See website



Saturday 28th February 2026: **UCL Institute of Education, London Current Archaeology LIVE!**
A one-day conference bringing you all the latest archaeological discoveries and research from Britain and beyond

See website

Local Societies
See the links below of details of their activities:
Berkshire Archaeology Research Group
Maidenhead Archaeological and Historical Society
Marlow Archaeology Group
South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group
Thames Valley Ancient Egypt Society

Berkshire Archaeological Society
Chair: Andrew Hutt [chair@berksarch.co.uk](mailto:chair@berksarch.co.uk)
General Enquiries: [info@berksarch.co.uk](mailto:info@berksarch.co.uk)
Website: <https://berksarch.co.uk>
You received this email because you are a member of the society. For enquiries about your membership status contact the Membership Secretary

