



Henley Archaeological & Historical Group

**NEWS-
LETTER
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Chairman's Report

Dear Members

Summer seems to be rushing past at a furious rate and next season's meeting and talks are on the horizon.

The visit to Calleva was blessed by good weather and attended by 17 Group members. The next planned visit to Bourton House Gardens and Sezincote House on 25th of September is almost fully booked – see P. 4 below for last minute booking and details of the trip. Let's hope the weather will be kind on that outdoor visit too.

Every member should by now have a copy of **Journal 32** - a concerted effort was made to distribute them to all during June.

On this "distribution" subject, it would be appreciated if you could let Elisabeth Wood, our membership secretary, know if you have a change of address or email please: contact 07812 717960 or mail: woodelisabeth@yahoo.co.uk.

Tony Lynch is compiling the 2020 season's speaker list, which will be published in the autumn Newsletter. By the time of our first meeting of the season on 1st October we may have normal access to the Kings Arms Barn, but don't hold your breath.

Your committee appreciates the members' support and welcomes any suggestions for future outings or speakers; so please don't hesitate to contact us.

PS David Feary is working hard to make our website more user-friendly and informative.

John Whiting

**Lecture Season 1st October, 5th November; 3rd December 2019 (AGM)
All lectures are held at 7.45 p.m. in the old 'Kings Arms' Barn; entry from Kings Road Car Park.**

All welcome, members free, non-members £ 4

About our next two speakers

1st October Nicola Tallis ‘Elizabeth’s rival: The Tumultuous Tale of Lettice Knollys’

Nicola Tallis has a first class BA (Hons) in history from Bath Spa University and an MA in Public History from the University of London, Royal Holloway College. She completed her PhD at Winchester on the jewellery collections of the queens of England from 1445- 1548. Nicola has been passionate about English history all of her life.

Lettice Knollys was the granddaughter of Mary Boleyn and a close kin of Elizabeth I. Her fall from the Queen’s favourite lady-in-waiting to bitter and live-long rival when marrying Lord Robert Dudley, is revealed through Nicola Tallis’ painstaking research and great story telling weaving a fascinating picture of life at Court and away in exile for life.

5th November Matt Nichol & Duncan Coe, Cotswold Archaeology: ‘Boxford Villa and its Mosaic’

(Please note change of speakers, but same subject)

Matt Nichol is a Senior Project Officer at Cotswold Archaeology. He has been a professional archaeologist for over 20 years with a range of experience in the UK and on the continent. He has worked on the Boxford project as a fieldwork director since the initial investigations in 2013.

Duncan Coe is head of Cotswold Archaeology’s Andover Office and a Principal Heritage Consultant. He has over 30 years’ experience and has worked for Local Authority’s and English heritage before joining Cotswold Archaeology. He worked for 8 years at west Berkshire Council where he supported the development of a number of community projects including the Boxford investigations.

The small village of Boxford lies in the Lambourn valley in West Berkshire. A group of local residents were keen to use their local heritage to promote community action and engagement. They were aware of a number of finds of Romano-British material and some 19th century references to discoveries around the village, but little other information was known. A partnership was set up with the Berkshire Archaeology Research Group and Cotswold Archaeology and funding was secured to undertake three small excavations, with lots of training and education activity. The three sites proved to be very rich with a large and complex Villa at Hoar Hill, a farmstead with evidence of malting at Wyfield Manor and to cap it all the discovery of a mosaic floor in a small villa at Mud Hole. The mosaic caused a great stir as it contained imagery and techniques not seen in the UK previously and has been described by one expert as the most important mosaic found in England in the last 50 years. The talk will describe the project and the results from each of the sites and will include the results of the latest round of excavations due to take place in August 2019.’

Our visit to Calleva on Thursday 11th July

We had a very interesting visit to the site identified as the bath house complex, when first excavated and recorded in c. 1900. The many different layers, alterations and additions, as well as the use of the buildings over some 300 centuries leaves the visitor marvelling at the archaeologists' ability to interpret this large and very complex site. Luckily the Professor will come and tell us more about it when he is to give us a talk on Silchester in November 2020, after a further summer's season of excavations.



Arrival of Calleva HA&HG explorers



Introductory talk by Professor Fulford



The Roman bath complex in the town quarter not far from the medieval church, re-excavated by Reading University Archaeologists. The 2 blocks of tegulae are part of the furnace which provided the hot air for the underfloor heating of the room to the left.

Prof. Fulford told us that the water source and pipes have yet to be discovered.

Or was it a hot room, like a sauna, rather than a bath?

Below: Calleva's other, all-year round inhabitants in the south-west quarter, with the Roman street plan and house platforms again hidden safely below the grazing cattle.



NB. There are still a few places left for the Bourton Hs. outing. Please contact Jackie Fortey if you are interested to join us on 01491 571753

**Visit to Bourton House Gardens and Sezincote House
Wednesday 25 September 2019**



Organiser: Jackie Fortey. Email: jacquelinefortey@gmail.com Tel: 01491 571753/Mob.07818601780

Plan for the day

Depart: by coach at 9.00 am from the Roman Catholic Church, Vicarage Road, Henley-on-Thames, for Moreton-in-Marsh.

Return: coach will leave Sezincote at 4.00 pm. Journey time each way 1.5 hrs approx.

Visit to Bourton House (gardens only). Coffee/tea at extra cost will be available on arrival, in the Grade I listed Tithe Barn (see form below). The award-winning three-acre garden of this 18th century manor house in the Cotswolds was restored in the 1980s. The house was built on the footprint of a sixteenth century Jacobean house, but its towers were retained and the slits replaced by Georgian sash windows. We shall leave Bourton for Batsford Arboretum at 12.30pm. **Lunch:** At your own expense, at the Garden Terrace Café at the Arboretum – tables have been reserved.

Visit to Sezincote House from 2.00 pm, with a half-hour guided tour to the House and a self-guided visit to its gardens (approx. 1.5 hours). This Grade I listed house is splendid example of Neo-Mogul architecture, a 19th-century reinterpretation of 16th and 17th-century architecture from the Mogul Empire. It was the design, in 1805, of Samuel Pepys Cockerell, whose family owned the estate and had connections with the East India Company. The surrounding landscape is the work of Humphry Repton. The Prince Regent visited Sezincote and it is said to have been the inspiration for the Royal Pavilion in Brighton.

Total cost (without lunch) £33.00 each. Payment to be made by bank transfer online to **Nat West** sort code **60-10-35**, A/C **13153692**, ref **your surname and initial** or by **cheque** made out to **Henley Archaeological Group**. Please give/send to **Jackie Fortey the completed booking form and confirmation of bank transfer or cheque** at 48 St Andrew's Road Henley-on-Thames RG9 1JD or at one of our meetings. (The tour is limited to a total of 25.)

I wish to book.....seat/s on the 25 September 2019 Bourton Gardens and Sezincote visit

plus tea/coffee/cake at £4.95tea/coffee/biscuits at £3.50.....

Cheque (including tea/coffee if required) for £ Bank transfer for £

HA&HG member Allen Jones, Obituary

Sadly, our former secretary Allen Jones passed away in April after a long illness. A chartered accountant by profession, he ran an export company for a time and later served as a Henley Town Councillor.

His interest in archaeology stems from his childhood in Horsham when shown the Roman road nearby by his grandfather. Allen eventually made the exploration of this road, a spur off Stane Street, his retirement project.

I first heard about this when he said that he was looking for a Roman Road near Bowsey Hill (between Knowl Hill and Crazies Hill). After exploring the area it was decided that if the road existed at all, then it was the lane known as Star Lane, the eastern flank of Bowsey Hill, the bye-road at its top then becoming public highway at Fox Steep Corner including Culham Lane, where it joins the Henley - Maidenhead Road. This was as far as we got with his project.

Assuming the supposed road is roughly on its Roman planning line then that line crosses Temple Island, Benham's Lane and then picks up Hollandridge Lane at Stonor, then to Christmas Common and, as a straight line, on to Roman Dorchester. Whether it terminates on the Upper or Lower Icknield Way, and then as a spur to Dorchester, is unknown.

Peter Anderson

Book Review: David Peacock: 'Newbury Roman Cemetery'

published in 2018 by COUNTRYSIDE BOOKS; Ref: ISBN 978 1 84674 377 1

This cemetery was discovered in 1856, too early for any proper, detailed archaeological survey to have been undertaken. There were about 100 burials with grave goods.

Very few finds are known to exist and the book details them.

The site was located between the GWR goods shed and the river Kennet. It was used for gravel extractions at that time. An interesting point is the use to which this gravel was put.

Henley Station was built about this time, i.e. in the 1850's (opened in 1857), and when it was rationalized in the 1970's I noticed that the platform being demolished had an infill of gravel between its edge walls. Did it come from the GWR gravel extraction at Newbury?

Peter Anderson

H.A. & H.G.

President Ann Cottingham

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Edited by: Ruth Gibson

